

WAYS OF MAKING IN-TEXT CITATIONS IN APA STYLE

Author date (year) format Citation

The American Psychological Association (APA, 2020, p. 262) indicated that ***“In-text citations have two formats; parenthetical and narrative. In parenthetical citations, the author name and publication date appear in parentheses. In narrative citations, this information is incorporated in the text as part of the sentence.”*** In parenthetical citations, both the author and date (year), separated by a comma, appear in parentheses. A parenthetical citation can appear within or at the end of the sentence (p.263). “In narrative citation, the author appears in running text and the data appears in parentheses immediately after the author name” (p.263). **Parentheses is the use of additional sources, non-essential information to clarify, explain, or add a side note in a sentence.** There are thirteen (13) scenarios or **ways or dynamics** in which narrative and Parenthetical citations are realised or presented in the APA referencing system. These are discussed below.

1. Where the last name of the author with year(date) in brackets comes before a paraphrased idea or data from that publication. (Narrative citation, Indirect citation) E.G.

Creswell (2003) observed that the use of multiple data sources such as interviews, observations, focus group discussions and document analysis to address a particular research problem is recommended in social sciences. This view is supported by Bowen (2009) who contended that multiple methods of data collection is better because the weaknesses of one method can be complemented by another. According to Drake (2018), multiple methods are good in research but can be confusing to a novice researcher especially when it comes to justifying their importance.

2 Where the last name of the author with year(date) comes after a paraphrased idea. (Parenthetical citation, indirect citation) E.g

Collecting data using many methods helps to understand a subject matter from different perspectives. The use of multiple data sources such as interviews, observations, focus group discussions and document analysis to address a particular research problem is recommended in social sciences (Cresswell, 2003; Mkandawire, 2019). Furthermore, multiple methods of data collection is better because the weaknesses of one method can be complemented by another (Bowen, 2009). Multiple methods are good in research but can be confusing to a novice researcher especially when it comes to justifying their importance (Marshall, 2018).

**3 Where the LAST name of the author, year(date) and page number in brackets comes before a directly quoted idea that is less than 40 words. (Direct quotation)
E.g. (Narrative citation, direct quotation)**

Brinkmann and Kvale (2015:149) stated that “The research interview is an interpersonal situation, a conversation between two partners about a theme of mutual interest”. This view is consistent with Yin (2011, p.133) who stressed that “All interviews involve an interaction between the interviewer and the participant or interviewee. Structured interviews carefully script this interaction so that it is easy to follow.”

4. Where the name of the author, year(date) and page number in brackets comes after a quoted idea that is less than 40 words. E.g (Parenthetical citation, direct quotation)

“The research interview is an interpersonal situation, a conversation between two partners about a theme of mutual interest”, (Brinkmann & Kvale, 2015, p.149). In addition it should be noted that “...all interviews involve an interaction between the interviewer and the participant or interviewee. Structured interviews carefully script this interaction so that it is easy to follow” (Yin, 2011 p.133).

5. Where the last name of the author, year and page number in brackets comes before a quoted idea that is more than 40 words which should be indented on both sides. E.g. (Narrative citation, direct quotation)

While qualitative methods of data collection vary in social sciences, the interview method is the most common one. Corbin and Straus (2015, p. 37) noted that:

There are basically three types of interviews. There are unstructured interviews, semi-structured interviews, and structured interviews. Unstructured interviews are usually open to other questions that might not be planned. Semi-structured interview combines close ended questions and open ones while structured interviews are more restrictive.

A researcher may decide to use a semi-structured interview because in a semi-structured interview, some topics are chosen before beginning the research.

6 Where name of the author, year and page number in brackets comes after a quoted idea that is more than 40 words which should be indented both sides. E.g. (Parenthetical citation, direct citation)

While qualitative methods of data collection vary in social sciences, the interview method is the most common one.

There are basically three types of interviews. There are unstructured interviews, semi-structured interviews, and structured interviews. Unstructured interviews are usually open to other questions that might not be planned. Semi-structured interview combines close ended questions and open ones while structured interviews are more restrictive in nature (Corbin & Straus, 2015, p. 37).

A researcher may decide to use a semi-structured interview because in a semi-structured interview, some topics are chosen before beginning the research.

7 Where a source is cited in between or somewhere in the text within a sentence. It is not at the beginning or at the end but in the sentence text. E.g. (May be Narrative or parenthetical depending the section on which the parentheses is assigned).

Writing essays is an art that most students fail to learn (Brinkmann & Kvale, 2015) as they are consumed with content of the subject matter rather than how to present it. While they are busy contemplating on the sources of information for their assignments (Mwata, 2015), they do not think much on how to go about writing.

8. In rare cases, the author and date might both appear in the narrative. In this case, do not use parentheses. E.g. (Narrative citation, indirect citation)

In 2022, Lungu and Mkandawire observed that the creating a conducive environment for teaching and learning to take place should be the primary focus of all learning institutions in the world.

9. Where a source is cited and needs to be recited consecutively or more than once within the same paragraph or in the next paragraph, only a page number is indicated. E.g

Creswell (2003) observed that the use of multiple data sources such as interviews, observations, focus group discussions and document analysis to address a particular research problem is recommended in social sciences. Mkandawire (2019, p.18) contended that “the use of multiple methods of data collection is important for triangulation purposes”. Multiple methods of data collection is better because the weaknesses of one method are made up for by another (p. 22). **Do not use ibid p.22.** Multiple data collection sources act as means of data validation (Creswell, 2003).

10. Where a source has more than six authors, intext-citation is made by mentioning the first author’s last name only with et al. which means and others.

Nkhata et al. (2019) observed that theories help learners and researchers to idealise new concepts.

11. When authors' last names are outside the brackets, use the full word “and” but when they are inside the brackets use the symbols “&”. e.g.

Banda and Mwila (2023) noted that eating at night may cause stomach problems when sleeping especially when not used. On the contrary, it is argued that for people that are used to feeding at night, they face no challenges at all as this is part of their culture (Kafusha & Mwewa, 2020).

12. If other text appear with the parenthetical citation, use commas around the year. e.g.

There are several ways of marrying in Zambia stemming from diverse cultures and these are not limited to the following arranged marriages, two interested people meet anywhere, marriage resulting from pregnancy, elopement, caught in sexual act and spouse inheritance (See Mkandawire et al., 2019, for more detail).

13. When text and a citation appear together in parentheses, use a semi colon to separate the citation from the text; do not use parentheses within parentheses. e.g.

(e.g., in some ethnic groups of Zambia, when a man is caught having sexual intercourse with a lady when they are not married yet, they are compelled to marry; Mkandawire et al., 2019).