

APA PARENTHETICAL CITATIONS (IN-TEXT CITATIONS)

WHAT IS A PARENTHETICAL CITATION?

Parenthetical Citations (also called in-text citations) are components of the main text/document. These citations are usually found immediately after quotations, paraphrases, and summaries. However, sometimes, the parenthetical citation may be split between the beginning of a sentence and the end of a sentence.

The parenthetical citation is usually enclosed in parentheses (hence the term “parenthetical”) and typically contain the following:

* The Last Name of the Author/s (or Name of the Group Author)* The Year of Publication

* The Page Numbers, where the material can be found....

Example: “Seldom will you be able to illuminate the whole truth” (Day, 2011, p.75).

The parenthetical citation works with the bibliographic citation to help the reader locate the original material for a quote, paraphrase, or summary.

WHAT IS A NARRATIVE CITATION?

Narrative Citations, like parenthetical citations, help provide the author of the quoted or paraphrased material. Unlike a parenthetical citation, which typically appears at the end of the line, the narrative citation may begin the line.

Example:

Robert Day (2011) wrote, “Seldom will you be able to illuminate the whole truth” (p.75)

Example:

In 2011, Robert Day wrote, ““Seldom will you be able to illuminate the whole truth” (p.75).

Note: Narrative citations do not need to be repeated if a second quote or paraphrase follows the first one (and if both lines appear on the same page).

Example:

Robert Day (2011) wrote, “Seldom will you be able to illuminate the whole truth” (p.75) Day suggests that the best you can do is “shine a spotlight on one area of truth.”

AUTHORS & EDITORS

If the name is provided....

Example: (Last name)

If a username is provided...

Example: (Username)

If two authors are provided...

Example: (Last name & Last name)

If three authors or more are provided...

Example: (Last name, et al.)

If a corporate or association is listed as the author...

Example: (Name of Group)

If a group author is to be abbreviated, spell out the abbreviation once, then abbreviate after. Example: (Alpha Beta Construction and Design) then (ABCD)

NO AUTHOR

If the work has no author, use a condensed version of the title of the work Example:
(Rhetoric Ad Herennium, 2010, p.14)

Example: ("Maintaining Your Firewall," 2025, p.75)

PAGE NUMBERING

If the page number is single, simply write the number. Use a single "p."

Example: p.7

If the page numbering is continuous from one page to another, write both numbers with a dash. Use a double "pp."

Example: pp.14-17

If the page numbering is broken, write one number, a comma, and then the last number. Use a double "pp."

Example: pp.14, 17

CITING SPECIFIC PARTS OF THE SOURCE

In APA, you may cite a specific part of the source, including pages, paragraphs, sections, tables, chapters, time stamps, slide numbers, etc.

Note: For religious and classical works with canonically numbered parts common across editions (e.g., books, chapters, verses, lines, cantos), cite the part instead of a page number.

Example:

(American Red Cross, 2025, p.14)

(Twain, 1965, Chapter 2)

(Kennedy, 1963, paras. 2-4)

(CNN, 2024, 1:21:01)

(Aristotle, 350 B.C.E, Part III)

(Shakespeare, 1623/1995, 1.3.36-37)

(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2025, "What You Can Do" section)

CITING MULTIPLE SOURCES

In many cases, different authors or sources may agree on a specific point. If this happens, use the authors' name and publication date for both and use a semicolon to separate them.

Example:

(Kennedy 1963; Nixon 1962)

