

**\par**

This command ends a paragraph and puts T<sub>E</sub>X into vertical mode, ready to add more items to the page. Since T<sub>E</sub>X converts a blank line in your input file into a **\par** token, you don't ordinarily need to type an explicit **\par** in order to end a paragraph.

An important point is that **\par** doesn't tell T<sub>E</sub>X to start a paragraph; it only tells T<sub>E</sub>X to end a paragraph. T<sub>E</sub>X starts a paragraph when it is in ordinary vertical mode (which it is after a **\par**) and encounters an inherently horizontal item such as a letter. As part of its ceremony for starting a paragraph, T<sub>E</sub>X inserts an amount of vertical space given by the parameter **\parskip** (p. '**\parskip**') and indents the paragraph by a horizontal space given by **\parindent** (p. '**\parindent**').

You can usually cancel any interparagraph space produced by a **\par** by giving the command **\vskip -\lastskip**. It can often be helpful to do this when you're writing a macro that is supposed to work the same way whether or not it is preceded by a blank line.

You can get T<sub>E</sub>X to take some special action at the start of each paragraph by placing the instructions in **\everypar** (p. '**\everypar**').

See pages 283 and 286 of *The T<sub>E</sub>Xbook* for the precise effect of **\par**.

*Example:*

```
\parindent = 2em
‘‘Can you row?’’ the Sheep asked, handing Alice a pair of
knitting-needles as she was speaking.\par ‘‘Yes, a little%
---but not on land---and not with needles---’’ Alice was
starting to say, when suddenly the needles turned into oars.
```

*produces:*

“Can you row?” the Sheep asked, handing Alice a pair of knitting-needles as she was speaking.

“Yes, a little—but not on land—and not with needles—” Alice was starting to say, when suddenly the needles turned into oars.