Research synthesis refers to a continuum of techniques and research procedures, including meta-analysis, that have been developed by social scientists with the aim to review past literature systematically. In this talk I will discuss the ways in which this methodology has been used in the field of applied linguistics since its introduction some ten years ago, caution about some dangers in its application, and highlight its value for the applied linguistics research community. Choosing examples from published studies on a variety of applied linguistic topics, I will illustrate the process of carrying out syntheses, from (1) the use of systematic procedures for the sampling of primary research studies (i.e., problem specification, literature search, and study eligibility criteria); through (2) the evaluation and classification of substantive and methodological features of primary studies (i.e., developing a coding book and implementing the coding process); and concluding with (3) the analysis, interpretation, and dissemination of synthetic findings. I will also demystify meta-analytic techniques for summarizing and interpreting quantifiable findings from primary studies and provide guidance on how to evaluate the quality of a research synthesis.