

Writing a Materials section when a psychological scale has been used to collect data

1. What is the full scale called?
 - Include the full name followed by its abbreviation if there is one
2. Who is the author of the exact scale you are using?
 - Ensure this is cited correctly in APA style (7th ed)
3. What are you measuring / what does the scale measure?
4. Are you using the whole scale of some of the sub-scales?
 - If sub-scales are being used separately, which ones and why only these?
5. How many items are there in the scale (or subscale)?
6. Give an example of 1 or 2 items
7. Are there any negatively worded items that require reverse scoring before analysis? How many exactly?
 - You do not need to state which items are negatively worded, just how many there are
 - e.g., there is no need to say 'items 1, 4 and 7 were negatively worded' – you just say 'there were three items that were negatively worded and therefore required reverse scoring prior to analysis'
8. What is the scoring mechanism?
 - i. A Likert scale, a semantic differential scale, a visual analogue scale
 - How many possible responses are there?
 - i. E.g., a five-point Likert scale
 - And how are they anchored?
 - i. E.g., between strongly disagree and strongly agree
9. What are the possible ranges of scores
 - Possible lowest to possible highest?
10. What do lower and/or higher scores indicate?
11. What is the reliability of the scale?
 - First you should indicate what previous studies have reported as the reliability of the scale, and then provide the Cronbach's alpha value as determined from your own reliability analysis (this allows for comparison)