Recognising a Research Article

You know it is a research article when…

- The article you are reading has the following basic headings or their equivalents:
  
  Abstract – a summary of the important parts of the article
  Literature review - reviews current knowledge on the particular topic
  Method / Methodology - outlines how the research was carried out
  Results – the information collected during the research
  Conclusions – analysis of results
  Discussion – implications of the results, limitations, possible further research
  References – what articles, books, and other sources were referred to in the article

- Abstracts usually will indicate if an article is research. Knowing what to look for in an abstract will allow you to quickly skim through search results to locate useful research articles. The research article abstract will usually mention study, an experiment or data was collected. It will usually mention the purpose, research question or hypothesis of the study. There might also be mention of a questionnaire, a survey, or numbers of participants. Research abstracts usually give an indication of the results, conclusions or findings at the end of the abstract.

  See overleaf for examples of research article abstracts.

How can I find research articles on databases?

PsycINFO enables you to limit your search to empirical study. An empirical article is an article which reports original research. Select Empirical Study from the Methodology window on the Advanced Search Screen.

Other databases may have a limit to peer reviewed or scholarly journals. You will then have to review the abstract of the article to determine whether it is a research article.
**Examples of research article abstracts**

**Adaptive memory: Survival processing increases both true and false memory in adults and children.**
Otgaar, Henry

Research has shown that processing information in a survival context can enhance the information’s memorability. The current study examined whether survival processing can also decrease the susceptibility to false memories and whether the survival advantage can be found in children. In Experiment 1, adults rated semantically related words in a survival, moving, or pleasantness scenario. Even though the survival advantage was demonstrated for true recall, there also was an unexpected increase in false memories in the survival condition. Similarly, younger and older children in Experiment 2 displayed superior true recall but also higher rates of false memories in a survival condition. Experiment 3 showed that in adults false memories were also more likely to occur in the survival condition when categorized lists instead of Deese-Roediger-McDermott (DRM)-like word lists were used. In all three experiments, no survival recall advantage was found when net accuracy scores that take the total output into account were used. These findings question whether survival processing is an adaptive memory strategy per se, as such processing not only enriches true recall but simultaneously amplifies the vulnerability to false memories.

**The relation between trust beliefs and loneliness during early childhood, middle childhood, and adulthood.**
Rotenberg, K. J., Addis, N., Betts, L. R., Corrigan, A., Fox, C., Hobson, Z., Rennison, S., Trueeman, M., Boulton, M. J.

Four studies examined the relation between trust and loneliness. Studies 1, 2, and 3 showed that trust beliefs negatively predicted changes in loneliness during early childhood (5-7 years), middle childhood (9-11 years), and young adulthood (18-21 years). Structural equation modeling yielded support for the hypothesis that the relation between trust beliefs and loneliness was mediated, in part, by social disengagement, which varied by age and gender. Study 4 showed that when young adults were primed for distrust rather than for trust cognitions, they showed greater withdrawal (loneliness) affect, lower willingness to disclose, and less perceived success in achieving rapport. The findings yielded support for the hypotheses that (a) low trust beliefs promote loneliness from childhood to adulthood and (b) social disengagement and cognitive schema mechanisms account for the relation.