

Reference Direct Quotes: Short (APA)

What Is an In-Text Citation?

An *in-text citation* is a reference inside a particular sentence in your essay (as opposed to a reference at the end, as part of a list).

What Is a Direct Quote?

A *direct quote* is when you use the exact words and grammatical pattern/order of another writer (American Psychological Association, 2020, 8.25, p. 270).

How Do I Write a Short, Direct Quote?

A short, direct quote is:

- less than 40 words
- enclosed in quotation marks
- double spaced, as part of the text
- referenced (surname, date, page or paragraph number) with the full stop *after* the reference (American Psychological Association, 2020, 8.26, p. 271).
- See Example A, below.

Example A:

Because we all bring our own cultural perspectives to a discussion, “there are often more problems in cross-cultural / communication” (Richards & Schmidt, 2013, pp. 147–148).

Which Name Is the Surname?

The surname is the last name or family name of the author. Many Westerners have three names: a first name, a middle name, and a surname. They write them in that order. Some Asian writers place their surname first on the cover of a book and then write their first name (e.g. Choi, Jihye). You will be able to recognise this pattern because a comma follows the surname.

What If the Quote Runs Over Two Pages?

Sometimes, the quote you want to use runs onto another page. There is a way of showing this to the reader. Add the abbreviation “pp.” before the page numbers to indicate more than one page (American Psychological Association, 2020, 8.24, p. 270). Place a forward slash (/) in the text where the page break occurs. See Example A, above.

What If There Are No Page Numbers?

In this case, give other specific information to help the reader locate the exact material quoted. For example, after the author’s surname and publication date write: “Chapter 3,” or “Table 7,” or “Slide 10” or “para. 2” (short for paragraph)—without the quotation marks (American Psychological Association, 2020, 8.13, p. 264).

What If I Have Three or More Authors?

Cite only the first author’s surname and then add the words “et al.” (meaning “and the others”). You can use this shortcut even the first time you mention the source in your essay. All the authors, however, will be mentioned in the reference list (American Psychological Association, 2002, 8:17, p. 266). See Example B, below.

Example B:

Pragmatics is a sub-field of semantics, and Fromkin et al. (2018, p. 198) define it as “how a speaker uses ... literal meaning[s] in conversation.”

What If I Have Already Used the Author’s Surname in the Sentence Text?

Just include the date and page number in the brackets. This is called a *narrative citation* (American Psychological Association, 2020, 8.11, p. 263). See Example B, above.

When Do I Use the Ampersand (&)?

If you join surnames together in the actual sentence text, you need to write “and” as a word; but if the surnames are in brackets, you can use the ampersand instead of the word “and” (American Psychological Association, 2020, 8.11, p. 263). See Example A.

References

- American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). Author.
- Fromkin, V., Rodman, R., Hyams, N., Amberber, M., Cox, F., & Thornton, R. (2018). *An introduction to language* (9th ed.). Cengage Learning Australia Pty Limited.
- Richards, J. C., & Schmidt, R. (2013). *Longman dictionary of language teaching and applied linguistics* (4th ed.). Routledge.