

`\language` [*⟨number⟩* parameter]

Different languages have different sets of hyphenation rules. This parameter determines the set of hyphenation rules that T_EX uses. By changing `\language` you can get T_EX to hyphenate portions of text or entire documents according to the hyphenation rules appropriate to a particular language. Your local information about T_EX will tell you if any additional sets of hyphenation rules are available (besides the ones for English) and what the appropriate values of `\language` are. The default value of `\language` is 0.

T_EX sets the current language to 0 at the start of every paragraph, and compares `\language` to the current language whenever it adds a character to the current paragraph. If they are not the same, T_EX adds a whatsit indicating the language change. This whatsit is the clue in later processing that the language rules should change.