

`\penalty` *<number>*

This command produces a penalty item. The penalty item makes T<sub>E</sub>X more or less willing to break a line at the point where that item occurs. A negative penalty, i.e., a bonus, encourages a line break; a positive penalty discourages a line break. A penalty of 10000 or more prevents a break altogether, while a penalty of  $-10000$  or less forces a break. `\penalty` can also be used in vertical mode.

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*Example:*

```
\def\break{\penalty -10000 } % as in plain TeX
\def\nobreak{\penalty 10000 } % as in plain TeX
\def\allowbreak{\penalty 0 } % as in plain TeX
```