**1**

`\hbox {` ⟨*horizontal mode material*⟩ `}`
`\hbox to` ⟨*dimen*⟩ `{` ⟨*horizontal mode material*⟩ `}`
`\hbox spread` ⟨*dimen*⟩ `{` ⟨*horizontal mode material*⟩ `}`

This command produces an hbox (horizontal box) containing ⟨*horizontal mode material*⟩. The braces around ⟨*horizontal mode material*⟩ define a group. TEX doesn't break the ⟨*horizontal mode material*⟩ into lines, since it's in restricted horizontal mode when it's assembling the box. TEX won't change the size of the box once it's been produced.

`\hbox` is often useful when you want to keep some text all on one line. If your use of `\hbox` prevents TEX from breaking lines in an acceptable way, TEX will complain about an overfull hbox.

The width of the hbox depends on the arguments to `\hbox`:

- If you specify only ⟨*horizontal mode material*⟩, the hbox will have its natural width.
- If you specify `to` ⟨*dimen*⟩, the width of the hbox will be ⟨*dimen*⟩.
- If you specify `spread` ⟨*dimen*⟩, the width of the hbox will be its natural width plus ⟨*dimen*⟩, i.e., the hbox will be spread out by ⟨*dimen*⟩.

The `\hfil` command (p. '`\hfil`') is useful for filling out an hbox with empty space when the material in the box isn't as wide as the width of the box.

*Example:*

```
\hbox{ugly suburban sprawl}
\hbox to 2in{ugly \hfil suburban \hfil sprawl}
\hbox spread 1in {ugly \hfil suburban \hfil sprawl}
% Without \hfil in the two preceding lines,
% you'd get 'underfull hbox'es.
```

*produces:*

ugly suburban sprawl
ugly suburban sprawl
ugly suburban sprawl