

# Citation syntax

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Extension: **citations**

Markdown citations go inside square brackets and are separated by semicolons. Each citation must have a key, composed of ‘@’ + the citation identifier from the database, and may optionally have a prefix, a locator, and a suffix. The citation key must begin with a letter, digit, or `_`, and may contain alphanumerics, `_`, and internal punctuation characters ( `:.#$$&-+?<>~/` ). Here are some examples:

```
Blah blah [see @doe99, pp. 33–35; also @smith04, chap. 1].

Blah blah [@doe99, pp. 33–35, 38–39 and *passim*].

Blah blah [@smith04; @doe99].
```

**pandoc** detects locator terms in the [CSL locale files](#). Either abbreviated or unabbreviated forms are accepted. In the **en-US** locale, locator terms can be written in either singular or plural forms, as **book**, **bk.** / **bks.**; **chapter**, **chap.** / **chaps.**; **column**, **col.** / **cols.**; **figure**, **fig.** / **figs.**; **folio**, **fol.** / **fols.**; **number**, **no.** / **nos.**; **line**, **l.** / **ll.**; **note**, **n.** / **nn.**; **opus**, **op.** / **opp.**; **page**, **p.** / **pp.**; **paragraph**, **para.** / **paras.**; **part**, **pt.** / **pts.**; **section**, **sec.** / **secs.**; **sub verbo**, **s.v.** / **s.vv.**; **verse**, **v.** / **vv.**; **volume**, **vol.** / **vols.**; ¶ / ¶¶; § / §§. If no locator term is used, “page” is assumed.

**pandoc** will use heuristics to distinguish the locator from the suffix. In complex cases, the locator can be enclosed in curly braces:

```
[@smith{ii, A, D–Z}, with a suffix]
[@smith, {pp. iv, vi–xi, (xv)–(xvii)} with suffix here]
```

A minus sign ( `-` ) before the `@` will suppress mention of the author in the citation. This can be useful when the author is already mentioned in the text:

```
Smith says blah [-@smith04].
```

You can also write an in-text citation, as follows:

```
@smith04 says blah.

@smith04 [p. 33] says blah.
```