1

`\leftskip`   [⟨*glue*⟩ parameter]
`\rightskip`   [⟨*glue*⟩ parameter]

These parameters tell TEX how much glue to place at the left and at the right end of each line of the current paragraph. We'll just explain how `\leftskip` works since `\rightskip` is analogous.

You can increase the left margin by setting `\leftskip` to a fixed nonzero dimension. If you give `\leftskip` some stretch, you can produce ragged left text, i.e., text that has an uneven left margin.

Ordinarily, you should enclose any assignment to `\leftskip` in a group together with the affected text in order to keep its effect from continuing to the end of your document. However, it's pointless to change `\leftskip`'s value inside a group that is in turn contained within a paragraph—the value of `\leftskip` at the *end* of a paragraph is what determines how TEX breaks the paragraph into lines.

Example:

```
{\leftskip = 1in The White Rabbit trotted slowly back
again, looking anxiously about as it went, as if it had
lost something.  {\leftskip = 10in % has no effect
It muttered to itself, ``The Duchess! The Duchess! She'll
get me executed as sure as ferrets are ferrets!''}\par}%
```

produces:

> The White Rabbit trotted slowly back again, looking anxiously about as it went, as if it had lost something. It muttered to itself, "The Duchess! The Duchess! She'll get me executed as sure as ferrets are ferrets!"

Example:

```
\pretolerance = 10000 % Don't hyphenate.
\rightskip = .5in plus 2em
The White Rabbit trotted slowly back again, looking
anxiously about as it went, as if it had lost something.
It muttered to itself, ``The Duchess! The Duchess! She'll
get me executed as sure as ferrets are ferrets!''
```

produces:

The White Rabbit trotted slowly back again, looking anxiously about as it went, as if it had lost something. It muttered to itself, "The Duchess! The Duchess! She'll get me executed as sure as ferrets are ferrets!"