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\obeylines

TEX normally treats an end of line as a space. \obeylines instructs TEX to treat each end of line as an end of paragraph, thus forcing a line break. \obeylines is often useful when you're typesetting verse or computer programs. If any of your lines are longer than the effective line length (\hsize - \parindent), however, you may get an extra line break within those lines.

Because TEX inserts the \parskip glue (p. '\parskip') between lines controlled by \obeylines (since it thinks each line is a paragraph), you should normally set \parskip to zero when you're using \obeylines.

You can use the **\obeyspaces** command (p. '\obeyspaces') to get TEX to take spaces within a line literally. **\obeyspaces** and **\obeyspaces** are often used together.

Example:

\obeylines
''Beware the Jabberwock, my son!
\quad The jaws that bite, the claws that catch!
Beware the Jubjub bird, and shun
\quad The frumious Bandersnatch!''
produces:
"Beware the Jabberwock my son!

"Beware the Jabberwock, my son!

The jaws that bite, the claws that catch!

Beware the Jubjub bird, and shun

The frumious Bandersnatch!"