

Using \parindent and \parskip with \paragraph{} has no effect

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I'm creating documents using the `memoir` class in XeLaTeX. I'm having trouble creating proper paragraph presentation, and in particular my when I create paragraphs with `\paragraph{}lorem ipsum` LaTeX ignores the `\parskip` and `\parindent` settings.

For example, if I have a document

```
\documentclass[oneside,11pt]{memoir}
\usepackage{fontspec}% font selecting commands
\usepackage{xunicode}% unicode character macros
\usepackage{xltxtra} % some fixes/extras

\begin{document}
\setlength{\parskip}{0pt} % 1ex plus 0.5ex minus 0.2ex}
\setlength{\parindent}{0pt}
\pagestyle{plain}

\paragraph{}orem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Aliquam enim urna, mattis eu aliquet eget, condimentum id nibh. In hac habitasse platea dictumst.
\paragraph{}ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Aliquam enim urna mattis eu aliquet eget, condimentum id nibh. In hac habitasse platea dictumst.
\end{document}
```

This typesets like so:

orem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Aliquam enim urna, mattis eu aliquet eget, condimentum id nibh. In hac habitasse platea dictumst.

ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Aliquam enim urna, mattis eu aliquet eget, condimentum id nibh. In hac habitasse platea dictumst.

This incorrectly has both paragraph indentation and skip, in spite of `\parskip` and `\parindent` being set to zero.

One would expect the typeset output to look like this (which is an ugly [choice](#) of paragraph formatting, but illustrates the issue):

orem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Aliquam enim urna, mattis eu aliquet eget, condimentum id nibh. In hac habitasse platea dictumst.
ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Aliquam enim urna, mattis eu aliquet eget, condimentum id nibh. In hac habitasse platea dictumst.

I note that when I separate paragraphs by two newlines (i.e. don't use `\paragraph{} ,` and) the `\parskip` and `\parindent` settings are honoured.

I'd be very grateful to know why, when using `\paragraph{} ,` the `\parskip` and `\parindent` commands are not honoured, and how one might either have these commands honoured or alternatively what commands would achieve the same effect with paragraphs created with `\paragraph{} .`

Thank you for reading.

Brian

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asked Jun 25 '10 at 16:46



Brian M. Hunt

4,148 5 33 82

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2 Answers

@Brian -- I started putting this in a comment following your comment to Norman Gray's response, but the code sample made it too [large](#). `\paragraph{}` doesn't change the typesetting of *regular* paragraphs. It's just that, counter-intuitively, the paragraph begun by the `\paragraph{}` command is not a regular paragraph; it's a section element in the document. Play with the code below to see how the `\parskip` and `\parindent` affects the regular paragraphs but not the "`\paragraph`" section element. (Actually, `\parskip` affects even the `\paragraph{}` items but the spacing before a `\paragraph{}` item is calculated to always be slightly more than `\parskip`, which is why there's always a space between `\paragraph{}` elements even if `\parskip` is 0.)

I think 99% of LaTeX docs probably never use the `\paragraph{}` section command. Regular paragraphs in LaTeX are separated by (1) a blank line ("regular paragraphs" 1 and 2 below) or (2) by the `\par` command ("regular paragraphs" 3 and 4 below).

```
\documentclass[oneside,11pt]{memoir}
\usepackage{fontspec}% font selecting commands
%\usepackage{xunicode}% unicode character macros
%\usepackage{xltextra}% some fixes/extras

\begin{document}
\setlength{\parskip}{0pt}% 1ex plus 0.5ex minus 0.2ex}
\setlength{\parindent}{0pt}
\pagestyle{plain}

\paragraph{paragraph section 2}adorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipisci
urna, mattis eu aliquet eget, condimentum id nibh. In hac habitasse platea
dictumst.

regular paragraph 1 -- orem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. /
urna, mattis eu aliquet eget, condimentum id nibh. In hac habitasse platea
dictumst.


regular paragraph 2 -- orem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. /
urna, mattis eu aliquet eget, condimentum id nibh. In hac habitasse platea
dictumst.

\paragraph{paragraph section 2}ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit
mattis eu aliquet eget, condimentum id nibh. In hac habitasse platea dictumst.
\par regular paragraph 3 -- orem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing el
dictumst.
\par regular paragraph 4 -- orem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing el
dictumst.

\end{document}
```

edited Jun 25 '10 at 19:51

answered Jun 25 '10 at 19:20

 [Herbert Sitz](#)
5,209 1 9 17

@Herbert: Thank you kindly for the response. I am using `\paragraph` because on occasion, the paragraphs must be both numbered and counted, which I understand is a fine solution, though perhaps not the only, based on this question: stackoverflow.com/questions/543208 -- [Brian M. Hunt](#) Jun 25 '10 at 19:30

Brian -- That makes sense, but the `\paragraph{}` section command is not the one I would choose. Using the 'enumerate' list environment is probably best choice, although even then there could be some counter-intuitive formatting changes you may need. If you wanted to continue with the `\paragraph{}` section you could use the "sectsty" package to add numbering and change formatting (read the sectsty docs for more info), or just switch and go with the enumerate list. -- [Herbert Sitz](#) Jun 25 '10 at 19:41

No, notwithstanding the advice in the other answer you pointed to (and agreeing with Herbert), `\paragraph` isn't what you want here, because it's just an odd way of spelling `\subsubsection`, so it only makes sense if it's used within a `\subsubsection`. It's a sectioning command -- nothing to do with paragraphs. The definition of `\N` in your original question is the best solution here. I've had to do this myself, found no package which did it, and resorted to (something similar to) this solution. For fairly fundamental LaTeX reasons, numbering paragraphs is hard to do automatically. -- [Norman Gray](#) Jun 25 '10 at 19:51

@Brian -- Was there some problem with the `\N` macro solution in your original post? It looks like simplest and most elegant way to get what you want. Why were you even looking for something else? -- [Herbert Sitz](#) Jun 25 '10 at 20:13

@Norman -- Yes, you're right, I hadn't noticed that Brian wanted the numbering to continue incrementing across higher level sections. And enumerate environment is not going to work well for that either. -- [Herbert Sitz](#) Jun 25 '10 at 21:02

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That looks like correct behaviour. What do you think `\paragraph` should do? Hint: it's not for separating paragraphs.

According to the memoir docs, `\paragraph` is one of the sectioning commands, after `\subsubsection` and before `\subparagraph`. The argument to the command, which you're making empty in your example, is for the title of the paragraph.

You separate paragraphs from each other by using a blank line (and this is the case you've found where the `\parskip` and `\parindent` dimensions are honoured), or in some slightly more exotic cases by using `\par`.

answered Jun 25 '10 at 16:54

 [Norman Gray](#)
1,312 1 6

Thanks for the reply. I'd think `\paragraph` would provide sectioning based on paragraphs, without changing the typesetting of the paragraph - ie honour `\par{indent, skip}` and/or just not introduce its own paragraph indentation (to a certain degree) and skip. I'd be grateful for thoughts on how to remove any formatting associated with the paragraph sectioning command. – [Brian M. Hunt](#) Jun 25 '10 at 18:05

@Brian -- I think the best cure, in your case, is not to use the `\paragraph{}` command at all. You seem to have no use for it. Why are you using it? – [Herbert Sitz](#) Jun 25 '10 at 19:24

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