

## An **epigraph** package for SILE

The **epigraph** package for SILE can be used to typeset a relevant quotation or saying as an epigraph, usually at either the start or end of a section. Various handles are provided to tweak the appearance.<sup>1</sup>

The **epigraph** environment typesets an epigraph using the provided text. An optional source (author, book name, etc.) can also be defined, with the `\source` command in the text block. By default the epigraph is placed at the right hand side of the text block, and the source is typeset at the bottom right of the block.

lorem ipsum dolor sit amet consetetur sadipscing  
elit sed diam nonumy eirmod tempor invidunt ut la-  
bore et dolore.

*The Lorem Ipsum Book.*

Without source:

lorem ipsum dolor sit amet consetetur sadipscing  
elit sed diam nonumy eirmod tempor invidunt ut la-  
bore et dolore.

The default width for the epigraph block is **epigraph.width**. A **width** option is also provided to override it on a single epigraph<sup>2</sup>. It may be set to a relative value, e.g. 80 percent the current line width:

lorem ipsum dolor sit amet consetetur sadipscing elit sed diam no-  
numy eirmod tempor invidunt ut labore et dolore.

Or, pretty obviously, with a fixed value, e.g. **8cm**.

lorem ipsum dolor sit amet consetetur sadipscing elit  
sed diam nonumy eirmod tempor invidunt ut labore et dolore.

The vertical skips are controlled by **beforeskipamount**, **afterskipamount**, **sourceskipamount**. The latter is only applied if there is a source specified and the epigraph doesn't show a rule (see further below).

1. This is very loosely inspired from the LaTeX package by the same name.
2. Basically, all global settings are also available as command options (or reciprocally!), with the same name but the namespace left out. For the sake of brevity, we will therefore omit the namespace from this point onward.

In the following example, the two first options are set to **0.5cm** and the source skip is set to **0**.

lorem ipsum dolor sit amet consetetur sadipscing  
elittr sed diam nonumy eirmod tempor invidunt ut la-  
bore et dolore.

*The Lorem Ipsum Book.*

By default, paragraph indentation is inherited from the document. It can be tuned with **parindent**, e.g. **1em**.

lorem ipsum dolor sit amet consetetur sadipscing  
elittr sed diam nonumy eirmod tempor invidunt ut la-  
bore et dolore.

lorem ipsum dolor sit amet consetetur sadipscing  
elittr sed diam nonumy eirmod tempor invidunt ut la-  
bore et dolore.

A rule may be shown below the epigraph text (and above the source, if present — in that case, the vertical source skip amount does not apply). Its thickness is controlled with **rule** being set to a non-null value, e.g. **0.4pt**.

lorem ipsum dolor sit amet consetetur sadipscing  
elittr sed diam nonumy eirmod tempor invidunt ut la-  
bore et dolore.

---

*The Lorem Ipsum Book.*

Likewise, without source:

lorem ipsum dolor sit amet consetetur sadipscing  
elittr sed diam nonumy eirmod tempor invidunt ut la-  
bore et dolore.

By default, the epigraph text is justified. This may be changed setting **ragged** to **true**.

The text is then ragged on the opposite side to the epigraph block, so on the left for a right-aligned block.

lorem ipsum dolor sit amet consetetur  
sadipscingsc elit sed diam nonumy eirmod tempor  
invidunt ut labore et dolore.

*The Lorem Ipsum Book.*

It would be ragged on the right for a left-aligned epigraph block.

lorem ipsum dolor sit amet consetetur  
sadipscingsc elit sed diam nonumy eirmod tempor  
invidunt ut labore et dolore.

*The Lorem Ipsum Book.*

Here, we introduced the **align** option, set to **left**. All the settings previously mentioned also apply to left-aligned epigraphs, so we can of course tweak them at convenience.

lorem ipsum dolor sit amet consetetur  
sadipscingsc elit sed diam nonumy eirmod  
tempor invidunt ut labore et dolore.

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*The Lorem Ipsum Book.*

If you want to specify what font the epigraph environment should use, you can redefine the **epigraph:font** command. By default it will be the same as the surrounding document, just smaller. The epigraph source is typeset in italic by default. It can be modified too, by redefining the **epigraph:source:font** command.<sup>3</sup>

*lorem ipsum dolor sit amet consetetur sadi-  
pscing elit sed diam nonumy eirmod tempor invi-  
dunt ut labore et dolore.*

The Lorem Ipsum Book.

As final notes, the epigraph source is intended to be short by nature, therefore no specific effort has been made to correctly handle sources longer than the epigraph block or even spanning on multiple lines.

3. These commands are actually hooks invoked before typesetting the related text, and one could use them to perform other operations. However, we strongly recommend not using them for anything else than changing the font, as it may break in future versions.

Before anyone asks, the alignment options for an epigraph are to the left or to the right of the frame only; notably, there is no intention to support centering. This author does not think centered epigraphs are typographically sound.

For the curious-minded, it turns out that nested epigraphs do work somewhat as intended. Your mileage may vary depending on the combination of settings. This is not expected to be a highly requested feature and has not been thoroughly tested.

lorem ipsum dolor sit amet consetetur sadipscing elitr sed diam no-  
numy eirmod tempor invidunt ut labore et dolore.

Words — so innocent and powerless as they are, as  
standing in a dictionary, how potent for good and evil they  
become in the hands of one who knows how to combine  
them.

*Nathaniel Hawthorne*

lorem ipsum dolor sit amet consetetur sadipscing elitr sed diam no-  
numy eirmod tempor invidunt ut labore et dolore.

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*The Lorem Ipsum Book.*