1

\hsize   [⟨*dimen*⟩ parameter]

This parameter specifies the current line length, i.e., the usual width of lines in a paragraph starting at the left margin. A great many TEX commands, e.g., \centerline (p. '\centerline') and \hrule (p. '\hrule'), implicitly use the value of \hsize. By changing \hsize within a group you can change the width of the constructs produced by such commands.

If you set \hsize within a vbox that contains text, the vbox will have whatever width you've given to \hsize.

Plain TEX sets \hsize to 6.5in.

Example:
```
{\hsize = 3.5in % Set this paragraph 3.5 inches wide.
The hedgehog was engaged in a fight with another hedgehog,
which seemed to Alice an excellent opportunity for
croqueting one of them with the other.\par}%
```
produces:

The hedgehog was engaged in a fight with another hedge-
hog, which seemed to Alice an excellent opportunity for
croqueting one of them with the other.

⌐ ' ' | ' ' | ' ' | ' ' | ' ' | ' ' | ' ' | ' ' ⌐ 3.5 in

Example:
```
\leftline{\raggedright\vtop{\hsize = 1.5in
Here is some text that we put into a paragraph that is
an inch and a half wide.}\qquad
\vtop{\hsize = 1.5in Here is some more text that
we put into another paragraph that is an inch and a
half wide.}}
```
produces:

Here is some text that   Here is some more text
we put into a paragraph   that we put into another
that is an inch and a   paragraph that is an
half wide.   inch and a half wide.