#### kern (Font Kerning)

This element specifies whether font kerning shall be applied to the contents of this run. If it is specified, then kerning shall be automatically adjusted when displaying characters in this run as needed.

The val attribute specifies the smallest font size which shall have its kerning automatically adjusted if this setting is specified. If the font size in the [sz](sz.docx) element (§) is smaller than this value, then no font kerning shall be performed.

If this element is not present, the default value is to leave the formatting applied at previous level in the style hierarchy. If this element is never applied in the style hierarchy, then font kerning shall not be applied to the contents of this run.

[Example: Consider the following WordprocessingML run which has font kerning properties specified:

<w:[r](r.docx)>

<w:[rPr](rPr.docx)>

<w:[sz](sz.docx) w:val="22" />

<w:kern w:val="28" />

</w:[rPr](rPr.docx)>

</w:[r](r.docx)>

Even though font kerning is turned on via the kern element, the contents of this run shall not be kerned because that settings only applied to font sizes of 14 points (28 half-points) or larger. If the kern element's val attribute was less than or equal to the [sz](sz.docx) element's val attribute, then kerning would be applied:

<w:[r](r.docx)>

<w:[rPr](rPr.docx)>

<w:[sz](sz.docx) w:val="22" />

<w:kern w:val="22" />

</w:[rPr](rPr.docx)>

</w:[r](r.docx)>

end example]

|  |
| --- |
| Parent Elements |
| [rPr](rPr.docx) (§); [rPr](rPr.docx) (§); [rPr](rPr.docx) (§); [rPr](rPr.docx) (§); [rPr](rPr.docx) (§); [rPr](rPr.docx) (§); [rPr](rPr.docx) (§); [rPr](rPr.docx) (§); [rPr](rPr.docx) (§); [rPr](rPr.docx) (§) |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Attributes | Description |
| val (Half Point Measurement) | Specifies a positive measurement specified in half-points (1/144 of an inch).  The contents of this attribute value are interpreted based on the context of the parent [XML](XML.docx) element.  [Example: Consider the following WordprocessingML fragment:  <w:[rPr](rPr.docx)>  <w:[sz](sz.docx) w:val="28" />  </w:[rPr](rPr.docx)>  The value of the val attribute is the font size of the run's contents.  However, consider the following fragment:  <w:[rPr](rPr.docx)>  <w:kern w:val="30" />  </w:[rPr](rPr.docx)>  In this case, the value in the val attribute is the minimum size for which font characters shall be automatically kerned.  In each case, the value is interpreted in the context of the parent element. end example]  The possible values for this attribute are defined by the [ST\_HpsMeasure](ST_HpsMeasure.docx) simple [type](type.docx) (§). |

The following [XML](XML.docx) Schema fragment defines the contents of this element:

<complexType [name](name.docx)="CT\_HpsMeasure">

<attribute [name](name.docx)="val" [type](type.docx)="[ST\_HpsMeasure](ST_HpsMeasure.docx)" use="required"/>

</complexType>