### Paragraphs

The most basic unit of block-level content within a WordprocessingML document, paragraphs are stored using the [p](p.docx) element (§). A paragraph defines a distinct division of content with a WordprocessingML document which begins on a new line.

[Example: Consider the paragraph fragment "The quick brown fox jumped … " which is centered on a paragraph. The justification property is a paragraph level property, and therefore is expressed on the paragraph properties as follows:

<w:[p](p.docx)>  
 <w:[pPr](pPr.docx)>  
 <w:[jc](jc.docx) w:val="center"/>  
 <w:[rPr](rPr.docx)>  
 <w:[i](i.docx)/>  
 </w:[rPr](rPr.docx)>  
 </w:[pPr](pPr.docx)>

<w:[r](r.docx)>  
 <w:[rPr](rPr.docx)>  
 <w:[i](i.docx)/>  
 </w:[rPr](rPr.docx)>  
 <w:[t](t.docx) xml:space="preserve">The quick brown fox jumped … </w:[t](t.docx)>  
 </w:[r](r.docx)>  
</w:[p](p.docx)>

Notice that each run specifies the character formatting information for its contents, and the paragraph specifies the paragraph level formatting (the center-justification). It is also notable that since leading and trailing whitespace is not normally significant in XML; some runs require a designating specifying that their whitespace is significant via the xml:space element. end example]

A paragraph's properties are specified via the [pPr](pPr.docx) element (§; §). [Note: Some examples of paragraph properties are alignment, border, hyphenation override, indentation, line [spacing](spacing.docx), shading, text direction, and widow/orphan control. end note]