

Latex Certificate Course Instructions

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1 Free software

LaTeX is a free-software. And is currently maintained by TUG (TeX User's Group), an online community of volunteers.

There is a significant difference between open source and free software. You won't have the freedom to sell open source softwares. But, free softwares comes with complete freedom – free has nothing to do with the price. Thus, you may make changes for your purpose or sell copies of that software.

2 Commands

“How could we use symbols that are not available on Keyboard ?” is an important question. LaTeX uses commands for this purpose. LaTeX commands starts with a backslash symbol. For example : `\LaTeX` prints \LaTeX .

3 Sectioning Commands

- `\part` - not available for article document class
- `\chapter` - not available for article document class
- `\section` - 1st Level Heading
- `\subsection` - 2nd Level Heading
- `\subsubsection` - 3rd Level Heading
- `\paragraph` - 4th Level Heading
- `\subparagraph` - 5th Level Heading

Starred Variants

Starred variants are used to skip automatic numbering. Every sectioning Command has a starred variant. For example : `\section{...}` has a starred variant `\section*{...}`

4 Errors

Errors are the most difficult part for a beginner. Even with error reports, it is not always easy to recognise errors in your \LaTeX source file. A simple technique for efficiency is to detect errors early. This can be achieved by compiling the file frequently.

The word following backslash is supposed to be a \LaTeX command. If the command is already known, then \LaTeX will take the necessary action. And if a command is not defined, \LaTeX will fail to do anything further and will return an error message.

Warning : Another important thing is the begin and end commands with ‘document’ argument. Your document content should be between those two lines. Anything before ‘begin-document’ or after ‘end-document’ are not printed.

Another trick is to compile after commenting off suspicious lines by adding a percentage (%) symbol to them. Once the compilation is successful, you may enable lines one by one till you get an error report. Then you could be sure about that line causing the problem.

Case Sensitive

\LaTeX is case-sensitive. “What does it mean ?” \LaTeX treats uppercase letters and lower case letters differently. Thus, you should use exactly the same command, without even changing the case. For example, `\begin{Document}` instead of `\begin{document}` will give an error.

Command completion feature

Once again, it is a difficult thing for beginners to remember commands. But, there are many softwares that offer command-completion feature. And the \LaTeX manuals, cheatsheets, videos and other documentations are quite abundant these days.

Special symbols

\LaTeX won’t accept certain symbols. For example, % symbol. \LaTeX comment lines starts with percentage (%) symbol. Thus, everything on the line after % is treated as a comment. If you want to print ‘15% discount’, then you will have to write ‘15\% discount’. A few more symbols follows the same logic – \$, &, }, {, -

5 Important Websites

1. Visit \LaTeX Official Website

2. Visit Wikipedia : L^AT_EX