1

\parindent $[\langle dimen \rangle \text{ parameter }]$

This parameter specifies the amount by which the first line of each paragraph is to be indented. As the example below shows, it's a bad idea to set both \parindent and \parskip to zero since then the paragraph breaks are no longer apparent.

Example:

\parindent = 2em This paragraph is indented by 2 ems.
\par \parindent=0pt This paragraph is not indented at all.
\par Since we haven't reset the paragraph indentation,
this paragraph isn't indented either.

produces:

This paragraph is indented by 2 ems.

This paragraph is not indented at all.

Since we haven't reset the paragraph indentation, this paragraph isn't indented either.