

*outer*

1

**outer.** An *outer* macro is one that you can't use in certain contexts where T<sub>E</sub>X is processing tokens at high speed. The purpose of making a command *outer* is to enable T<sub>E</sub>X to catch errors before it's gone too far. When you define a macro, you can make it *outer* with the `\outer` command (p. 'outer').

You cannot use an *outer* macro in any of the following contexts:

- within an argument to a macro
- in the parameter text or replacement text of a definition
- in the preamble to an alignment
- in the unexecuted part of a conditional test

An *outer* context is a context in which you can use an *outer* macro, i.e., it's any context other than the ones just listed.

For example, the following input would be a forbidden use of an *outer* macro:

```
\leftline{\proclaim Assertion 2. That which is not inner  
is outer.}
```

The `\proclaim` macro (p. '@proclaim') is defined in plain T<sub>E</sub>X to be *outer*, but it's being used here in a macro argument to `\leftline`.