

OSCOLA: a basic guide

Citations and footnotes

It is important to provide evidence for your points by citing your sources: primary legal sources (cases, statutes and so on), as well as secondary sources such as books, journal articles, websites and policy statements in footnotes.

OSCOLA is a footnote style: all citations appear in **footnotes**. OSCOLA does not use endnotes or in-text citations, such as '(Brown, 2007)'. Longer works, such as books and theses, also include citations in tables of cases and legislation, and bibliographies.

When citing any source, either directly (as a quotation) or indirectly (by paraphrasing or referring to ideas in a source), cite the reference in a footnote, in the style indicated in OSCOLA.

Indicate footnotes with a superscript number (eg. **murder is the unlawful killing of a human being.**¹) which should appear after the relevant punctuation in the text (if any). Put the footnote marker at the end of a sentence, unless for the sake of clarity it is necessary to put it directly after the word or phrase to which it relates. If the word or phrase to which the footnote marker relates is in brackets, put the marker before the closing bracket. A quotation need not be footnoted separately from the name of the source from which it is derived if the two appear in the same sentence. Otherwise, separate notes should be used. Close footnotes with a full stop (or question or exclamation mark).

Citing cases

When citing cases, give the **name of the case**, the **neutral citation** (if appropriate), and **volume** and **first page of the relevant law report**, and where necessary the court. If the name of the case is given in the text, it is not necessary to repeat it in the footnote.

Citing legislation

A citation in a footnote is not required when citing legislation if all the information the reader needs about the source is provided in the text (e.g. Human Rights Act 1998). Where the text does not include the name of the Act or the relevant section, this information should be provided in a footnote giving : the **name of the Act**, the **year** and **section**.

Citing secondary sources

If relying on or referring to a secondary source, such as a book, or article, website or database, provide a citation for the work in a footnote.

Examples of citations are overleaf.

For more detail see the link to the full text OSCOLA rules on the Law Libguide:

<http://libguides.bcu.ac.uk/law>

Primary Sources

Do not use full stops in abbreviations. Separate citations with a semi-colon.

Cases

Give the party names, followed by the neutral citation, followed by the *Law Reports* citation (eg AC, Ch, QB). If there is no neutral citation, give the *Law Reports* citation followed by the court in brackets. If the case is not reported in the *Law Reports*, cite the All ER or the WLR, or failing that a specialist report.

Corr v IBC Vehicles Ltd [2008] UKHL 13, [2008] 1 AC 884

R (Roberts) v Parole Board [2004] EWCA Civ 1031, [2005] QB 410

Page v Smith [1996] AC 155 (HL)

When pinpointing, give paragraph numbers in square brackets at the end of the citation. If the judgment has no paragraph numbers, provide the page number pinpoint after the court.

Callery v Gray [2001] EWCA Civ 1117, [2001] 1 WLR 2112 [42], [45]

Bunt v Tilley [2006] EWHC 407 (QB), [2006] 3 All ER 336 [1]–[37]

R v Leeds County Court, ex p Morris [1990] QB 523 (QB) 530–31

If citing a particular judge:

Arcott v The Coal Authority [2004] EWCA Civ 892, [2005] Env LR 6 [27] (Laws LJ)

Statutes and statutory instruments

Act of Supremacy 1558

Human Rights Act 1998, s 15(1)(b)

Penalties for Disorderly Behaviour (Amendment of Minimum Age) Order 2004, SI 2004/3166

EU legislation and cases

Consolidated Version of the Treaty on European Union [2008] OJ C115/13

Council Regulation (EC) 139/2004 on the control of concentrations between undertakings (EC Merger Regulation) [2004] OJ L24/1, art 5

Case C–176/03 *Commission v Council* [2005] ECR I–7879, paras 47–48

European Court of Human Rights

Omojudi v UK (2009) 51 EHRR 10

Osman v UK ECHR 1998–VIII 3124

Balogh v Hungary App no 47940/99 (ECHR, 20 July 2004)

Simpson v UK (1989) 64 DR 188

Secondary Sources

Books

Give the author's name in the same form as in the publication, except in bibliographies, where you should give only the surname followed by the initial(s). Give relevant information about editions, translators and so forth before the publisher, and give page numbers at the end of the citation, after the brackets.

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (first published 1651, Penguin 1985) 268

Gareth Jones, *Goff and Jones: The Law of Restitution* (1st supp, 7th edn, Sweet & Maxwell 2009)

K Zweigert and H Kötz, *An Introduction to Comparative Law* (Tony Weir tr, 3rd edn, OUP 1998)

Contributions to edited books

Francis Rose, 'The Evolution of the Species' in Andrew Burrows and Alan Rodger (eds), *Mapping the Law: Essays in Memory of Peter Birks* (OUP 2006)

Encyclopedias

Halsbury's Laws (5th edn, 2010) vol 57, para 53

Journal articles

Paul Craig, 'Theory, "Pure Theory" and Values in Public Law' [2005] PL 440

When pinpointing, put a comma between the first page of the article and the page pinpoint.

JAG Griffith, 'The Common Law and the Political Constitution' (2001) 117 LQR 42, 64

Online journals

Graham Greenleaf, 'The Global Development of Free Access to Legal Information' (2010) 1(1) EJLT < <http://ejlt.org//article/view/17> > accessed 27 July 2010

Command papers and Law Commission reports

Department for International Development, *Eliminating World Poverty: Building our Common Future* (White Paper, Cm 7656, 2009) ch 5
Law Commission, *Reforming Bribery* (Law Com No 313, 2008) paras 3.12–3.17

Websites and blogs

Sarah Cole, 'Virtual Friend Fires Employee' (*Naked Law*, 1 May 2009)
<www.nakedlaw.com/2009/05/index.html>
accessed 19 November 2009

Newspaper articles

Jane Croft, 'Supreme Court Warns on Quality' *Financial Times* (London, 1 July 2010)