

## APSU Writing Center

### APA Style 7th Edition - In-text Citations

#### Abbreviations

- an **abbreviation** is defined as the shortened form of a word or phrase.
- On the first use, write out the full term and follow up with the abbreviation.

#### General Rules

- Add “s” alone without apostrophe to form the plural of abbreviations.
  - never use on units of measurement (use "40 cm" to signify "forty centimeters," not "45 cms")
- Do not use periods or spaces in abbreviations of all capital letters unless it is a proper name or refers to an identity-concealed label.
  - **Examples:** F. Scott Fitzgerald, APA, HTML, FBI
- Use a period when:
  - abbreviating the United States as an adjective
    - **Examples:** U.S. Army, U.S. President
  - using the unity of measurement inch (in.)
- Use the abbreviation “et al.” (meaning “and others”) in both parenthetical and narrative in-text citations.
  - Parenthetical text: (as examined by Pak et al., 2020)
  - Narrative text: Pak et al. (2020) examined

#### Units of Measurement

- Numerical Value: use an abbreviation (80 ml)
- No Numerical Value: write out the full measurement unit (measured in kilometers)
- There is no need to add an s to an abbreviation to show a plural.
- When stating Fahrenheit or Celsius, place the abbreviation next to the degree symbol (40°F or 40°C)
- **Examples:**

<b>cal</b> → calorie	<b>ft</b> → feet	<b>kg</b> → kilogram	<b>mm</b> → millimeter	<b>U</b> → unit
<b>C</b> → Celsius	<b>g</b> → gram	<b>L</b> → liter	<b>ng</b> → nanogram	<b>vol</b> → volume
<b>cm</b> → centimeter	<b>in.</b> → inch	<b>m</b> → meter	<b>oz</b> → ounce	<b>wt</b> → weight
<b>F</b> → Fahrenheit	<b>J</b> → joule	<b>ml</b> → mililiter	<b>qt</b> → quart	<b>yd</b> → yard

#### Time

- Use the abbreviations below with a numeral:
  - **hr** → hour
  - **s** → second
  - **min** → minute
  - **ms** → milisecond

#### Dates

- Do not abbreviate days, weeks, months, or years even with numerals.

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**Citations**

- Use the following abbreviations within citations:
  - **ed.** → edition
  - **Rev. ed.** → revised edition
  - **2nd ed.** → Second Edition
  - **Ed. or Eds.** → Editor(s)
  - **Trans.** → Translator(s)
  - **n.d.** → No date
  - **p. or pp.** → Page(s)
  - **Vol. or Vols.** → Volume(s)
  - **No.** → Number
  - **Pt.** → Part
  - **Tech. Rep.** → Technical Report
  - **Suppl.** → Supplement

**References**

American Psychological Association. (2022). APA Style abbreviations guide.  
<https://apastyle.apa.org/instructional aids/abbreviations-guide.pdf>

Purdue Owl Writing Lab. (2022). *Abbreviations*. Purdue University.  
[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/apa\\_style/apa\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide/apa\\_abbreviations.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/apa_abbreviations.html)