



## Repeat Citations in OSCOLA

When referring to a source that you've already cited in [OSCOLA](#), you can simply refer the reader back to the original citation. This saves you words.

There are two options:

### Option 1: **ibid**

Ibid allows you to point the reader to the footnote immediately above the current one. In the example below, it tells the reader (at footnote 2) to go back to footnote immediately above (footnote 1).

Note that *ibid* only works where you intend to point the reader to the footnote *immediately* above. You can have a "chain of *ibids*" if you refer to the same source in a series of footnotes, but once that chain is broken (by a reference to a different source) you need to switch to option 2. You can then go back to *ibid* if the chain continues.

### Option 2: **(n X)**

This allows you to refer the reader to a footnote earlier in your essay (but not *immediately* above). In the example below, footnote 10 points the reader back to footnote 1.

To do this, you need to include: the author's surname or an abbreviation of the case name and (n X), where X is the number of the original footnote. You can then pinpoint another page or paragraph if necessary.

### In short:

When referring to the **same source** twice in a row, **use *ibid***; when referring to **a source you used earlier** (but you have cited different sources in between), **use the (n X) approach**.

You only need one. "Ibid (n 1)" is wrong and/or a waste of words.

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### Example footnotes:

<sup>1</sup> *R v Cannings* [2004] EWCA Crim 1, [2004] 1 WLR 2607 [4].

<sup>2</sup> *ibid* [7]-[9].

<sup>3</sup> Neil MacCormick, *Rhetoric and the Rule of Law* (OUP 2005) 222-224.

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<sup>10</sup> *Cannings* (n 1) [42], [59]

<sup>11</sup> MacCormick (n 3) 231.

<sup>12</sup> *ibid* 222, 224.

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### On pinpointing paragraph/page numbers:

[1] means paragraph 1, but 1 (without brackets) means page 1.

[1]-[2] means paragraphs 1 to 2, while 1-2 means pages 1 to 2.

[1], [5], [10] means paragraphs 1, 5 and 10 (but not 2, 3, 4, etc.). 1, 5, 10 means pages 1, 5 and 10.

