

# Text Justification

## Justifying text & Spacing

### Character and Word spacing

When text-alignment is set to Justify (i.e. aligning to both right and left margins), word spacing and character spacing are normally used to justify text.

The default is to use a mix of character and word spacing. The ratio is set by variables defined at the top of the mPDF.php file:

```
var $jSWord = 0.4; // Percentage(/100) of spacing to allocate to Word vs. Character
var $jSmaxChar = 2; // Maximum spacing to allocate to character spacing. (0 = no maximum)
```

The maximum (*\$jSmaxChar*) will prevent excessive, ugly and difficult-to-read character spacing.

CJK characters usually need to be character-spaced (as each character is like a word), and cursive scripts like Arabic or Indic texts need to be word-spaced. You can override some of the default settings also by using CSS letter-spacing:

```
div.arabic {
  text-align: justify;
  letter-spacing: 0;
}
```

### Kashida in Arabic text

In Arabic text, justification can be achieved by elongating the line between characters - this is known as "kashida". Kashida can be used by configuring the font in `config_fonts.php` cf. OpenType layout features (OTL)

### Non-breaking space (NBSP)

The non-breaking space character is supported when using all codepages other than CJK - unless the font chosen does not have a glyph/character representing the nbsp (? only FreeSerif); in these cases the nbsp is converted to a normal space. When supported, it prevents word wrapping and prevents collapse of white space as expected with HTML.

### The last line

The last line of justified text is left-aligned, but when the penultimate line has been stretched to fit the page width it appears best if the last line also has increased spacing.

If the penultimate line was stretched considerably, the last line may look odd using the same spacing, so maximum values for the character-spacing (*\$jSmaxCharLast*) and word-spacing (*\$jSmaxWordLast*) can be set in the configuration file.

### Justification before line-breaks

In a justified text block, an inline `<img>`, `<textarea>`, `<input>`, or `<select>` element which causes a new line, force the previous line to be justified. However, a `<hr>` or `<br>` do not force justification of the preceeding text.

This behaviour matches most browsers. To allow optional compliance with the behaviour of MS Word, which also justifies text before a `<br>` you can set the configurable variable `justifyB4br` to true.

Printed on Wed 05 Aug 2015 12:09:51 GMT +0100 (DST)