1

\indent

If TEX is in vertical mode, as it is after ending a paragraph, this command inserts the \parskip interparagraph glue, puts TEX into horizontal mode, starts a paragraph, and indents that paragraph by \parindent. If TEX is already in horizontal mode, this command merely produces a blank space of width \parindent. Two \indents in a row produce two indentations.

As the example below shows, an \indent at a point where TEX would start a paragraph anyway is redundant. When TEX is in vertical mode and sees a letter or some other inherently horizontal command, it starts a paragraph by switching to horizontal mode, doing an \indent, and processing the horizontal command.

Example:

\parindent = 2em This is the first in a series of three paragraphs that show how you can control indentation. Note that it has the same indentation as the next paragraph.\par \indent This is the second in a series of three paragraphs. It has \indent an embedded indentation.\par \indent\indent This doubly indented paragraph is the third in the series.

produces:

This is the first in a series of three paragraphs that show how you can control indentation. Note that it has the same indentation as the next paragraph.

This is the second in a series of three paragraphs. It has an embedded indentation.

This doubly indented paragraph is the third in the series.