page break **1**

`page break.` A *page break* is a place in your document where TEX ends a page and (except at the end of the document) starts a new one. See "page" (p. '`page`') for the process that TEX goes through in choosing a page break.

You can control TEX's choice of page breaks in several ways:

- You can insert a penalty (p. '`vpenalty`') between two items in the main vertical list. A positive penalty discourages TEX from breaking the page there, while a negative penalty—a bonus, in other words—encourages TEX to break the page there. A penalty of 10000 or more prevents a page break, while a penalty of −10000 or less forces a page break. You can get the same effects with the `\break` and `\nobreak` commands (p. '`vbreak`').
- You can adjust the penalties associated with page breaking by assigning different values to TEX's page-breaking parameters.
- You can enclose a sequence of paragraphs or other items in the main vertical list within a vbox, thus preventing TEX from breaking the page anywhere within the sequence.

Once TEX has chosen a page break, it places the portion of the main vertical list that precedes the break into `\box255`. It then calls the current output routine to process `\box255` and eventually ships its contents to the `.dvi` file. The output routine must also handle insertions, such as footnotes, that TEX has accumulated while processing the page.

It's useful to know the places where TEX can break a page:

- At glue, provided that the item preceding the glue is a box, a whatsit, a mark, or an insertion. When TEX breaks a page at glue, it makes the break at the top of the glue space and forgets about the rest of the glue.
- At a kern that's immediately followed by glue.
- At a penalty, possibly between the lines of a paragraph.

When TEX breaks a page, it discards any sequence of glue, kerns, and penalty items that follows the break point.