1

 $\verb|\phantom| \langle argument \rangle|$ 

This command produces an empty box having the same size and placement that  $\langle argument \rangle$  would have were it typeset. One use of **\phantom** is for reserving space for a symbol that for some reason needs to be drawn in by hand.

Example:

\$1\phantom{9}2\$

produces:

1 2