

group

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group. A *group* is a part of your manuscript that T_EX treats as a unit. You indicate a group by enclosing it in the braces ‘{’ and ‘}’ (or any other characters with the appropriate category codes).

The most important property of a group is that any nonglobal definition or assignment that you make inside a group disappears when the group ends. For instance, if you write:

```
Please don't pour {\it any} more tea into my hat.
```

the `\it` control sequence causes T_EX to set the word ‘any’ in italic type but does not affect the rest of the text. As another example, if you use the `\hsize` parameter (p. ‘\hsize’) to change the line length within a group, the line length reverts to its previous value once T_EX has gotten past the group.

Groups are also useful as a way of controlling spacing. For instance, if you write:

```
\TeX for the Impatient and the Outpatient too.
```

you’ll get:

```
TeXfor the Impatient and the Outpatient too.
```

since the control sequence `\TeX` (which produces the T_EX logo) absorbs the following space. What you probably want is:

```
TeX for the Impatient and the Outpatient too.
```

One way to get it is to enclose ‘`\TeX`’ in a group:

```
{\TeX} for the Impatient and the Outpatient too.
```

The right brace prevents the control sequence from absorbing the space.