

# Brackets

Round or square brackets are used in specific circumstances:

- ( )
- references and citations, e.g., (APA, 2020, p. 93)
  - parenthetical phrases that clarify information or set off an independent element, e.g., (refer to Appendix C)
  - a list within a sentence, e.g., stress, (b) anxiety, and (c) resilience ...
  - mathematical expressions and statistical values, e.g., ( $p = .001$ )

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- [ ]
- clarification of reference information within the reference list, e.g., [brochure]
  - nonquoted words within a quote, e.g., “Nearly always, [governance] is misunderstood.”
  - words within a phrase that are already encased in round brackets, e.g., (key values include service and responsibility [tautua], and love and commitment [alofa], and respect [fa’aaloalo])
  - display of limits of a confidence interval, e.g., 95% CLs [-7.2, 4.3] and [9.2, 12.4]

*Reviewed 27 January 2025*