#### [pStyle](pStyle.docx) (Referenced Paragraph Style)

This element specifies the style ID of the paragraph style which shall be used to [format](format.docx) the contents of this paragraph.

This formatting is applied at the following location in the style hierarchy:

* Document defaults
* Table [styles](styles.docx)
* [Numbering](Numbering.docx) [styles](styles.docx)
* Paragraph [styles](styles.docx) (this element)
* Character [styles](styles.docx)
* Direct Formatting

This means that all properties specified in the style element (§) with a styleId which corresponds to the value in this element's val attribute are applied to the paragraph at the appropriate level in the hierarchy.

If this element is omitted, or it references a style which does not exist, then no paragraph style shall be applied to the current paragraph. As well, this property is ignored if the paragraph properties are part of a paragraph style.

[Example: Consider the following WordprocessingML fragment:

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

<w:[pStyle](pStyle.docx) w:val=”TestParagraphStyle” />

<w:[ind](ind.docx) w:[left](left.docx)=”1440” />

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

This paragraph specifies that it will inherit all of the paragraph properties specified by the paragraph style with a styleId of TestParagraphStyle, which will then have any indentation properties overridden with a left indentation of 1440 twentieths of a point, and no indentation for any other value. end example]

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Attributes | Description |
| val (String Value) | Specifies that its contents will contain a string.  The contents of this string are interpreted based on the context of the parent [XML](XML.docx) element.  [Example: Consider the following WordprocessingML fragment:  <w:[pPr](pPr.docx)>  <w:[pStyle](pStyle.docx) w:val="heading1" />  </w:[pPr](pPr.docx)>  The value of the val attribute is the ID of the associated paragraph style's styleId.  However, consider the following fragment:  <w:[sdtPr](sdtPr.docx)>  <w:[alias](alias.docx) w:val="SDT Title Example" />  ...  </w:[sdtPr](sdtPr.docx)>  In this case, the decimal number in the val attribute is the [caption](caption.docx) of the parent structured document tag. 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\_String](ST_String.docx) simple [type](type.docx) (§). |

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

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

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

</complexType>