

## American Psychological Association (APA) Style Examples

APA style is an author-date citation style developed mainly for use in psychology but has been adopted by other disciplines as well.

The following instructions and examples are based on more detailed information in:

American Psychological Association. (2007). *APA style guide to electronic references*.

Washington, D.C.: Author.

American Psychological Association. (2001). *Publication manual of the American*

*Psychological Association* (5th ed.). Washington, D.C.: Author.

### In text citing: General Principles

Give the surname of the author(s), in the order they appear on the front page of the publication, followed by the year of publication. When there is more than one author, each author is separated by a comma except for the last two which are separated by an 'and' if outside brackets or an '&' if inside brackets.

When citing a given source more than once within the same paragraph, include the year of publication the first time the reference is cited then only the author name(s) in following citations unless this would create confusion.

### In text citing: Examples & comments

#### 1 author

...This was seen in an Australian study (Conger, 1979).

OR

Conger (1979) has argued that...

#### 2 authors

...(Davidson & Harrington, 2002).

OR

Davidson and Harrington (2002)...

#### 3-5 authors

- *cite all names and publication year the first time, thereafter only the first name followed by et al.*

The first time cited:

...(Brown, Smith, & Jones, 1990).

Brown, Smith, and Jones (1990)...

Thereafter

...(Brown et al., 1990).

Brown et al. (1990)...

#### 6 or more authors

- *cite only the surname of the first author followed by et al. and the year from the first citation.*
- *provide all six author names (followed by et al. if more authors) in the reference list.*

.... (Jones et al., 2003).

Jones et al. (2003)...

#### Different authors: same surname

- *add initials to the authors names to distinguish them*

P.R. Smith (1923) to distinguish from S. Smith (1945)...

(Jones & S.A. Brown, 1961) to distinguish from (W.O. Brown & Smith, 1985).

<b>Multiple authors: ambiguous citations</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>if a multiple (3+) author citation abbreviated with <i>et al.</i> looks the same as another in text citation similarly shortened, add enough surnames to make a distinction.</li> </ul> <p>...(Brown, Smith, et al., 1998) to distinguish from (Brown, Taylor, et al., 1998).</p>
<b>Multiple works by same author</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>when cited together give the author's surname once followed by the years of each publication in chronological order separated by a comma</li> </ul> <p>...(Stairs, 1992, 1993). Stairs (1992, 1993)...</p>
<b>Multiple works by same author AND same year</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>if there is more than one reference by an author in the same year, suffixes (a, b, c, etc.) are added to the year</li> <li>if cited together, list by suffix as shown below</li> <li>allocation of the suffixes is determined by the order of the references in the reference list</li> <li>suffixes are also included in the reference list, and these references are listed alphabetically by title</li> </ul> <p>Stairs (1992b)... later in the text ...(Stairs, 1992a). ...(Stairs, 1992a, 1992b).</p>
<b>If author name is given as anonymous</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>use <i>Anonymous</i> as the author's name.</li> </ul> <p>...(Anonymous, 1997).</p>
<b>Unknown author</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>give the first few words of the title</li> <li>if the title is from an article (e.g. a web site article) or a chapter use double quotation marks. If the title is from a periodical, book brochure or report then use italics</li> </ul> <p>...the worst election loss in the party's history ("This is the end," 1968).</p>
<b>Corporate/group authors</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>if organization is recognized by abbreviation, cite the first time as follows</li> </ul> <p>...(Australian Institute of Health and Welfare [AIHW], 2005) thereafter ...(AIHW, 2005).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>if abbreviation not widely known, give the name in full every time</li> </ul> <p>...(Australian Research Council, 1996).</p>
<b>Multiple references</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>list the citations in alphabetical order and separate with semicolons</li> </ul> <p>...(Burst, 1995; Turner &amp; Hooch, 1982; Zane, 1976).</p>
<b>Citing specific parts of a source</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>for a direct quote the page number(s) must be given</li> <li>indicate page, chapter, figure, table, etc. as specifically as possible. Use accepted abbreviations, i.e. chap. or para.</li> </ul> <p>As one writer put it "the darkest days were still ahead" (Weston, 1988, p. 45). Weston (1988) argued that "the darkest days were still ahead" (p. 45). This theory was put forward by Smith (2005, chap. 7)</p>
<b>Quote from an electronic source</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>where page numbers are not provided use paragraph numbers</li> </ul> <p>...(Sturt, 2001, para. 2) ...(Sturt, 2001, ¶ 2) where ¶ is interchangeable with para.</p>

### Personal communication: for email and other “unrecoverable” data

- *personal communications are not included in the reference list*

...(R. Smith, personal communication, January 28, 2002).  
R. Smith (personal communication, January 28, 2002)...

### Citation of a secondary source (i.e. a source referred to in another publication)

- *in the reference list you ONLY include the details of the source you actually read - not the original source*
- *in the example below, the original (source would be Farrow (1968), which you saw cited in a paper by Ward and Decan (1988)*

...(Farrow, 1968, as cited in Ward & Decan, 1988).  
Farrow (1968, as cited in Ward & Decan, 1988)...  
Ward and Decan (1988) cited Farrow (1968) as finding...

### Reference list: general principles

- the reference list should begin on a new page (see p. 4)
- the title of the reference list should be ‘References’ and should be centred on the page
- the reference list should be **double-spaced** and have a **hanging indent**:
- a hanging indent is where the first line of each reference is fully left justified while subsequent lines are indented to the right. The width of the hanging indent should be 5-7 spaces or 1.25 cm. Hanging indents and double spacing are set by the word processors
- all references in the reference list must be cited in the text
- all references cited in text must be included in the reference list. Exceptions are unpublished items such as correspondence
- references are listed in alphabetical order by author surname/family name
- the author names for each reference are given in the order they appear in the source
- where there are two articles with the same authors and date, the references are ordered alphabetically by article title and a suffix (i.e., a,b,c) is added to the date
- organisation names should be written in full unless they are obviously recognisable
- when a reference ends with a URL do not add a full stop

### Common abbreviations

**2<sup>nd</sup> ed.** = Second edition  
**chap.** = chapter  
**ed.** = edition  
**Ed.** = Editor  
**Eds.** = multiple editors

**No.** = Number  
**n.d.** = no date  
**p.** = page number (single)  
**para.** = paragraph  
**pp.** = page numbers (plural)  
**Pt.** = Part

**Rev. ed.** = Revised edition  
**Suppl.** = Supplement  
**Tech. Rep.** = Technical Report  
**Vol.** = Volume  
¶ = paragraph  
& = and

#### References

- Anonymous. (2002). *Regional identity and behavior*. New York: Kluwer Academic/Plenum.
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2005). *Mental health services in Australia 2002-03*. Canberra, ACT: Author.
- Brown, A. S. (2003). A review of the déjà vu experience. *Psychological Bulletin*, 129(3), 394-413.
- Brown, A. S. (2004). The déjà vu illusion. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 13(6), 256-259.
- Young, H. F., & Bentall, R. P. (1997a). Probabilistic reasoning in deluded, depressed and normal subjects: Effects of task difficulty and meaningful versus non-meaningful material. *Psychological Medicine*, 27(2), 455-465.
- Young, H. F., & Bentall, R. P. (1997b). Social reasoning in individuals with persecutory delusions: The effects of additional information on attributions for the observed behaviours of others. *British Journal of Clinical Psychology*, 36(4), 569-573.

#### Further Information:

American Psychological Association. (2007). *APA style guide to electronic references*.

Washington, D.C.: Author.

American Psychological Association. (2007). *Electronic references*. Available from

<http://www.apastyle.org/>

American Psychological Association. (2001). *Publication manual of the American*

*Psychological Association* (5th ed.). Washington, D.C.: Author.

## APA reference list examples

### Journal article - print

Author surname, author initial(s). (Year of publication). Title of the article. *Title of the Journal*, volume number (issue number), page numbers of the article.

- only the first words of the article title, subtitle and proper nouns (if any) are capitalised
- give the journal title in full (i.e. not abbreviated) and capitalise major words
- italicise the name and volume number of the journal
- issue number goes in brackets immediately after the journal number and is NOT italicised
- give inclusive page numbers in full

### Single author

Mellers, B. A. (2000). Choice and the relative pleasure of consequences.

*Psychological Bulletin*, 126(6), 910-924.

### 2 authors

Klimoski, R., & Palmer, S. (1993). The ADA and the hiring process in organizations.

*Consulting Psychology Journal: Practice and Research*, 45(2), 10-36.

### 3-6 authors

Sayegh, L., Anthony, W. P., & Perrewe, P. L. (2004). Managerial decision-making under crisis: The role of emotion in an intuitive decision process. *Human*

*Resource Management Review*, 14(2), 179-199.

### More than 6 authors

Wolchik, S. A., West, S. G., Sandler, I. N., Tein, J., Coatsworth, D., Lengua, L., et al.

(2000). An experimental evaluation of theory-based mother and mother-child programs for children of divorce. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical*

*Psychology*, 68(5), 843-856.

### Journal article - electronic

- cite the same as for the print version, but include either a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) or URL at the end
- if a DOI is available, include it at the end of the citation. The database name is not necessary

Stollery, B. (2007). Delayed recovery of working memory following day-case surgery.

*Applied Cognitive Psychology*, 21(1), 87-101. doi: 10.1002/acp.1274

### Journal article – electronic (continued)

- if no DOI is available include the URL at the end of the citation. Use exact URL for articles freely available. Use the journal homepage for those available by subscription (not the database URL in which it was seen). Do not use a retrieval date

Bechara, A., Damasio, H., & Damasio, A. R. (2000). Emotion, decision making and the orbitofrontal cortex. *Cerebral Cortex*, 10(3), 295-307. Retrieved from <http://cercor.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/content/full/10/3/295>

Puhl, R., & Latner, J. (2007). Stigma, obesity, and the health of the nation's children. *Psychological Bulletin*, 133(4), 557-580. Retrieved from <http://www.apa.org/journals/bul/>

### Journal article – electronic differing from printed version

- include the date you retrieved the document and the URL if the content is likely to be changed or updated or when no publication date, edition or version number is available. For instance pre-print, in-press, or in-preparation articles
- add the words "Advance online publication" to indicate it is not the final version
- use the archival copy rather than the pre-print when possible

Ling, K., Beenen, G., Ludford, P. J., Wang, X., Chang, K., Li, X., et al. (in press). Using social psychology to motivate contributions to online communities. *Social Psychology for Design*. Manuscript in preparation. Retrieved August 31, 2007 from <http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~kraut/RKraut.site.files/articles/Ling05-UsingSocialPsych-jcmc-4.10-submitted.pdf>

Ratliff, K. R., & Newcombe, N. S. (2007). Is language necessary for human spatial reorientation? Reconsidering evidence from dual task paradigms. *Cognitive Psychology*. Advance online publication. doi:10.1016/j.cogpsych.2007.06.002

### Magazine article

- the year, month and date of publication must be given
- if the volume number is provided then include it in the same way as for a journal article

Guilliat, R. (2005, March 26). Leap of faith. *Good Weekend: The Age Magazine*, 24-31.

MacLeod, S. (2002, April 8). An olive branch or a stick? *Time*, 159, 46.

### Newspaper article

Gadher, D. (2007, September 2). Leap in gambling addiction forecast. *The Sunday Times*. Retrieved from <http://www.timesonline.co.uk>

## Book - general

Author surname, author initial(s). (Year of publication). *Title of the book* (edition number if it is not the 1<sup>st</sup> edition). Place of publication: Name of the publisher.

- *only the first words of the book title, subtitle and proper nouns (if any) are capitalised*
- *the title of the book is italicised*
- *if the book is a 2<sup>nd</sup> or later edition, the edition number is given after the book title (not in italic)*
- *for US locations city and state are given in publisher location details. All other locations need city, province and country. (Actual practice does not follow the manual strictly, e.g. Sydney rather than Sydney, NSW, Australia)*

### 1 author

Mook, D. (2004). *Classic experiments in psychology*. Westport, CT: Greenwood.

### 2 authors

Kosslyn, S. M., & Rosenberg, R. S. (2004). *Psychology: The brain, the person, the world* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Essex, UK: Pearson Education.

### 3-6 authors

Barone, D. F., Maddux, J. E., & Snyder, C. R. (1997). *Social cognitive psychology: History and current domains*. New York: Plenum Press.

### 6+ authors

Mussen, P., Rosenzweig, M. R., Aronson, E., Elkind, D., Feshbach, S., Geiwitz, P. J., et al. (1973). *Psychology: An introduction*. Lexington, MA: Heath.

## Edited book

- *the editor name(s) are given in place of the author name(s)*
- *'Ed.' is included to acknowledge the nature of the role*
- *use 'Eds.' for more than one editor*

Williams, J. M. (Ed.). (2006). *Applied sport psychology: personal growth to peak performance* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). Boston: McGraw-Hill.

Lee-Chai, A. Y., & Bargh, J. A. (Eds.). (2001). *The use and abuse of power: Multiple perspectives on the causes of corruption*. New York: Psychology Press.

### Chapter from edited book

- *if the book is a later edition, the edition number is given in brackets after the book title with the page numbers of the chapter*

Russell, S. (1996). Machine learning. In M. A. Boden (Ed.), *Artificial intelligence* (pp. 89-133). San Diego, CA: Academic Press.

Cooper, J., Mirabile, R., & Scher, S. J. (2005). Actions and attitudes: The theory of cognitive dissonance. In T. C. Brock, & M. C. Green (Eds.), *Persuasion: Psychological insights and perspectives* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed., pp. 63-79). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

### Electronic book

- *cite electronic books as printed books unless it is only available electronically.*
- *to reference the entire book use "Available from" and the URL*

Carr, A. (2001). *Abnormal psychology*. Philadelphia: Psychology Press. Available from [www.ebilib.com.au](http://www.ebilib.com.au)

- *use "Retrieved from" when directing readers to specific material*

Münsterberg, H. (1916). *The photoplay: A psychological study*. Retrieved from <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/15383/15383-8.txt>

### Chapter from electronic book

- *cite electronic chapters as for printed book chapters but omit publishing place and name.*
- *replace publisher details with "Retrieved from" and the name of the database*

Isler, W. C., Peterson, A. L., & Isler, D. E. (2005). Behavioral treatment of insomnia in primary care settings. In L. C. James & R. A. Folen (Eds.), *The primary care consultant: The next frontier for psychologists in hospitals and clinics. Health psychology series* (pp.121-151). Retrieved from PsycBOOKS database.

### Other examples

#### Web site

Author/editor surname, author/editor initial(s). (Year, month and date of last update or copyright). *Title of the page/document*. Month, date and year of retrieval (if necessary), and the URL

- *if an author/editor cannot be identified, use the name of the organization that runs the web site – if this is not available either, begin the reference with the title of the document*
- *With the date of last update/copyright, if the month and date are not given the year by itself is fine – use n.d. (no date) if no information is available*

### Web site (continued)

- if the publisher identity is not clear from the author name, URL, database name, or other information, include it as part of the retrieval statement (see Stretton example under **Interview** on page 11)
- the retrieval date is needed if the content you are citing is likely to be changed or updated or when no publication date is available
- 

#### Author:

Wollman, N. (1999, November 12). *Influencing attitudes and behaviors for social change.*

Retrieved July 6, 2005, from <http://www.radpsynet.org/docs/wollman-attitude.html>

#### Association as author:

Australian Psychological Society. (1998, July 7). *Letterhead with contact details: Consent*

*form.* Retrieved January 21, 2002, from [http://www.psychsociety.com.au/](http://www.psychsociety.com.au/fr_frame.htm)

[fr\\_frame.htm](http://www.psychsociety.com.au/fr_frame.htm)

#### No author and no date:

Career profiles. Psychology. (n.d.). Retrieved September 18, 2007, from

<http://www.graduatecareers.com.au/content/view/full/226>

### Book review

Jones, T. (2007). Driving beyond fragments [Review of the book *The psychology of ageing*]. *Psychologist*, 20(6), 371.

Blakeslee, S., & Blakeslee, M. (2007). The body has a mind of its own [Review of the book

*The body has a mind of its own*]. *Psychology Today*, 40(5), 39. Retrieved from

<http://proquest.umi.com>

### Conference proceedings

- uses the same basic format as a chapter in an edited book
- if published regularly, treat same as periodical citation
- italicise the title of the conference proceedings
- capitalise the name of the proceedings as it is a proper noun

Farr, R. (1989). The social and collective nature of representations. In J. P. Forgas and J.

M. Innes (Eds.), *Recent advances in social psychology: An international*

*perspective. Proceedings of the xxiv International Congress of Psychology of the*

*International Union of Psychological Science (I.U. Psy. S.), Sydney, Australia,*

*August 28-September 2, 1988 (Vol. 1, pp. 157-166).* Amsterdam: Elsevier.

### Conference proceedings (continued)

Baccaglioni, P. I., & Hogan, P. G. (1983). Some rat sensory neurons in culture express characteristics of differentiated pain sensory cells. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, USA*, 80(2), 594–598.

Benjamin, R. (2006). Tech trials? Top'd, turn'd and transform'd. *Click06: ALIA 2006 Biennial Conference*. Retrieved from Australian Library and Information Association Web site: [http://conferences.alia.org.au/alia2006/Papers/Robyn\\_Benjamin.pdf](http://conferences.alia.org.au/alia2006/Papers/Robyn_Benjamin.pdf)

### Encyclopaedia

- give homepage URL for works that are accessible by subscription only
- in an online version of a dictionary or encyclopaedia include a retrieval statement as the information might be updated periodically
- If a DOI is available, include it after the URL

Colman, A. M. (Ed.). (1994). *Companion encyclopedia of psychology* (Vols. 1-2). New York: Routledge.

Park, B. (1996). Outgroup homogeneity. In A. S. R. Manstead, & M. Hewstone (Eds.), *The Blackwell encyclopedia of social psychology*. Retrieved September 10, 2007, from <http://www.blackwellreference.com>. doi: 10.1111/b.9780631202899.1996.x

### Government policy

Department of Health and Ageing. (2000). *National medicines policy*. Retrieved from [http://www.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/publishing.nsf/Content/nmp-objectives-policy.htm/\\$FILE/nmp2000.pdf](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/publishing.nsf/Content/nmp-objectives-policy.htm/$FILE/nmp2000.pdf)

Department of Employment and Industrial Relations. (1978). *Community youth support scheme: Policy and guidelines for local communities*. Canberra: Australian Government Publishing Service.

### Handbook

Maxon, S. C. (2003). Behavioral genetics. In I. B. Weiner (Ed.), *Handbook of psychology* (Vol. 3, pp. 35-46). Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons.

Yamaguchi, S. (2001). Culture and control orientations. In Matsumoto, D. (Ed.), *The handbook of culture and psychology*. Retrieved September 10, 2007, from [http://www.ovid.com/site/products/books\\_landing.jsp](http://www.ovid.com/site/products/books_landing.jsp)

### Interview (published)

Stretton, A. (Interviewer) & Law, P. (Interviewee). (1993, March 2). Phillip Law. *Australian Biography* [Interview transcript]. Retrieved from Australian Biography Online web site: <http://www.australianbiography.gov.au>

### Lecture notes

- *indicate material type in square brackets after title*
- *include university name and location. When outside the US give city, state, country unless it is part of the university name*

McGrath, B. (2007). *Lecture 7: Arrays and matrices* [PowerPoint slides]. Unpublished manuscript, ENG1060, Monash University, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

- *provide URL if online. Treat as published. Note that some educational pages will be password protected in which case the base URL should be used*

McGrath, B. (2007). *Lecture 7: Arrays and matrices* [PowerPoint slides]. Retrieved from ENG1060, Monash University Studies Online: <http://muso.monash.edu.au>

### Podcast

Mitchell, N. (Producer). (2007, September 1). The nature of fear debate: 2007 Australian Science Festival. *All in the Mind*. Podcast retrieved from <http://www.abc.net.au/rn/allinthemind/stories/2007/2016150.htm>

### Psychological test

- *unpublished psychological tests should be treated as unpublished material*
- *published tests should be treated as publications of limited circulation*
- *NB common academic practice advocates citing the published manual for the test*

Spielberger, C. D. (1977). *State-trait anxiety inventory, form Y*. (Available from Consulting Psychologists Press, 577 College Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306).

Spielberger, C. D. (1983). *State-trait anxiety inventory for adults: Sampler set, manual, test, scoring key*. Redwood City, CA: Mind Garden.

### Technical report

Tayama, T. (2006). *Velocity influence on detection and prediction of changes in color and motion direction* (Report No. 38, 1-20). Sapporo, Japan: Psychology Department, Hokkaido University.

Tun, P. A., & Lachman, M. E. (2005). *Brief test of adult cognition by telephone (BTACTION)*. Retrieved from <http://www.brandeis.edu/projects/lifespan/TechReport.pdf>

## Thesis - paper

### If listed in Dissertations Abstracts/Digital Dissertations and obtained from UMI:

Liu, L. A. (2005). Shared mental models in negotiation. *Dissertation Abstracts International*, 65(08), 3061A. (UMI No. 9315947).

### If not listed in Dissertation Abstracts/Digital Dissertations and obtained from university:

Imber, A. (2003). *Applicant reactions to graduate recruitment and selection*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, Monash University, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

## Thesis - electronic

### If obtained from a database

- include ATT number if from ProQuest Dissertations and Theses

Bozeman, A. Jr. (2007). *Age of onset as predictor of cognitive performance in children with seizure disorders*. Retrieved from ProQuest Dissertations and Theses. (ATT 3259752).

### If available electronically from university or repository

- use brackets around degree, institution and year
- give URL if freely available or database/catalogue home page if content is protected

Fick, C. (1998). *The psychology of religious experience: A qualitative approach*. (Doctoral dissertation, University of Saskatchewan, 1998). Retrieved from [http://www.collectionscanada.ca/obj/s4/f2/dsk2/tape15/PQDD\\_0011/NQ27406.pdf](http://www.collectionscanada.ca/obj/s4/f2/dsk2/tape15/PQDD_0011/NQ27406.pdf)

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