

demerits

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demerits. T_EX uses demerits as a measure of how undesirable a line is when it's breaking a paragraph into lines (see “line break”, p. ‘**line+break**’). The demerits of a line are affected both by the badness of the line and by penalties associated with the line. T_EX's goal in choosing a particular arrangement of lines is to minimize the total demerits for the paragraph, which it computes by adding up the demerits for the individual lines. See pages 97–98 of *The T_EXbook* for the details of how T_EX breaks a paragraph into lines. T_EX does not use demerits when it's choosing page breaks; instead, it uses a similar measure known as the “cost” of a particular page break.