

☞ **\hspace** [*<dimen>* parameter]

This parameter specifies the current line length, i.e., the usual width of lines in a paragraph starting at the left margin. A great many T_EX commands, e.g., `\centerline` (p. ‘\centerline’) and `\hrule` (p. ‘\hrule’), implicitly use the value of `\hspace`. By changing `\hspace` within a group you can change the width of the constructs produced by such commands.

If you set `\hspace` within a vbox that contains text, the vbox will have whatever width you’ve given to `\hspace`.

Plain T_EX sets `\hspace` to 6.5in.

Example:

```
{\hspace = 3.5in % Set this paragraph 3.5 inches wide.
The hedgehog was engaged in a fight with another hedgehog,
which seemed to Alice an excellent opportunity for
croquetting one of them with the other.\par}%
```

produces:

The hedgehog was engaged in a fight with another hedgehog, which seemed to Alice an excellent opportunity for croquetting one of them with the other.

 3.5 in

Example:

```
\leftline{\raggedright\top{\hspace = 1.5in
Here is some text that we put into a paragraph that is
an inch and a half wide.}\quad
\top{\hspace = 1.5in Here is some more text that
we put into another paragraph that is an inch and a
half wide.}}
```

produces:

Here is some text that we put into a paragraph that is an inch and a half wide.	Here is some more text that we put into another paragraph that is an inch and a half wide.
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