

Word for Word

Cite or site?

The words *site* and *cite* are easily confused because they are pronounced the same way. However, their meanings are quite different.

Site can be a noun or a verb. As a noun, it refers to a spatial location or an Internet address.¹

Examples:

The surgeon removed the stitches from the surgical *site* one week after the procedure.

My favorite Internet *site* provides excellent coverage of international science news.



When *site* is used as a verb, it means to locate or to place something into position.¹

Example:

The institution *sited* the new proton therapy center as near as possible to the main hospital.

Cite is a verb. When you *cite* a source, you are quoting it or calling it to someone's attention as a precedent, proof, or example.²

Example:

In our manuscript, we *cited* eight recent studies on the impact of exercise in patients with metastatic lung cancer.

In reference lists, you may *cite* an Internet *site*.

References

1. Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 11th ed. Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster; 2003:1166.
2. Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 11th ed. Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster; 2003:225.

--Laura L. Russell

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