

CITING SONGS AND MUSIC - Adapted from Citation Machine.net

<https://www.citationmachine.net/resources/cite-sources/how-to-cite-a-song/>

If you've ever cited a movie or other video before, you'll find that the process for an audio recording is pretty similar. We've created examples in MLA, APA, and Chicago for Pharrell Williams's 2014 chart-topper "Happy." Our citation example is based on <https://music.apple.com/us/album/happy-from-despicable-me-2/863835302?i=863835363>.

- Name of the individual or band who performs the song
- Name of the songwriter (for APA style)
- Name of the album it is found on (if available)
- Version of the song, if available (such as an extended version or radio edit)
- Name of the publisher
- Date the song was published or recorded
- Track number
- Title of the website or app (iTunes)
- URL or DOI (if applicable)

Use the following structure to cite a song from iTunes in MLA 9:

Last name, First name (of the individual or the name of the band performing the song). "Title of the Song." *Name of the Album*, Container (for example, *iTunes* app), Version (optional), Publisher, Date published.

Here's how the above example would be cited in MLA 9:

Williams, Pharrell. "Happy." *GIRL*, *iTunes* app, Columbia Records, 2014.

Use the following structure to cite a song from iTunes in APA format:

Last name, First initial. Middle initial. of the songwriter. (Year published). Title of song [Recorded by First initial. Middle initial. Last name of performer (only include if different than the name of the writer)]. On Title of album [Audio file]. Retrieved from URL

Here's how the above example would be cited in APA citation:

Williams. P. (2014). Happy. On GIRL [Audio file]. Retrieved from <https://itunes.apple.com/us/album/happy-from-despicable-me-2/id823593445?i=823593456>

Use the following structure to cite a song from iTunes in Chicago:

*Note that audio recordings are generally not included in a bibliography. Create another list, titled "Discography." If you decide to include audio recordings in your bibliography, place a heading over them in order for readers to distinguish the difference.

Last name, First name of the individual or band who performs the song. "Title of Song." iTunes audio, length. Date published. URL.

Here's how the above example would be cited in Chicago:

Williams, Pharrell. "Happy." iTunes audio, 3:52. 2014.

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/album/happy-from-despicable-me-2/id823593445?i=823593456>.

MORE EXAMPLES

Spotify

Rae Morris. "Skin." *Cold*, Atlantic Records, 2014. *Spotify*,
open.spotify.com/track/0OPES3Tw5r86O6fudK8gxi.

Online Album

Beyoncé. "Pray You Catch Me." *Lemonade*, Parkwood Entertainment, 2016,
www.beyonce.com/album/lemonade-visual-album/.

CD

Nirvana. "Smells Like Teen Spirit." *Nevermind*, Geffen, 1991.