
How to reference images: APA 7th

Images can either be mentioned and described in your text (cited) or directly embedded as a figure (reproduced or adapted) in your work.

Referencing an image

Where mentioned in the text, you should provide an in-text citation and full reference as you would for any other source.

Images cited from books and journal articles

If referring directly to an image included in a book or article, include the figure number after the page number in the in-text citation. The final reference given is for the whole text.

For example:

In-text citation:

The chart by van Bergen et al. (2018, p2108, Figure 1) indicates that...

Reference:

van Bergen, E., Snowling, M.J., de Zeeuw, E.L., van Beijsterveldt, C.E.M., Dolan, C.V. & Boomsma, D.I. (2018). Why do children read more? The influence of reading ability on voluntary reading practices. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 59(11), 1205-1214. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jcpp.12910>

Images found online

For images found online, whether on a website, on social media or in an online collection, include an in-text citation with the creator's surname, or title of the work if the creator is unknown, plus date of production. The format of the final reference will depend on the type of image/work and its location.

For example:

An image from the internet:

In-text citation:

As the diagram of Ring Theory (Valeree, 2022) shows...

Reference:

Valereee. (2022). *Ring theory* [online graphic]. Wikimedia Commons.
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ring_theory.svg

See [Cite Them Right](#) for further examples including paintings and drawings, cartoons, and photographs etc.

Embedding an image

If you are embedding the image into your work, there are additional steps to take to ensure you format and reference it appropriately. APA provides further guidance for [figure set up](#) alongside example figures on their website.

1. Formatting the figure

When using the APA style, the figure should be formatted as follows:

- Figure number at the top of the image in bold.
- Figure title, in italics, one double spaced line below the figure number
- A legend or note can be placed below the image to provide further detail that allows the image to be understood. This can include a citation and a copyright attribution.

For example:

Figure 3

Packet of Brain Gum



Note. A dietary supplement containing PhosphatidylSerine intended to improve mental function. From *Brain Gum*, by Science Museum Group Collection, 1999

(<https://collection.sciencemuseumgroup.org.uk/objects/co520052/brain-gum>). Licenced under [CC BY-NC-SA](#)

[4.0 Licence](#).

2. In the main body of the text:

All figures should be referred to within the text by their figure number, for example:

As seen in Figure 3, gum has been considered a useful tool for improving mental alertness...

or

Gum has been used to improve mental alertness (see Figure 3).

3. Reference list

Place the corresponding full reference for the image in your reference list. For example:

Science Museum Group. (1999). *Brain Gum* [1999-1205 Science Museum Group Collection Online].

Science Museum Group.

<https://collection.sciencemuseumgroup.org.uk/objects/co520052/brain-gum>

4. List of Figures

While a list of figures is not required by APA, we would recommend including one if your work is substantial enough to include a table of contents and/or you have a lot of figures in the body of your text. Your School may also provide guidance in their style guide.

Essentially, a list of figures provides an overview of the images, illustrations, graphs, diagrams, maps etc. used throughout your work. In it is included a description of the figure and the page number the figure is located on. The list of figures will come after the contents page (on a separate page) and before the Introduction.

For example:

List of Figures

Figure 1: Description of figure	p.4
Figure 2: Description of figure	p.12
Figure 3: Description of figure	p.21

A note on copyright...

Before using images in your work make sure to check for any [copyright](#) limitations. Generally, using images in student work is acceptable if they are integral to your argument, referenced correctly and will not be used in any published work. This includes any kind of 'public sharing', e.g. public posters, online exhibitions or use at a conference. However, it is your responsibility to check the work can be used for educational purposes. We recommend using images from licenced collections such as [Bridgeman Education](#) or Open Access collections such as [Openverse](#), which provide images suitable for educational use.