



AMA: Notable Changes from the 10th to 11th Edition

This document is not meant as a comprehensive list of all changes between the two most recent versions of the *American Medical Association Manual of Style*. This document includes several of the notable changes as shared by the AMA during the American Medical Writers Association annual meeting on November 7, 2019, as well as those perceived by scholars familiar with the works.

A note: the 11th edition of the manual was published in February of 2020, though the transition between style guides is gradual. Be sure to review your class syllabus, assignment instructions, and rubrics for clarity about which version you are expected to follow.

1. Reference Lists:

- a. Publisher location no longer required (the city and abbreviated state are simply omitted from reference entries).
- b. Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) should be included when available and are no longer followed by a period.
- c. URLs appear at the end of reference list entries and are no longer followed by a period.
 - i. Social media examples:
 1. JAMA Facebook page. Accessed November 2, 2019.
<https://www.facebook.com/JAMAJournal/>
 2. @AMAManual. In the 11th edition: More examples of references in scientific publications, including newer sources such as trial registries, data repositories, preprints, and social media. Posted November 1, 2019. Accessed November 2, 2019.
<https://twitter.com/AMAManual/status/1190283198544203776>
 3. Orellana J. Resources for references. *AMA Style Insider* blog. Posted October 25, 2019. Accessed November 2, 2019.
<https://amastyleinsider.com/2019/10/25/resources-for-references/>



d. Expanded referencing guidelines including:

- i. Institutional repositories: Papers (manuscripts and articles) appearing in online repositories.
 1. Tseng V. Effect of noise reduction methods in the ICU on sleep quality. UC Irvine. June 8, 2016. Accessed August 17, 2016.
<http://escholarship.org/uc/item/190551hq>
- ii. Preprints
 1. Bloss CS, Wineinger NE, Peters M, et al. A prospective randomized trial examining health care utilization in individuals using multiple smartphone-enabled biosensors. Preprint. Posted online October 28, 2015. bioRxiv 029983. doi:10.1101/029983Tables and Figures
- iii. Apps
 1. *JN Listen*. Version 1.0.15. American Medical Association. Updated March 1, 2019.
- iv. Podcasts
 1. Bauchner H. Editor's audio summary. *JAMA*. October 22, 2019. Accessed October 31, 2019. <https://edhub.ama-assn.org/jn-learning/audio-player/17983772>
- v. Data: When citing data, the data package or data set should be cited in the original publication to link the publication and the data.
 1. Francuzik W. Data from: Skin microbiome in atopic dermatitis: 16S gene sequence data. *figshare*. 2016. doi:10.6084/m9.figshare.4028943
- vi. Data Repositories: When citing data from a repository, cite the data used in addition to the original publication.
 1. Cutter AD, Gray JC. Data from: Ephemeral ecological speciation and the latitudinal biodiversity gradient. *Evolution*. 2016;70(10): 2171-2185. *Dryad Digital Repository*. Deposited August 17, 2016. doi:10.5061/dryad.734v9



2. Tables:
 - a. All cells should be left aligned to aid readability.
 - b. Sentence-case capitalization is used in all elements (axis labels, column headings).
 - i. Table titles appear with title case capitalization.

3. Figures:
 - a. Pie charts are not permitted.
 - b. Updated and new examples of data display have been included in the manual.

4. Grammar:
 - a. Singular use of the pronoun *they* is permitted:
 - i. When rewriting a sentence as a plural would be awkward or unclear.
 1. Rewording is usually possible and remains preferable.
 - ii. In medical articles in which patient identifiability is a concern.
 - b. Indefinite articles: choosing between *a* and *an* depends on how the subsequent noun (or modifier) is pronounced aloud, regardless of spelling.
 - i. Use *a* when the subsequent word sounds like it starts with a consonant:
 1. a eukaryote, a histogram, a one-way street, a NICU incubator
 - ii. Use *an* when the subsequent word sounds like it starts with a vowel:
 1. an eye, an hour, an MMSE score, an NSAID
 - c. Social media guidelines: Because of strict space limits, it is usually not possible to strictly adhere to AMA grammar guidelines. However, some standards are required for clarity.
 - i. Use proper capitalization.
 - ii. Use basic punctuation to ensure clarity.
 - iii. Avoid texting jargon such as “U” for “you” and “L8” for “late” since these abbreviations are too colloquial and may not be widely understood.
 - iv. Contractions are fine, as are easily recognized symbols such as &, <, =.



5. Punctuation: Do not hyphenate modifiers in which a letter or number is the second element.
 - a. “type 1 diabetes” or “phase 2 study”

6. Statistical and Mathematical Copy, Symbols, and Numbers:
 - a. CI (confidence interval) is no longer expanded (joining other measures of variance such as SD, SE, and SEM).
 - b. Spacing in Temperature: There is no space following the degree symbol in temperature, but there is a space after the number.
 - i. The patient had a temperature of 99 °F.
 - ii. Do not repeat °F for temperature ranges.
 1. The temperature range was 99-101 °F.
 - iii. *Note*: degree symbols for angles and for longitude and latitude remain closed.
 1. A 45° angle.
 2. (45°35’N)

7. Preferred and Correct Terminology:
 - a. Bias-free language is preferred.
 - i. Avoid labeling people with their socioeconomic status.
 1. Terms such as *low income* and *no income* should be used instead of *the poor* or *the unemployed*.
 2. The terms *first/third world* and *developed/developing* are not recommended as descriptors when comparing countries or regions.
 - ii. People first language is preferred.
 1. Avoid the use of “alcoholic,” “addict,” “user,” and “abuser” and replace with “she was addicted,” “people with opiate addiction,” “he abused alcohol,” and the like.
 - b. The terms *internet* and *website* are not considered proper nouns (they should not be capitalized unless appearing in a title).



- c. e words
 - i. The term *email* does not have a hyphen.
 - ii. The hyphen is retained in other *e-* compounds (*e-cigarette*, *e-book*).
 - iii. In titles, capitalization for e words occurs on the first letter following the *e-* (eg, State Restrictions on e-Cigarette Use).
 - d. The terms *multivariable* and *multivariate* are not synonymous.
 - i. *Multivariable* refers to multiple independent variables for a single outcome (dependent variable).
 - ii. *Multivariate* refers to 1 or more independent variables for multiples outcomes.
8. Organizational Changes to the Manual:
- a. There are now 23 Chapters.
 - b. The section on indexing has been removed.
 - c. The design, typography, and editing chapters have been combined.