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Vertical space in lists

What is the best way to *globally* change the amount of vertical space between items in list
environments?

{spacing} {lists}

asked Feb 9 '11 at 15:31

Mark Meckes
5,974   8   27   28

4 Answers

The easiest way to do this is to use the `enumitem` package.

```
\documentclass{article}
\usepackage{lipsum} % for dummy text
\usepackage{enumitem}
\setlist{nosep} % or \setlist{noitemsep} to leave space around whole list

\begin{document}
\lipsum[1]
\begin{enumerate}
\item foo
\item bar
\end{enumerate}
\lipsum[2]
\end{document}
```

The `enumitem` package also allows you to set the list spacing for a particular type or level of
list, or for any particular individual list:

```
\setlist[2]{noitemsep} % sets the itemsep and parsep for all level two lists to 0
\setenumerate{noitemsep} % sets no itemsep for enumerate lists only
\begin{enumerate}[noitemsep] % sets no itemsep for just this list
...
\end{enumerate}
```

The `nosep` parameter removes all vertical spacing within and around the list; the `noitemsep`
parameter removes spacing from items but leaves space around the whole list.

The package also allows complete control over all other aspects of the list formatting too.

edited Jun 12 '14 at 16:44   answered Feb 9 '11 at 15:42

Alan Munn
130k   20   365   584

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25   This is probably the best package for the job. It accepts key value arguments so you could say
      `\begin{enumerate}[itemsep=1pt, topsep=12pt, partopsep=0pt]` etc, maybe you should expand a
      bit in your answer. – Yiannis Lazarides Feb 9 '11 at 16:01

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1   @Yiannis The question did ask for a global change. But I've added some other examples along the lines of what
      you suggest. Thanks. – Alan Munn Feb 9 '11 at 16:11

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2   Without using this package I can specify the type of item numbering as an optional parameter, e.g.
      `\begin{itemize}[(i)]` . How do I do this while using `enumitem` ? Right now I get an error: `missing`
      `endcsname` . – Will May 23 '12 at 4:00

2   @Will The syntax you suggest is that of the `enumerate` package. You can emulate that package with `enumitem` by loading it with the `[shortlabels]` option (i.e. `\usepackage[shortlabels]{enumitem}`) But the recommended way is to use the `label` key: `\begin{enumerate}[label={(\roman*)}]` . See the `enumitem` documentation for more information. – Alan Munn May 23 '12 at 4:06

Perfect, thank you! – Will May 25 '12 at 2:13

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the **least demanding way** to do it (**no further packages or whatsoever needed**) is to define your own environment like this ...

```
\newenvironment{myitemize}
{ \begin{itemize}
    \setlength{\itemsep}{0pt}
    \setlength{\parskip}{0pt}
    \setlength{\parsep}{0pt}      }
{ \end{itemize}                   }
```

... and use it like this ...

```
\begin{myitemize}
  \item one
  \item two
  \item three
\end{myitemize}
```

edited Sep 22 '14 at 11:34   answered Oct 2 '13 at 8:30

petermeissner
1,211   9   13

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1   This works nicely with the `moderncv` package. (unlike the `enumitem` solution, where distances are changed even by just *loading* the package) – rainmaker May 18 '16 at 15:30

You can use `paralist` package and use any of its 'compact' lists (compactitem, compactenum, compactdesc).

```
\documentclass{article}
\usepackage{paralist}
\begin{document}
    Regular itemize
    \begin{itemize}
        \item First
        \item Second
        \item Third
    \end{itemize}

    Compactitem
    \begin{compactitem}
        \item First
        \item Second
        \item Third
    \end{compactitem}
\end{document}
```

answered Feb 9 '11 at 15:47

Ignasi
68.9k   4   116   209

Load package `paralist` and set

```
\usepackage{paralist}
  \let\itemize\compactitem
  \let\enditemize\endcompactitem
  \let\enumerate\compactenum
  \let\endenumerate\endcompactenum
  \let\description\compactdesc
  \let\enddescription\endcompactdesc
  \pltopsep=\medskipamount
  \plitemsep=1pt
  \plparsep=1pt
```

or load package `enumitem` and `\setlist{nosep}`

edited Jun 6 '14 at 7:56

answered Feb 9 '11 at 15:42

Herbert
235k   19   349   661