**How to cite a book (APA)**

How to cite a book in APA style. Let's say you're writing a research project on the psychology of internet trolling, and you find a book that talks about the effects of pervasive anonymity online. How do you find all the information you need to cite the book in your research project?

First, let's look at the five elements that make up an item in a reference list in APA style, and where they can be found.Get the author's name and book's title from the title page, not the cover. Here's the author's name, and this is the book's title and subtitle. On the title page, you'll also find the publisher's name and the place where the book was published. If the city and state or city and country are not on the title page, look for them on the copyright page. You'll find the year the book was published on the copyright page.

To create your reference list entry, write the author's last name first, followed by the initials of the first name and the middle name, if there is one. Put a comma after the last name and periods after the initials. This author doesn't have a middle initial, but suppose he did. If the book has more than one author, list the authors in the order they appear on the book's title page, and put each author's last name first. Put an ampersand before the final author's name. This book doesn't have two authors, but suppose it did.

Following the author's name, put the year of publication in parentheses. After the closed parenthesis, put a period. Next, write the book's title and subtitle, if there is one. Italicize them. Capitalize only the initial word of the title and subtitle and any proper nouns, and put a colon between the title and subtitle. In this case, the book's title is *You are not a gadget*, and the subtitle is *A manifesto*.

Next, give the city and state of publication. The city is New York, and the state is also New York. Abbreviate the state. If the book was published outside of the United States, you would use the city and country. End with a colon. Finally, give the name of the publisher. When listing the publisher, it's not necessary to include terms like “publishers,” “company,” or “incorporated,” but keep “books” and “press.” After the publisher's name, end the entry with a period.

Be sure to double check your punctuation. You need a period after the author's initial and a period after the parentheses containing the date. You need a period after the book's title. If there's a subtitle, a colon separates the main title and subtitle. You need a colon after the city and state, and a period after the publisher.

Finally, if your reference list entry is longer than one line, make sure you set up a hanging indent, which indents each line after the first. And that's the basic format for citing a book in APA style. For variations, such as an edition or an online book, consult your handbook's APA documentation section.