

penalty

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penalty. A *penalty* is an item that you can include in a horizontal, vertical, or math list in order to discourage T_EX from breaking the list at that point or encourage T_EX to break the list there. A positive penalty indicates a bad break point, while a negative penalty indicates a good break point. Breaking an ordinary horizontal list produces a line break, while breaking an ordinary vertical list produces a page break. (A penalty has no effect in restricted horizontal or internal vertical mode.)

You can use the `\penalty` command (pp. ‘`hpenalty`’, ‘`vpenalty`’) to insert a penalty explicitly. A penalty of 10000 or more prevents a break, while a penalty of -10000 or less forces a break.