

**\strut**

This command produces a box whose width is zero and whose height (8.5pt) and depth (3.5pt) are those of a more or less typical line of type in `cmr10`, the default plain T<sub>E</sub>X font. Its main use is in forcing lines to have the same height when you’ve disabled T<sub>E</sub>X’s interline glue with `\offinterlineskip` or a similar command, e.g., when you’re constructing an alignment. If the natural height of a line is too short, you can bring it up to standard by including a `\strut` in the line. The strut will force the height and depth of the line to be larger, but it won’t print anything or consume any horizontal space.

If you’re setting type in a font that’s bigger or smaller than `cmr10`, you should redefine `\strut` for that context.

*Example:*

```
\noindent % So we're in horizontal mode.
\offinterlineskip % So we get the inherent spacing.
% The periods in this vbox are not vertically equidistant.
\vtop{\hbox{.}\hbox{.}\hbox{.}}
\hbox{.\vrule height 4pt depth 0pt}\qquad
% The periods in this vbox are vertically equidistant
% because of the struts.
\vtop{\hbox{.\strut}\hbox{.\strut}\hbox{.x\strut}}
\hbox{.\vrule height 4pt depth 0pt\strut}}
```

*produces:*

```
.(
: X .(
: .X
: .
```