

# AMA Manual of Style

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## Logarithmic Expressions

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Print Publication Year: 2007 Published Online: 2009

Publisher: Oxford University Press

ISBN: eISBN:

DOI: 10.1093/jama/9780195176339.022.611

Item type: section

The term log is an abbreviation of logarithm. A system of logarithms may be based on any number, although logarithmic systems based on the numbers 10, 2, and the irrational number  $e$  are most common. The base should be subscripted and follow the word log. In the following examples, note that logarithms are always computed from exponents of the number that forms their basis.  $\log_{10} 1000 = 3$  (because  $1000 = 10^3$ )  $\log_2 8 = 3$  (because  $8 = 2^3$ ) Logarithms based on  $e$  (which is approximately 2.71) are called natural logarithms and are often represented as  $\ln$ .  $\ln 2.71 = 1$