

# **Incorporating Tables and Figures**

# Why Use Tables and Figures?

- Tables and figures can strengthen your writing by presenting data, statistics, or visuals that help your reader clearly understand your research.
- Check with your instructor to confirm whether tables and figures are allowed in your assignment.
- Introduce a table or figure before you insert it into the text.
  - **Example:** This information (see Table 1) demonstrates...
  - **Example:** The statistics on the percentage of animals used in scientific research can be seen in Table 3.

#### **Definitions**

- **Table:** an arrangement of data in rows and columns.
- Figure: any image, illustration, diagram, map, graph, or photograph.
- Chart: a type of figure that represents data graphically using symbols such as bars, lines, or slices.



Circle Process



# When Should I Include Tables, Charts, Graphs, or Figures?

- Use visuals when they help your audience:
  - Understand data more clearly.
  - See precise values or comparisons.
  - Visualize complex information in a simplified format.

#### What Should I Include?

- Cite each table or figure according to the required writing style.
- Keep visuals simple, readable, and clearly labeled.
- Number tables and figures in the order they appear in your paper



Incorporating Tables and Figures - APA Format

# **APA 7<sup>th</sup> Formatting for Tables**

• Table number: Placed at the top left, bolded, and numbered.

• **Examples:** Table 1, Table 2

• Table title: Placed one double-spaced line below the table number and written in italics.

### **Table Headings Types**

- Column heading: Identifies the entries in a single column of the table body.
- **Decked heads:** Stacked headings to avoid repeating the same wording in multiple columns.
- Stub heading: Describes the leftmost column.
- Table spanner: A heading that spans the entire width of the table body and groups columns under one category.

### **Table Body**

- Contains all data in the rows and cells.
  - May be single- or double-spaced (keep spacing consistent).
  - Column information is left-aligned unless numerical data requires different alignment.
  - Headings are centered.
  - The leftmost column; usually lists the major independent variables, categories, or items being compared.

#### **Table Notes**

- Placed below the table, left-aligned. Notes explain:
  - Abbreviations
  - Symbols such as asterisks
  - Additional details needed to understand the table

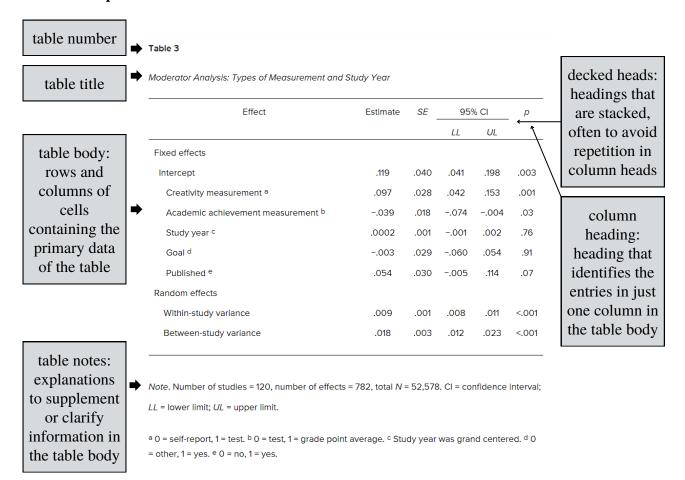


# Incorporating Tables and Figures - APA Format

### Where to Place Tables

- Embed tables within the text immediately after you first mention them, or
- Place each table on its own page after the reference list.

# **Table Example**





Incorporating Tables and Figures - Chicago Format

#### **Chicago 18th Formatting for Tables**

### **Figure**

- Any photo, map, graph, chart, or illustration that appears separate from the main text.
  - **Examples:** Fig. 1, Figure 1.2

#### **Credit Line**

- Acknowledges the source of the figure. It:
  - Appears in parentheses at the end of the caption.
  - Includes a creator, title, publication information, and figure numbers.
  - Uses a shortened form if the full source appears in the bibliography.

#### **Tables**

- Chicago style cites table sources using **Source**: or **Sources**: below the table.
  - Example: Sources: Data from Adams (1998); Bevan, Collier, and Gunning (1989).

### Figures (Bibliography-Style Citation)

- **Format:** First Name Last Name of creator, *Title of Work* (Place of publication: Publisher, Year of publication), page number, figure number.
  - **Example:** 1. Kate van Orden, *Music*, *Authorship*, *and the Book in the First Century of Print* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2013), 38, fig. 2.

#### **Images (Bibliography-Style Citation)**

- **Format:** First Name Last Name of creator, *Title of Work*, date of creation or completion, medium, Name of Institution, location (if applicable), URL.
  - **Example:** As illustrated in *Three Planets Dance over La Silla* [1], the phenomenon of 'syzygy' is when celestial bodies align in the sky.
  - \*Insert Image Here\*
  - 1. Yuri Beletsky, *Three Planets Dance over La Silla*, June 3, 2013, photograph, European Southern Observatory, https://www.eso.org/public/images/potw1322a/.



Incorporating Tables and Figures - MLA Format

### **MLA Formatting for Tables**

• Tables should be double-spaced, though MLA allows the use of horizontal lines for clarity.

### **Table Number**

- Place the table number in bold, flush left above the table.
  - Examples: Table 1, Table 2

### **Table Title**

• Place the title one double-spaced line below the table number.

#### **Notes**

- Included below the table, beginning with the word **Note**. in italics.
- Explains abbreviations, symbols, or other unclear content.
- Includes source information if the table is not your own.
- Placed below the table, beginning with the word **Note**. in italics.

#### **Figures**

- A figure refers to photos, maps, graphs, charts, drawings, or other illustrations.
  - **Examples:** Fig. 1, Figure 1.2

### **Captions**

- Appear below the figure and follow MLA formatting rules.
- Begin with Fig. X. followed by a brief description.
- Use one-inch margins, the same as the rest of the document.

# **Example Figures:**



Fig. 1. Berthe Morisot. Reading, 1873, Cleveland Museum of Art.



Ex. 1, Ludwig van Beethoven, Symphony No. 3 in E-flat, Opus 55 (Eroica), first movement, opening,



#### References

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Moore, A. (2023, October 26). *Citing tables, figures, and images:* Chicago (17th ed.) citation guide. Simon Fraser University. https://www.lib.sfu.ca/help/cite-write/citation-styleguides/chicago/chicago-citing-images

MTSU Writing Center. (2022). *COM 12: Incorporating tables and figures*. https://www.mtsu.edu/writing-center/handouts/COM12Tables.pdf

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