

insertion

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insertion. An *insertion* is a vertical list containing material to be inserted into a page when T_EX has finished building that page.¹ Examples of such insertions are footnotes and figures. The plain T_EX commands for creating insertions are `\footnote`, `\topinsert`, `\midinsert`, and `\pageinsert`, as well as the primitive `\insert` command itself (pp. ‘`\footnote`’–‘`endofinsert`’). T_EX’s mechanism for handling insertions is rather complicated; see pages 122–125 of *The T_EXbook* for the details.

¹ T_EX itself doesn’t insert the material—it just makes the material available to the output routine, which is then responsible for transferring it to the composed page. The only immediate effect of the `\insert` command (p. ‘`\insert`’) is to change T_EX’s page break calculations so that it will leave room on the page for the inserted material. Later, when T_EX actually breaks the page, it divides the inserted material into two groups: the material that fits on the current page and the material that doesn’t. The material that fits on the page is placed into box registers, one per insertion, and the material that doesn’t fit is carried over to the next page. This procedure allows T_EX to do such things as distributing parts of a long footnote over several consecutive pages.