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Subject: Re: Passing Image Data :)

Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Tue, 23 Oct 2001 21:33:14 GMT

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From: "David Fanning" <david@dfanning.com>

> Mark Hadfield (m.hadfield@niwa.cri.nz) writes:

>

>> I think the idea is that the period is required only when the abbreviation

>> removes something from the \*end\* of the word. Since the abbreviation "Dr"

>> ends with the same letter as "Doctor", no period is required.

>

> Really!?

>

> That's why I like this newsgroup. I learn something

> new every day. :-)

And you shouldn't believe everything you read in it.

Having publicly pontificated on punctuation of abbreviations, I thought I should look for some support. For historical reasons, the only style manual in my office I have is an American one, viz. "Webster's American Style Manual" (1985). On p 95 it says:

1. A period follows most abbreviations that are formed by omitting all but the first few letters of a word, eg. bull. for bulletin, bro. for brother, fig. for figure, Fr. for French.

2. A period follows most abbreviations that are formed by omitting letters from the middle of a word, eg. secy. for secretary, mfg. for manufacturing, agcy. for agency, Mr. for Mister.

3. [various others less relevant]

So, Dr. Fanning, I am afraid this authority does not support Andrew and me. However, it is, as I said, an American authority. Perhaps the "no period [I mean full stop] when omitting letters from the middle of an abbreviation" rule applies in British English, as opposed to American English. I am sure I remember learning it in school. I could ask my school-age children, but I don't think they learn \*anything\* in school these days...I better stop here before I lapse completely into impotent pedantic curmudgeonry.

Cheers, bro.

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