

ligature

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ligature. A *ligature* is a single character that replaces a particular sequence of adjacent characters in a typeset document. For example, the word ‘office’ is typeset as “office”, not “office”, by high-quality typesetting systems. Knowledge of ligatures is built into the fonts that you use, so there’s nothing explicit you need do in order to get T_EX to produce them. (You could defeat the ligature in “office”, as we did just above, by writing ‘`of{f}ice`’ in your input.) T_EX is also capable of using its ligature mechanism to typeset the first or last letter of a word differently than the same letter as it would appear in the middle of a word. You can defeat this effect (if you ever encounter it) by using the `\noboundary` command (p. ‘`\noboundary`’).

Sometimes you may need a ligature from a European language. T_EX won’t produce these automatically unless you’re using a font designed for that language. A number of these ligatures, e.g., ‘Æ’, are available as commands (see “Letters and ligatures for European alphabets”, p. ‘`fornlets`’).