

FAQ for Nicola Talbot's Class Files and Packages

Nicola Talbot

version 1.76

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1 Introduction

This is a list of frequently asked questions for LaTeX2e class files and packages written by me. This FAQ does *not* cover general LaTeX questions. For general LaTeX queries see [CTAN's FAQ](#). Also, try using [google](#), for example, if you don't understand an error or warning message, try typing the message into [google](#), and you may find the answer. If that doesn't work, try some of the [troubleshooting links](#).

Before you email me:

- Read this FAQ!
- Check to see if you are using the [latest version](#) of the package or class file. You can find the number of the version you are using from the log file. For example, if you are using the glossary package, you should find the following line in your log file¹:

```
Package: glossary 2007/01/08 2.43 (NLCT)
```

The date is given in the form year/month/day. The number following it is the version number.

- If you think you have installed the latest version, but you are still getting an error that this FAQ says has been fixed, please check the log file to make sure it is not still using the old version. The full path is given in the log file. For example, on my system, the log file will have the following line:

¹note that the numbers will change if a new version comes out

`/usr/share/texmf/tex/latex/glossary/glossary.sty`

- Check the package documentation to see if there is a particular order in which the package should be loaded. For example, the `datetime` and `fmtcount` packages must be loaded *after* the `babel` package, and the `glossary` package must be loaded *after* the `hyperref` package. (Yes, I know the `hyperref` documentation says to load the `hyperref` package last, but the `glossary` package was written after the `hyperref` package, and it needs to know whether there are hyperlinks enabled before it defines various commands.)

I mainly use Linux with `vim` and `teTeX`, so if your problem depends on using another operating system or a front end, it's likely I won't be able to answer it (e.g. how do I get WinEdt to use `makeglos.pl`?—No idea, but if you know, let me know and I'll add it to the FAQ.)

If you can't find the answer to your problem here, you can [email](#) me but please provide a [minimal example](#) and a copy of the log file. Please make sure your minimal example is **minimal** (I'd rather not receive a 200 page document when a 1 or 2 page document can generate the same error.) Please also remove any packages in your minimal example that are not contributing to the problem. If you have some great need to archive these two files, please either use `tar.gz` or `zip` format. I can't guarantee a rapid reply, but will try to deal with queries as soon as I can.

2 csvtools FAQ

This package is now obsolete and has been replaced by the [datatool](#) package.

2.1 General Queries

2.1.1 How do I deal with entries that contain a comma?

As from version 1.2, you should delimit entries with double quotes if they contain the delimiter. For example:

```
Name,Address,Telephone
A.N. Other,"1 The Street,The Town",0123456789
```

2.1.2 Can I have a different data separator (instead of a comma)?

As from version 1.2, you can specify the data separator using the command `\setcsvseparator`. For example, if your data is separated by a colon, do

```
\setcsvseparator{:}
```

2.1.3 Can I use csvtools to create a pie chart?

You can use the `csvpie` package which is distributed with the latest version of the `csvtools` package. (If you have `csvtools` on your system, but not `csvpie`, then you probably are using an out of date version.)

2.1.4 Can I have a paragraph break in an entry in my CSV file?

As from version 1.23, you can use the command `\par` to make a paragraph break, but remember that all the entries for a given row must be on the same line, so you can't use a blank line as a paragraph break.

2.2 Unexpected output

2.2.1 The double quotes delimiting my entry haven't been removed

You are probably using an out of date version of `csvtools`. Make sure that you have the latest version.

2.2.2 Something goes wrong when the first field starts with a repeated character (e.g. 11)

This was fixed in version 1.21. Please [download](#) and reinstall.

3 datatool FAQ

3.1 Error Messages

3.1.1 Undefined `\@dtlifhaskey`

This has been fixed in version 2.02.

3.1.2 Undefined `\dtl@getcolumnindex`

This has been fixed in version 2.02.

3.2 General Queries

3.2.1 LaTeX is very slow with large databases

Version 2.0 uses a more efficient way of storing the data which should speed things up. Also, the latest version of the `xfor` package (which `datatool` uses) has a more efficient loop, so also consider updating `xfor`.

3.3 Unexpected output

3.3.1 Databases are always sorted in ascending order even when descending is specified

This bug crept into version 2.0 and has been fixed in version 2.01.

3.3.2 `\DTLsavedb` ignores the file name and always uses the name `.tex`

This has been fixed in version 2.02.

4 datetime FAQ

4.1 General Queries

4.1.1 How do I change the date separator for numerical dates?

The default date separator for numerical dates is / as from version 2.43, this can be changed by redefining `\dateseparator`.

4.1.2 How do I change the time separator for numerical times?

As from version 2.43, this can be changed by redefining `\timeseparator`.

4.1.3 How can I save a date for later use?

As from version 2.45, you can save a date using `\newdate`. See the `datetime` documentation for details.

4.1.4 Is there multilingual support for the days of the week?

Currently there is only support for English, French, Portuguese and Spanish, and as from version 2.5, there is also support for German (thanks to Uwe Bieling for supplying this.)

If you want support for another language, please send me the equivalent of the following code, replacing `english` with the language name (as used by `babel`) and replacing `Sunday` etc with the appropriate translations (including accent commands etc):

```
\providecommand{\dayofweeknameidenglish}[1]{%
\ifcase#1\relax
\or Sunday%
\or Monday%
\or Tuesday%
\or Wednesday%
\or Thursday%
\or Friday%
\or Saturday%
\fi}
```

```
\providecommand{\shortdayofweeknameidenglish}[1]{%
\ifcase#1\relax
\or Sun%
\or Mon%
\or Tue%
\or Wed%
\or Thu%
\or Fri%
\or Sat%
\fi}
```

4.1.5 Is there multilingual support for `\textdate`?

`\textdate` was defined before multilingual support was added, and so uses the English style of writing a textual date, which won't be appropriate for other languages, so it won't look right if used if the current language is not English. If you want to write your own textual date format, you need to bear in mind that the `fntcount` package (which is used to convert numbers and ordinals into words) only has very limited multilingual support, and see also the previous answer.

4.1.6 Why is there only limited multilingual support?

Because there is a limit to the number of languages I can speak! I am therefore dependent on people supplying me the information for all the other languages.

4.1.7 How can I set up a different set of default package options?

Create a file called `datetime.cfg`, and put the appropriate commands in it. Then save it to somewhere on the TeX path.

4.1.8 How do I make just the year appear?

`\the\year`

4.2 Unexpected Output

4.2.1 A space appears after `\currenttime`

This has been fixed in version 2.46.

4.2.2 The date is in another language or in the wrong format

Make sure you are using at least version 2.49 of the `datetime` package, and at least version 1.07 of the `fntcount` package. If you are using `UKenglish` or `USenglish`, make sure you are using at least version 2.53 of the `datetime` package.

Remember also that you must load `babel` *before* loading the `datetime` package.

4.2.3 `\pdfdate` is incorrect between 00:00 and 00:59

This has been fixed in version 2.48.

4.2.4 The month name always appears in English regardless of the current language setting

This has been fixed in version 2.55.

4.3 Package Errors

4.3.1 `\currenttime` causes a problem in the argument of certain commands

See next answer.

4.3.2 `\today` causes a problem in the argument of certain commands

The `datetime` package redefines `\today` which made it a fragile command. In versions prior to 2.46, you need to `\protect` it. As from version 2.46, it has been made a robust command. The same also applies to declarations which change the date format (e.g. `\longdate`), and also `\currenttime`.

4.3.3 `\longdate` etc cause a problem in the argument of certain commands

See the previous answer.

4.3.4 Undefined control sequence `\ier`

Make sure you are using at least version 2.49 of the `datetime` package, and at least version 1.06 of the `fntcount` package.

4.3.5 Unknown language 'english' error

Make sure you are using at least version 2.49 of the `datetime` package, and at least version 1.06 of the `fntcount` package.

4.3.6 `\textdate` causes an error

You are probably using an old version of `datetime` with a new version of `fntcount`. Please [download](#) and reinstall.

4.4 LaTeX2HTML support

4.4.1 Why does LaTeX2HTML ignore `datetime.cfg`?

Because I haven't worked out how to do it.

4.4.2 Why are some languages supported in `datetime.sty` but not in the LaTeX2HTML version?

Because they are not supported by the LaTeX2HTML implementation of the `babel` package.

5 flowfram FAQ

5.1 General Queries

5.1.1 What happens if no more flow frames are defined?

If all my flow frames are only defined on, say, pages 1-10, what happens if I then add some extra text so that the document exceeds 10 pages?

The output routine will create a new flow frame the size of the typeblock, and use that.

5.1.2 Can I use the formatted page number in page lists?

No.

5.1.3 Why not?

When the output routine finishes with one flow frame it looks for the next flow frame defined on that page, if there are none left, it then searches through the page list of all the defined flows frames to see if the next page lies in that range, if there are none defined on that page, it ships out that page, and tries the next page. This gives rise to two problems:

1. \LaTeX is not clairvoyant. If it is currently on page 14, and on the next page the page numbering changes to A, it has no way of knowing this until it has reached that point, which it hasn't yet. So it is looking for a flow frame defined on page 15, not on page A.
2. How does \LaTeX tell if page C lies between pages A and D? It would require an algorithm that can convert from a formatted number back to an integer. Given that there are many different ways of formatting the value of a counter (besides the standard Roman and alphabetical formats) it would be impossible to write an algorithm to do this for some arbitrary format.

5.1.4 What happens if I use a command or environment that switches to two-column mode (e.g. `theindex`)

As from version 1.01, any `\onecolumn` or `\twocolumn` commands that occur outside of the preamble will print the contents of the optional argument, and issue a warning. It is recommended that you set up your own frames for use in the index.

5.1.5 Why has the text from my flow frame appeared in a static or dynamic frame?

Assuming you haven't inadvertently set that text as the contents of the static or dynamic frame, the frames are most likely overlapping. In an attempt to clarify what's going on, suppose you have defined a static frame, a dynamic frame and two flow frames. The following is an approximate² analogy: \TeX has a sheet of paper on the table, and has pencilled³ in a rectangle denoting the typeblock. The paper is put to one side for now. \TeX also has four rectangular sheets of transparent paper. The first (which I shall call sheet 1) represents the static frame, the next two (which I shall call sheets 2 and 3) represent the flow frames, and the last one (which I shall call sheet 4) represents the dynamic frame. \TeX starts work on filling sheet 2 with the document text. Once it has put as much text on that sheet as it considers possible (according to its views on aesthetics), it puts sheet 2 into the "in tray", and then continues on sheet 3. While it's filling in sheets 2 and 3, if it encounters a command or environment that tells it what to put in the static frame, it fills in sheet 1 and then puts sheet 1 into the "in tray" and resumes where it left off on sheet 2 or 3. Similarly, if it encounters a command that tells it what to put in the dynamic frame, it stops what it's doing, fills in sheet 4, then puts sheet 4 into the "in tray", and resumes where

²The pedantic may point out that \TeX may make several attempts to fill in the flow frames depending on penalties and so on.

³actually it hasn't drawn anything really, but it has in its mind's eye.

it left off. Only when it has finished sheet 3 (the last flow frame defined on that page), will it gather together all the transparent sheets, and fix them onto the page starting with sheet 1 through to sheet 4, measuring the bottom left hand corner of each transparent sheet relative to the bottom left hand corner of the typeblock. T_EX will then put that page aside, and start work on the next page. If two or more of the transparent sheets overlap, you will see through the top one into the one below (unless of course the top one has been painted over, either by setting a background colour, or by adding an image that has a non-transparent background.)

Note that it's also possible that the overlap is caused by an overfull hbox that's causing the text to poke out the side of the flow frame into a neighbouring frame.

5.1.6 Why do I get lots of overfull hbox messages?

Possibly because you have narrow frames, and T_EX can't find a good place to break the lines.

If you are only getting them on even pages and are using a twoside option with your class file, this has been fixed in version 1.05. Please [download](#) and reinstall.

5.1.7 Can I make an arbitrary shaped frame?

As from version 1.03, you can assign certain irregular shapes to static or dynamic frames, using the shape key. Note that the bounding box will still appear as a rectangle with the dimensions of the given frame which may not correspond to the assigned shape. This function is not available for flow frames, however you can use T_EX's `\parshape` command within flow frames. (See the sample file [news.pdf](#))

5.1.8 How do I change the vertical alignment of material inside a static or dynamic frame?

As from version 1.03, you can use the `valign` key in `\setstaticframe` or `\setdynamicframe`.

5.1.9 Can I mix keywords and page lists?

No. You can either specify the pages as `odd`, `even`, `all` or `none`, or you can specify the pages as a page list, e.g. `<3,5-7,10,>14`. If you want frames to only appear on, say, odd numbered pages between 11 and 19, then initially define the frame with `none` for the pages setting, and then on page 10, use `pages=odd`, and on page 20, use `pages=none` for the frame in question.

5.1.10 How do I compute the distance from the edge of the page instead of the typeblock?

The following commands all take a length as the argument. The distance from the typeblock to the paper edge will be stored in the length. You can then use this value to go from an absolute position to a relative position.

- `\computeleftedgeeven` Compute the left edge of the page, relative to the left edge of the typeblock for even pages.
- `\computeleftedgeodd` Compute the left edge of the page, relative to the left edge of the typeblock for odd pages.
- `\computebottomedge` Compute the bottom edge of the page, relative to the bottom of the typeblock.
- `\computerightedgeeven` Compute the right edge of the page, relative to the left edge of the typeblock for even pages.
- `\computerightedgeodd` Compute the right edge of the page, relative to the left edge of the typeblock.
- `\computetopedge` Compute the top edge of the page, relative to the bottom of the typeblock.

For example, if you want to create a frame whose bottom left corner is one inch from the left edge of the page and half an inch from the bottom edge of the page (this assumes odd and even pages have the same margins):

```
% define two new lengths to represent the x and y coords
\newlength{\myX}
\newlength{\myY}
% compute the distance from the typeblock to the paper edge
\computeleftedgeodd{\myX}
\computebottomedge{\myY}
% Add the absolute co-ordinates to get co-ordinates
% relative to the typeblock
\addtolength{\myX}{1in}
\addtolength{\myY}{0.5in}
```

5.1.11 How do I find out a frame's dimensions and location?

As from version 1.08, you can use the commands `\getflowbounds`, `\getstaticbounds` and `\getdynamicbounds`. Each of these commands requires a single argument that identifies the required frame. If the starred form is used, the argument should be the frame's identification label, otherwise it should be the frame's identification number. These commands set the lengths `\ffareawidth`, `\ffareaheight`, `\ffareax` and `\ffareay`.

5.2 Unexpected Output

5.2.1 The lines at the beginning of my flow frames are the wrong width.

This is a problem that will occur if you have flow frames with different widths, as the change in `\hsize` does not come into effect until a paragraph break. So if you have a paragraph that spans two flow frames, the end of the paragraph at the beginning of the second flow frame will retain the width it had at the start of the paragraph at the bottom of the previous flow frame. You can fix the problem by inserting `\framebreak` at the point where the frame break occurs.

5.2.2 My frames shift to the right when I add a border.

This may occur if you use a border that is not recognised by the `flowfram` package. You will need to set the offset using the `offset` key.

5.2.3 The contents of my all my flow frames are shifted to the right

This has been fixed in version 1.04. Please [download](#) and reinstall.

5.2.4 I have a vertical white strip along the right hand side of every page.

This can happen if you have, say, an A4 document, and ghostscript has letter as the default paper size. You can change the default paper size by editing the file `gs_init.ps`. Change:

```
% Optionally choose a default paper size other than U.S. letter.  
% (a4)
```

to:

```
% Optionally choose a default paper size other than U.S. letter.  
(a4)
```

5.2.5 I don't have any output

All your flow frames are empty. `TeX` doesn't put the frames onto the page until it has finished putting text into the flow frames. So if there is no text to go in the flow frames it won't output the page. If you only want the static or dynamic frames filled in, and nothing outside of them, just do `\mbox{}\clearpage`. (The [nrps](#) class file does this in the definition of `\makeform`.)

5.2.6 The last page hasn't appeared

See the previous answer.

5.2.7 My longtables don't look right

Unfortunately `flowfram` and `longtable` don't work well together as they both change the output routine. Try using the `supertabular` package instead.

5.2.8 The contents of my static or dynamic frame has shifted to the left when I used `\parshape`

This will happen if your `\parshape` specification exceeds the linewidth. For example:

```
\parshape=1 0.4\linewidth 0.7\linewidth
```

This specifies a line with overall length `1.1\linewidth` which is too long.

5.2.9 I get extra pages at the end of the document

This should now be fixed in version 1.07.

5.2.10 My page number hyperlinks are undefined (in conjunction with the hyperref package)

This should now be fixed in version 1.08.

5.2.11 I changed the value of `\columnseprule` but it hasn't made a difference

As from version 1.09, the flowfram package uses `\ffcolumseprule` instead `\columnseprule` to avoid conflict with multicol.

5.3 Error Messages

5.3.1 Illegal unit of measure (pt inserted)

All lengths must have units. Remember to include the units when defining new frames. The following keys require lengths: `width`, `height`, `x`, `y` and `offset`⁴.

5.3.2 Missing number, treated as zero

L^AT_EX is expecting a number. There are a number of possible causes:

1. You have used an IDL instead of an IDN. If you want to refer to a frame by its label, you need to remember to use the starred versions of the `\set<type>frame` commands, or when setting the contents of static frames or dynamic frames.
2. When specifying page lists, you have mixed keywords with page ranges. For example: `1,even` is invalid.

5.3.3 Flow frame IDL '*<label>*' already defined

All IDLs within each frame type must be unique. There are similar error messages for duplicate IDLs for static frames and dynamic frames.

5.3.4 Can't find flow frame id

You have specified a non-existent flow frame IDL. There are similar error messages for static frames and dynamic frames. Check to make sure you have spelt the label correctly, and check you are using the correct frame type command. (For example, if a static frame has the IDL `mylabel`, and you attempt to do `\setflowframe*{mylabel}{<options>}`, then you will get this error, because `mylabel` refers to a static frame not a flow frame.)

5.3.5 Key 'clear' is boolean

The `clear` key can only have the values `true` or `false`.

5.3.6 Key 'clear' not available

The `clear` key is only available for static and dynamic frames.

⁴`offset` can also have the value `compute`

5.3.7 Key 'style' not available

The `style` key is only available for dynamic frames.

5.3.8 Key 'margin' not available

The `margin` key is only available for flow frames.

5.3.9 Key 'shape' not available

The `shape` key is only available for static and dynamic frames.

5.3.10 Dynamic frame style '*<style>*' not defined

The specified style *<style>* must be the name of a command without the preceding backslash. It is possible that you have mis-spelt the name, or you have forgotten to define the command.

5.3.11 Argument of `\fbox` has an extra `}`

This error will occur if you do, say, `border=\fbox` instead of `border=fbox`. Remember not to include the initial backslash.

5.3.12 Not in outer par mode

You can not have floats (such as figures, tables or marginal notes) in static frames or dynamic frames. If you want a figure or table within a static frame or dynamic frame use `staticfigure` or `statictable`.

5.3.13 Somethings wrong—maybe missing `\item`

Assuming that all your list type of environments start with `\item`, this may be caused by something going wrong with the `toc` (table of contents), `ttb` (thumbtab) or `aux` (auxiliary) files in the previous run. Try deleting them, and try again.

5.3.14 Undefined control sequence (`\@ldc@l@r`)

This seems to happen when the `draft` option is used without a colour package, in conjunction with PDF \LaTeX . It doesn't seem to happen with \LaTeX . For some reason with PDF \LaTeX the `\color` command is defined in the begin document hook, but not the command `\@ldc@l@r` which is the cause of this error message. You can avoid this error message by including the `color` package. You can use the `monochrome` option if you don't want any colour in your document:

```
\usepackage[monochrome]{color}
\usepackage[nocolor]{flowfram}
```

5.3.15 Undefined control sequence (`\@nil`)

This has been fixed in version 1.02.

5.3.16 Undefined control sequence (`\c@dynamic`)

This has been fixed in version 1.08.

5.3.17 No room for a new `\skip`

You have exceeded \TeX 's 256 register limit. Use the `etex` package.

5.3.18 I get an error when using verbatim text inside the `dynamiccontents` environment

You can not use verbatim text inside either the starred or unstarred version of the `dynamiccontents` environment. (This is because the contents of dynamic frames are stored in a macro.) Try using a static frame and use `staticcontents` instead.

6 fmtcount FAQ

6.1 General Queries

6.1.1 Is there multilingual support?

Currently there is multilingual support for English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and German.

6.1.2 Why is there only limited multilingual support?

Because there is a limit to the number of languages I can speak! I am therefore dependent on people supplying me the information for all the other languages.

6.1.3 How do I get *septente* instead of *soixante-dix*?

If the currently selected language is French, you can select the Swiss or Belgium variants using:

```
\fmtcountsetoptions{french=swiss}
```

or

```
\fmtcountsetoptions{french=belgium}
```

6.1.4 How do I get the feminine form instead of the masculine?

Use the optional argument `f` to `\ordinal` etc.

6.1.5 How can I set up a different set of default package options?

Create a file called `fmtcount.cfg`, and put the appropriate commands in it. Then save it to somewhere on the \TeX path.

(Note that if you are also using the `datetime` package, `datetime.cfg` will override `fmtcount.cfg`.)

6.1.6 How do I get the ordinal suffix to be level instead of a superscript?

Use:

```
\fmtcountsetoptions{fmtord=level}
```

6.1.7 How do I use the value of a label in `\numberstring`, `\ordinalstring` etc?

Try using Heiko Oberdiek's `refcount` package which provides commands that will set a counter to the number given by a label. You can then pass that counter to `\numberstring` etc. For example:

```
\documentclass{article}

\usepackage{fmtcount}
\usepackage{refcount}

\begin{document}
\newcounter{myctr}\setcounterpageref{myctr}{pg:last}
First page. This document has \numberstring{myctr} pages.

\newpage
Second page.\label{pg:last}
\end{document}
```

6.2 Package Errors

6.2.1 The `fmtcount` package conflicts with the memoir class

You need to use at least version 1.04 of the `fmtcount` package and use `\FCordinal` to access `fmtcount`'s version of `\ordinal` and use `\ordinal` to use `memoir`'s version of that command. [Download](#) the latest version.

6.2.2 Unknown language 'english' error

Make sure you are using at least version 1.07 of the `fmtcount` package.

6.2.3 Command `\@ordinalMenglish` already defined

This bug crept into version 1.06. You will need to [download](#) the latest version.

6.3 Unexpected Output

6.3.1 `\padzeroes` is a digit short with `\decimal`

This was fixed in version 1.05.

6.3.2 `\MakeUppercase` doesn't work with `\ordinalstring` etc

This is caused by the way `\MakeUppercase` expands its argument. (see, e.g. http://groups.google.com/group/comp.text.tex/browse_frm/thread/16127c47e0aa0a7/ or <http://www.tex.ac.uk/cgi-bin/texfaq2html?label=caschange>).

As from version 1.09, you can use one of the commands `\ORDINALstring`, `\NUMBERstring` etc, which will convert the text to upper case.

6.3.3 Spaces are ignored after `\numberstring`, `\ordinalstring` etc

This was fixed in version 1.2.

6.4 LaTeX2HTML Support

6.4.1 Why does LaTeX2HTML ignore `fmtcount.cfg`?

Because I haven't worked out how to do it.

7 glossary FAQ

This package is now obsolete and has been replaced by the **glossaries** package, please use that instead. Any bugs that remain in the glossary package will not be fixed as it is no longer maintained.

7.1 Unexpected Output

7.1.1 My glossary hasn't appeared (or hasn't been updated).

Check the following:

- Have you included the command `\makeglossary` in the preamble?
- Have you put the command `\printglossary` where you want the glossary to appear?
- Have you used `makeglos.bat`, `makeglos.pl` or `makeindex`, and if you did, did it successfully create the `gls` file? (Check the transcript `glg` file.)
- If you used `makeindex` directly, did you specify the `ist` file created by `\makeglossary`, and did you remember to specify the output file with the extension `gls`?
- When `makeindex` scans the `ist` file, it should generate the message:

```
9 attributes redefined, 0 ignored
```

If you have a number other than 0 ignored, then there is something wrong with the `ist` file. Some packages can cause problems with the creation of this file, see [below](#).

- Have you remembered to \LaTeX your document again after using `makeglos.bat`, `makeglos.pl` or `makeindex`?
- Have you used `\glossary` or `\xglossary`?

- If you have used `\storegloentry`, have you also used `\usegloentry`, `\useGloentry` or `\gls`?
- Are your page numbers defined using any internal commands (commands containing the `@` symbol) or any commands that expand to an internal command in the `.glo` file? (Check the `.glo` file.)

If you have defined a new glossary type, have you checked all the analogous commands to the above?

7.1.2 My list of acronyms hasn't appeared.

Have you used the `acronym=true` package option? If no, check the answers to the previous item, if yes, make sure you have used `\makeacronym` and `\printacronym`. Have you used any of the acronyms you have defined? Remember that `\acrsh`, `\acrln`, `\<acr-name>short` and `\<acr-name>long` don't generate entries in the list of acronyms, where `\<acr-name>` is the name of an acronym command.

7.1.3 One of more of my glossary entries hasn't appeared.

Check the following

- If you defined the entry using `\storegloentry` have you used either `\usegloentry`, `\useGloentry` or `\gls`?
- Have you remembered to `\protect` commands such as `\mathcal` within `\storegloentry`? (Check the `.glo` file to see if any commands have been expanded to something that may cause a problem.)
- Have you used the characters `@ ! | "`? If so, have you preceded them with a double quote character?
- Have you used any internal commands (commands containing the `@` symbol) or any commands that expand to an internal command in the `.glo` file? (Check the `.glo` file.)
- Is the entry very long? If so, it may have exceeded `makeindex`'s buffer.

Check the `makeindex` log file to see if there are any error messages. (This will be the file ending `.glg` for the main glossary, `.alg` if the list of acronyms is separate from the main glossary, or whatever you defined it to be if it's for a secondary glossary.)

7.1.4 Some of my acronyms haven't appeared in the glossary

The acronyms are implicitly entered in the glossary either by the `\glossary` command or the `\acronym` command which works in the same way, so check the answer to the previous FAQ item. Pay particular attention to any acronyms that contain an umlaute as `"` is a `makeindex` special character. For example:

```
\newacronym{RNA}{Ribonukleins\''aure}{name=Ribonukleins\''aure (RNA)}
```

Note that the `name` key has to be explicitly used in this example because in the document text, `\` is required but in the glossary entry `\"` is required.

Have you used any of the acronyms you have defined? Remember that `\acrsh`, `\acrln`, `\<acr-name>short` and `\<acr-name>long` don't generate entries in the list of acronyms, where `\<acr-name>` is the name of an acronym command.

7.1.5 The space after my acronym has disappeared.

Remember that L^AT_EX ignores all spaces after command names, so the space after, say, `\RNA` will be ignored. To force a space, either put an empty set of braces after the command, e.g. `\RNA{}` or use `\` (backslash followed by a space), e.g. `\RNA\`.

As from version 2.22, if you load the `xspace` package *before* loading the `glossary` package, `\xspace` will be appended to acronym commands.

7.1.6 I get spaces where there shouldn't be any when using the xspace package

This has been fixed in version 2.28. Please [download](#) and reinstall.

7.1.7 My glossary entries haven't been sorted properly

Use the `sort` key.

7.1.8 Why are there numbers after my glossary entries?

These are the page numbers where the corresponding `\glossary` command has been used. Use the package option `number=none` if you don't want the page numbers to appear.

7.1.9 My glossary has duplicate entries on separate lines.

L^AT_EX treats multiple spaces equivalent to a single space, but `makeindex` takes spaces into account when determining whether two entries are identical. For example:

```
\glossary{name=Identity matrix,  
description=diagonal matrix with 1's along the diagonal}
```

and

```
\glossary{name=Identity matrix,  
description=diagonal matrix with 1's along the diagonal}
```

will be treated as different entries by `makeindex`, because the first has only one space between "Identity" and "matrix" and the second has two. The easiest way to ensure consistency is to use `\storeglosentry` together with `\useglosentry`, `\useGlosentry` or `\gls`.

7.1.10 I've used the `hyper` option, but nothing happens when I click on the numbers in the glossary.

Check the following:

1. Have you used PDF \LaTeX , or a driver/previewer that understands hyperlinks?
2. Have you remembered to use the `hyperref` or `html` package (these packages must be loaded *before* the glossary package)?
3. Have you remembered to use a formatting command which uses `\hyperlink`? (E.g. using `hyperbf` instead of `textbf`)? Remember to check the `format` key in your `\glossary` commands, and the `glsnumformat` key in the `\setglossary` command.
4. What application are you using to view the PDF file? Ghostview can display a PDF file, but ignores the links. If you are using Windows, try using Adobe's Acrobat Reader, or if you are using UNIX or Linux, try using `xpdf` or `acroread`.

7.1.11 The delimiters between the page numbers have disappeared for some of my glossary entries

This has been fixed in version 2.25. Please [download](#) and install the latest version.

7.1.12 The optional argument to `\useacronym` doesn't have any effect

This has been fixed in version 2.26. Please [download](#) and install the latest version.

7.1.13 My acronym has been expanded twice

By default, if any of your acronym commands occur within a group (this includes environments which form implicit grouping) the effect will be local to that group. You can either unset the acronym outside the group using `\unsetacronym`, or use the `global` package option. (New to version 2.31.)

7.1.14 The description key in `\newacronym` has been ignored

This is probably because you have used `\setacronymdescfmt` without including `\glodesc` (see [manual](#) for further details).

7.1.15 My glossary has ended up wider than my page.

This may occur if you have long entry names, and you are using either the `style=long` or `style=super` options. The width of the description column is proportional to the line width (in fact, it's `0.6\linewidth`) but the first column is as wide as the widest entry name. You can either redefine `\glossaryalignment` to change the column specifications, or use one of the list-type styles.

7.1.16 The glossary section in my table of contents says the glossary is on the page before it actually is

If you are using the `hypertoc` package option, check you are using a least version 2.38.

7.1.17 The page numbers in my glossary don't match up with the actual page numbers where the entry was defined.

You may need to L^AT_EX your document again (just as you have to do with `\tableofcontents`, `\listoffigures` etc).

If the page numbers are still out by 1 for entries or acronyms that occur in the first paragraph of a page, then this is a bug. It has been fixed in the new `glossaries` package, but not for the obsolete `glossary` package. It is strongly recommended that you upgrade to the new `glossaries` package, but you are reluctant to upgrade due to time constraints, you can fix it as follows:

1. Copy `glossary.sty` to another name.
2. Search for

```
\edef\@glo@num{\csname the\@glo@num\endcsname}
```

and replace with

```
\expandafter\noexpand\edef\@glo@num{\csname the\@glo@num\endcsname}
```

3. Change "glossary" in `\ProvidesPackage{glossary}` to the base name of the edited file created in step 1.

7.1.18 When I have different page numbering (e.g. arabic and roman) the links in the glossary go to the wrong page

This is also likely to be true for the table of contents! If you are using the `hyperref` package, and you have more than one page with the same numerical value (e.g. a page i and a page 1), you need to use the `hyperref` package option `plainpages=false` (note that you should also have `hypertexnames=true`—which should be true by default).

7.1.19 Sometimes a page break occurs between the name and the description when using `altlist` style

This has been fixed in version 2.36.

7.1.20 I redefined `\glossaryname`, but it's gone back to its default definition

You are probably using another package which redefines `\glossaryname` (e.g. `babel`). Try redefining it immediately before `\printglossary` (or immediately before `\tableofcontents` if you are using the package option `toc=true`.)

7.1.21 I tried redefining `\glossaryalignment` but it had no effect.

This bug was fixed in version 2.34. Please [download](#) and install the latest version.

7.1.22 The `hypertoc` option doesn't work when the glossary is part of a section

This has been fixed in version 2.37. Please [download](#) and install the latest version.

7.1.23 The hyperlinks to the glossary don't work with `babel[french/frenchb]`

This has been fixed in version 2.42. Please [download](#) and install the latest version.

7.2 Package Errors

7.2.1 I get an error when using the command `\saveglosentry`.

Don't use this command it's obsolete, use `\storeglosentry` instead.

7.2.2 I get an error when using `displaymath` within `\storeglosentry`

This has been fixed in version 2.4. Please [download](#) and install the latest version.

7.2.3 I'm getting a hyperlink error (or an error occurs when using commands such as `\mathrm` in the name key)

Each glossary entry is given a label generated from the sort key, if provided, or the name key if the sort key is omitted, this enables a hyperlink from the term in the document to its corresponding entry in the glossary. If your name key contains commands, e.g.

```
\glossary{name={\ensuremath{\log}},description={The logarithm}}
```

then this may cause problems with constructing the label (and it will also cause `makeindex` problems sorting the entries). Under such circumstances, it is recommended that you use the sort key, e.g.

```
\glossary{name={\ensuremath{\log}},description={The logarithm},sort={log}}
```

7.2.4 I had an error, fixed it, but I keep getting the same error message.

Suppose you've made an error in the `\glossary` command. For example:

```
\glossary{name=Java,description=A programming language,format=textbf}
```

In this case `textbf` has been mis-spelt. This error will be copied to the `glo` file, which in turn will be copied to the `gls` file by `makeindex`. A subsequent run of `LATEX` will read this error in. If you fix the error in your main document, the error will still be read in from the `gls` file. The best thing to do is to delete the `gls` file, and try again.

7.2.5 I get an error when I have a space or percent character in `\glossary`

This has been fixed in version 2.4. Please [download](#) and install the latest version.

7.2.6 I get an error when I have a comma in my description

Group your description. See next item.

7.2.7 I'm getting a `keyval` error.

The `glossary` package uses the `keyval` package to extract the information from `<key>=<value>` comma separated lists. You need to make sure the syntax is correct. If your `<value>` contains a comma, you will need to enclose `<value>` in curly braces. See the `keyval` documentation for further information⁵.

If you get an error message when using a comma within `\newacronym`, please [download](#) and install the latest version of the `glossary` package. (This error was fixed in version 2.33).

7.2.8 I get an error when starting a new paragraph within the glossary description

You can't have paragraph breaks when using key-value pairs. If you really feel the need to have a new paragraph within a description, try `\newline\hspace*{15pt}` instead, but be aware that `makeindex` only has a limited buffer—if the description is too long the entry will be discarded.

7.2.9 I get the error `\gloitem already defined`

You are using the `glossary` package with another package or class file that supports glossaries (e.g. `memoir`).

7.2.10 The `glossary` package conflicts with the `datetime` package.

This has been fixed in version 2.01. Please [download](#) and install the latest version.

7.2.11 I get an error when using certain commands, such as `\cite` or `~` in `\newacronym`.

This has been fixed in version 2.1. Please [download](#) and install the latest version.

7.2.12 The `glossary` package conflicts with the `array`/`tabular`/`tabularx` package.

The `glossary` package used to conflict with the `array` package. This was fixed in version 2.1, and improved in version 2.3. Please [download](#) and install the latest version.

⁵This should be in the directory `texmf/doc/latex/graphics/`

7.2.13 I get an error when I try to define a new glossary type called acronym

Acronyms are already built in to the glossary package. If you want a list of acronyms separate to the main glossary, use the package option `acronym=true`.

7.2.14 Acronyms cause a problem in chapter or section headings

I get the following error:

```
Use of \@chapter doesn't match its definition
```

or

```
! Argument of \@sect has an extra }
```

or something similar.

If you want to use an acronym command in a moving argument (such as a chapter heading) you need to `\protect` it first. Note that if you do put an acronym in a chapter etc heading, it will be expanded for the first time in the table of contents, not in the chapter heading. The best way to get around this is to use the optional argument, e.g.

```
\chapter[Introduction to Kernel Support Vector Machines]{Introduction
to \protect\KSVM}
```

You will also need to do this if you are using bookmarks in a PDF document.

Alternatively, you can do:

```
\resetacronym{KSVM}
\chapter{Introduction to \protect\KSVM}
```

or if you are using PDFLaTeX:

```
\resetacronym{KSVM}
\chapter{Introduction to \texorpdfstring{\protect\KSVM}{KSVM}}
```

or just use either `\acrsh` or `\acrln` (which won't generate an entry in the glossary).

7.2.15 The glossary package conflicts with ngerman.

This problem is caused by the fact that `ngerman` redefines the effect of the double quote character, but this character is used in the creation of the `ist` `makeindex` style file. Try one of the following methods:

1. Include the `ngerman` package after the `\makeglossary` command:

```
\usepackage{glossary}
\makeglossary
\usepackage{ngerman}
```

2. First omit the `ngerman` package and include `\makeglossary` then `\LaTeX` your document. This will create the `ist` file. Then include the `ngerman` package, and insert `\noist` before the `\makeglossary` command, this will prevent further attempts to generate the `ist` file.

```

\usepackage{ngerman}
\usepackage{glossary}
\noist\makeglossary

```

3. Use `\noist`, as above, and create the `ist` file in an ordinary text editor. The file should contain the following lines:

```

keyword "\\glossaryentry"
preamble "\\begin{theglossary}"
postamble "\n\\end{theglossary}\n"
group_skip "\\gloskip "
item_0 "\n\\gloitem "
delim_0 "\n\\glodelim "
page_compositor "-"
delim_n "\\delimN "
delim_r "\\delimR "

```

It is possible that there may be other packages which will also cause a problem, if so, try any of the above.

7.2.16 I get the error `\acronymname already defined`

This has been fixed in version 2.34. Please [download](#) and install the latest version.

7.2.17 I get an error when using verbatim text in a glossary entry

As a general rule, you can't use verbatim text in an argument. This applies to all commands defined in the glossary package. Try using `\texttt` instead.

7.2.18 I get an error when I try to redefine `\glossaryheader`

As from version 2.4, you should use `\newcommand` when defining `\glossaryheader`, as the glossary package no longer defines this command. The glossary package checks to see if this command is defined. If it is it is used, otherwise the style-specific header is used.

7.2.19 I get the message: ! pdfTeX warning (dest): name{...} has been referenced but does not exist

This is not an error, but a warning. This just means that PDFLaTeX can't find the given target. Since all the targets defined by the `glossary` package will be placed in the files created when you use `makeglos.pl`, you will always get these messages the first time you `LATEX` your document. Once you have successfully run `makeglos.pl`, these warnings should go away. If you still get them, then it's possible that one or more of your glossary entries had an error which prevented them from being written to the `.glo` (or equivalent) file. Check the `makeindex` transcript file (`.glg` or equivalent) for errors.

7.2.20 I get an error when I redefine \glogroupA etc

There is an error in the manual. It should read:

For example, if you are using one of the list styles, the following will print the appropriate heading in bold, followed by a gap:

```
\renewcommand{\glogroupSymbols}{\item[Symbols]\indexspace}  
\renewcommand{\glogroupNumbers}{\item[Numbers]\indexspace}  
\renewcommand{\glogroupA}{\item[A]\indexspace}  
....% similar lines omitted  
\renewcommand{\glogroupZ}{\item[Z]\indexspace}
```

Alternatively, if you are using one of the tabular styles with two columns, you will need to do something like

```
\renewcommand{\glogroupSymbols}{\textbf{Symbols} & \\\}
```

etc.

I may get around to providing an easier interface to do this when I have time.

7.2.21 I get a keyval error: glofont undefined

The glofont key was only defined in version 2.43, you are probably using an old version of the glossary package.

7.3 General Queries

7.3.1 How do I format my acronyms in a different font?

As from version 2.22 you can redefine \acronymfont. For example, to make all the acronyms appear in a small caps font, do:

```
\renewcommand{\acronymfont}[1]{\textsc{#1}}
```

7.3.2 Why are my acronyms displayed in bold in the glossary?

This is probably because you are using the list or altlist style which display the entry name in bold by default. You can redefine the acronym format using \setacronymnamefmt, e.g.

```
\setacronymnamefmt{\textmd{\glolong\ (\gloshort)}}
```

7.3.3 Why do my terms appear in bold in the glossary?

This is probably because you are using the list or altlist style which display the entry name in bold by default. As from version 2.43, you can change the font using the glofont key in \setglossary. For example, to make the entry name appear in a slanted san-serif font in the main glossary, do:

```
\setglossary{glofont={\sffamily\slshape}}
```

7.3.4 How can I change the font in which the name key is displayed in the glossary?

See the answer to the above. As from version 2.44, you can use a command that takes an argument as the *last name* bit of `glofont`. For example:

```
\setglossary{glofont={\sffamily\textsl}}
```

Note that you will have to take care if you want to use `\MakeUppercase`, otherwise you will get expansion problems. For example, to make the first letter of the glossary term uppercase, do:

```
\newcommand{\myglofont}[1]{\MakeUppercase#1}  
\setglossary{glofont={\protect\myglofont}}
```

Note the use of `\protect`. In the above example, care will have to be taken if the first letter has an accent, in which case the accented letter will need to be grouped, for example:

```
\storeglosentry{elite}{name={{\'}e}lite},description={Size of letters  
in typewriting}}
```

7.3.5 How do I get my acronyms to appear in a separate glossary?

As from version 2.17 you can use the package option `acronym` to do this, however if you do this you must remember to use the commands `\makeacronym` and `\printacronym`.

7.3.6 How do I reset an acronym?

As from version 2.14, you can use the command `\resetacronym{<name>}`.

7.3.7 How do I reset all acronyms with a single command?

As from version 2.21, you can use the command `\resetallacronyms`.

7.3.8 How do I align my list of acronyms in a table so that the acronym appears in the first column and the long form appears in the second column?

As from version 2.32, you can do:

```
\setacronymnamefmt{\gloshort}  
\setacronymdescfmt{\glolong}
```

(Note that this will ignore the `description` key used in `\newacronym`.)

If you have a list of acronyms separate from the main glossary (by using the `acronym=true` package option), you will need to specify the style of the list of acronyms using

```
\setglossarystyle[acronym]{style=long}
```

if this style is different to the style of the main glossary.

7.3.9 I have multiple glossaries, can they have different formats?

As from version 2.3, you can set the style for individual glossaries using the final optional argument to `\newglossarytype`. For example, if you want a new type of glossary called notation, and you want it formatted using the `long` style with borders, then you can do:

```
\newglossarytype{notation}{not}{ntn}[style=long,border=true]
```

or you can set the style later using `\setglossarystyle`, for example:

```
\setglossarystyle[notation]{style=long,border=true}
```

If you have used the package option `acronym=true`, you can also use this command to change the format of the list of acronyms. For example:

```
\setglossarystyle[acronym]{style=long,border=true}
```

7.3.10 I have a second glossary, how do I make it have a different title from the first glossary?

If you have defined a second glossary, `<type>`, then you can define the commands `\<type>name` and `\short<type>name`, which are analogous to `\glossaryname` and `\shortglossaryname`. For example, if you have defined a glossary called, say, notation, then define the commands `\notationname` for the main heading and, optionally, `\shortnotationname` for the table of contents entry.

7.3.11 How do I prevent the page numbers appearing in the glossary?

Use the package option `number=none`.

7.3.12 How can I get section/equation etc numbers instead of page numbers in the glossary?

Use the package option `number=<counter>`, where `<counter>` is the name of the relevant counter. For example, to use section numbers, do: `number=section`. (Versions prior to version 2.4, only allowed `number=page`, `number=section` and `number=none`. As from version 2.4 you can use any L^AT_EX counter.)

7.3.13 How do I change the title “Glossary” to another language?

If you use `babel`, this should be done automatically, otherwise you will need to redefine `\glossaryname`, e.g.

```
\renewcommand{\glossaryname}{Glossar}
```

If you place this command in a file called `glossary.cfg` and place it somewhere on T_EX's search path it will become the default definition.

7.3.14 How do I get my glossary to appear in the table of contents?

Use the package option `toc` or `hypertoc`. (The `hypertoc` option will place the anchor before the glossary title, the `toc` option will place the anchor immediately after the glossary title.) Note that the `hypertoc` option should only be used if you are using the `hyperref` package, as it uses the command `\phantomsection`.

7.3.15 How do I make my glossary title different from the running header/table of contents entry?

Define `\glossaryname` to be the text for the main glossary title, and define `\shortglossaryname` to be the text for the running header or table of contents. Example:

```
\renewcommand{\glossaryname}{Glossary of Notation}
\renewcommand{\shortglossaryname}{Notation}
```

7.3.16 How do I insert text at the start of the glossary?

Redefine `\glossarypreamble` to be the text you want inserted. If you have multiple glossaries, redefine `\glossarypreamble` before each `\print<type>` command.

7.3.17 How can I change the horizontal placement of the table in the glossary?

If you are using the package option `style=long` (the default), the `longtable` environment will be used (defined in David Carlisle's `longtable` package.) The horizontal position of a `longtable` can be changed by changing the lengths `\LTleft` and `\LTright`. For example, to make the table flushleft, do:

```
\setlength{\LTleft}{0pt}
\setlength{\LTright}{\fill}
```

If you are using the package option `style=super`, the `supertabular` environment will be used (defined in the `supertab` package, originally by Theo Juriens, revised by Johannes Braams.) I don't know how to change the horizontal placement of a `supertabular` table.

7.3.18 How do I customise my glossary so that it has, say, 4 columns instead of 3?

See the sample file, `sample4col.tex` that comes with version 2.34 and above.

7.3.19 Is it possible to merge several glossary entries that have the same name but different descriptions?

Use the `makeglos.pl` Perl script with the `-m` option.

7.3.20 Is it possible to have an unsorted glossary?

It's `makeindex` that sorts the glossary entries, not the glossary package. As far as I know, `makeindex` doesn't have the facility to produce unsorted output, but you could use the `sort` key to change the sort order.

7.3.21 How do I include all entries defined using `\storeglosentry` in one go?

As from version 2.36, you can use the command `\useglosentry{*}`. (Note that this option is not available for `\useGlosentry` and `\gls`.)

7.3.22 Is it possible to insert a block of text between groups in the glossary?

As from version 2.4, you can insert text between groups by redefining the commands `\glogroupSymbols`, `\glogroupNumbers`, `\glogroupA` ... `\glogroupZ`. For example, if you are using one of the list styles, the following will print the appropriate heading in bold, followed by a gap:

```
\renewcommand{\glogroupSymbols}{\textbf{Symbols}\indexspace}
\renewcommand{\glogroupNumbers}{\textbf{Numbers}\indexspace}
\renewcommand{\glogroupA}{\textbf{A}\indexspace}
....% similar lines omitted
\renewcommand{\glogroupZ}{\textbf{Z}\indexspace}
```

Or if you are using one of the tabular styles with two columns, you could do something like

```
\renewcommand{\glogroupSymbols}{\multicolumn{3}{1}{\bfseries Symbols}\}}
% etc
```

7.3.23 Why does my log file say that it can't find glossary.cfg?

This isn't an error, it's merely a piece of information. The glossary package looks for a file called `glossary.cfg`, if it exists it loads it, otherwise it simply uses the standard defaults. This facility is provided so that you can configure the glossary package for your local system if required. The file `glossary.cfg` is not provided by the `glossary` package, however you can create it if needed. For example, if you do not write in English, and you want to have a list of acronyms, you will need to create a file called `glossary.cfg` and type in the correct definition for `\acronymname`. For example:

```
\newcommand{\acronymname}{Akronyme}
```

You will then need to save it to a directory on \TeX 's path, for example, the same directory as the file `glossary.sty`. (Remember to refresh the database using `texhash` (UNIX/Linux) or whatever method is appropriate for your system.)

7.3.24 How do I get TeXnicCenter to use makeglos.bat?

1. Make sure you have at least version 2.35 of the glossary package (earlier versions have a bug in `makeglos.bat`.)
2. Select the menu item **Build**→**Output Profiles...**
3. Select the desired output profile from the box on the left (e.g. **LaTeX => DVI**)
4. Select the "Postprocessor" tab from the box on the right.
5. Click on the "New (insert)" icon.
6. Type in the name of the postprocessor (e.g. `makeglos`)
7. Type in the full pathname of `makeglos.bat` into the executable box (e.g. `C:\texmf\miktex\bin\makeglos.bat`) or use the ellipsis button on the right to browse the filing system.

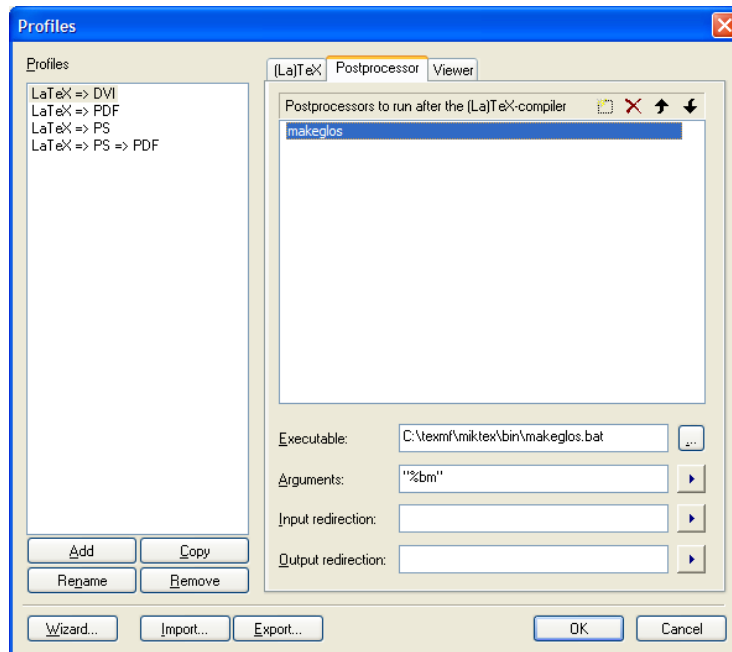


Figure 1: Setting the Post Processor in TeXnicCenter

8. Type "%bm" in the arguments box. (See figure 1)
9. Repeat for each output profile as desired.
10. Click on okay.

7.3.25 Can you help me upgrade my document from using the old glossary package to the new glossaries package?

Try reading [Upgrading from the glossary package to the glossaries package](#)

7.4 makeglos.pl Errors

7.4.1 makeglos.pl error: unable to extract name from glossary item

You are using an old version of `makeglos.pl` with a new version of the `glossary` package. You will need to update your version of `makeglos.pl`. Please [download](#) and reinstall.

7.4.2 makeglos.bat error: file makeglos.bat.pl not found

This has been fixed in version 2.35 of the `glossary` package. Please [download](#) and reinstall `makeglos.bat`.

7.4.3 I get an error when I use `makeglos.bat` when I have spaces in my path

This has been fixed in version 2.43.

7.5 makeindex Errors

7.5.1 makeindex complains that the entry is too long

If you have a very long description, you can exceed `makeindex`'s buffer. You can get around this by defining a command that contains the description for a given entry, and use that command in the description. For example:

```
\newcommand{\sampledescription}{A very long description...}
\storeglosentry{sample}{name={sample},description={\sampledescription}}
```

8 glossaries FAQ

8.1 Error Messages

8.1.1 I get an error when using a fragile command in my glossary entry

Use `\protect`. See also [Why must I protect fragile commands in the name key?](#)

8.1.2 I get an error when using one of the commands that convert the first letter to upper case

Commands like `\Glsentryname` are fragile and must be [protected](#) when used in a moving argument.

8.1.3 I get the error: “perl not found” when I use `makeglossaries.bat`

You don't have [Perl](#) installed or your path is not set up correctly.

If you don't have Perl installed or are otherwise unable to run `makeglossaries`, you can run `makeindex` on each of your glossaries. For example, to create the main glossary (assuming your file is called `myfile.tex`):

```
makeindex -s myfile.ist -t myfile.glg -o myfile.gls myfile.glo
```

If you have used the `acronym` package option, you will need to create the list of acronyms file as follows:

```
makeindex -s myfile.ist -t myfile.alg -o myfile.acr myfile.acn
```

Repeat this procedure for each glossary that you have defined.

Alternatively you could try using the [MakeGlossariesGUI](#) Java application.

8.1.4 I get the message: ! pdfTeX warning (dest): name{...} has been referenced but does not exist

This is not an error, but a warning. This just means that PDFLaTeX can't find the given target. Since all the targets defined by the `glossaries` package will be placed in the files created when you use `makeglossaries`, you will always get these messages the first time you `LATEX` your document. Once you have successfully run `makeglossaries`, these warnings should go away. If you still get them, then it's possible that one or more of your glossary entries had an error which prevented them from being written to the `.glo` (or equivalent) file. Check the `makeindex` transcript file (`.glg` or equivalent) for errors.

8.1.5 I get an error when using a glossary entry in a chapter/section heading or caption

This occurs when you try to do something like:

```
\section{\gls{sample}}
```

If you are not using the `hyperref` package, you can fix this with `\protect`:

```
\section{\protect\gls{sample}}
```

However, it's generally not a good idea to use commands like `\gls` or `\glslink` in chapter or section titles:

1. If you have a table of contents, the relevant line in the TOC will also have a link to the glossary, and the entry's page list will include the table of contents page.
2. If you are using a page style that adds the chapter/section title to the page header, then each page header for that section will generate a link to the glossary.
3. If you are using the `hyperref`, you will have a nested link in the table of contents and you will cause a problem for the bookmarks.

It is therefore better to use the non-link creating commands, such as `\glsentryname` instead of `\gls`. For example:

```
\section{\glsentryname{sample}}
```

If you really want `\gls` in your chapter/section title, then use the optional argument to supply an alternative for the table of contents and page headers:

```
\section[\glsentryname{sample}]{\gls{sample}}
```

The same applies for captions. If you get unexpected output in your page headers (e.g. something like `ACRONYMNAME SAMPLE`), then use the package option `sanitize=none` and protect fragile commands.

Note that the commands that convert the first letter to upper case are all fragile, so you still need to use `\protect`:

```
\section{\protect\Glsentryname{sample}}
```

If you use the `hyperref` package, you'll need to use `\texorpdfstring`:

```
\section{\texorpdfstring{\protect\Glsentryname{sample}}{Sample}}
```

8.1.6 `makeindex` complains that the entry is too long

If you have a very long description, it is possible that you may exceed `makeindex`'s buffer. In which case, try defining a command that stores the long description, and use that when you define the entry. For example:

```
\newcommand{\mylongdescription}{A very long description}
\newglossaryentry{example}{name={example},
description={\mylongdescription}}
```

Note that if you've used `sanitize=description=false` (which automatically occurs with certain acronym styles), then you need to use `\protect`:

```
\newcommand{\mylongdescription}{A very long description}
\newglossaryentry{example}{name={example},
description={\protect\mylongdescription}}
```

Alternative, try using `xindy` instead of `makeindex`. See the [section on xindy](#) in the glossaries documentation.

8.1.7 I get a “missing `}`” error with v1.17 when using `babel` with the `glossaries` package

This was fixed in v1.18.

8.1.8 I get an error saying that `\glspagewidthlist` is undefined

This was fixed in v1.18.

8.1.9 I get an error when using `glossaries` with `fancyhdr`

This is a problem with `xfor` v1.04. You need to upgrade to `xfor` v1.05.

8.1.10 I get an error saying that `\glossarymark` is already defined

As from version 2.03, the `glossaries` package checks to see if `\glossarymark` is already defined, and now just prints a warning message that `\glossarymark` is being redefined.

8.2 Translating Fixed Names

I've used the `babel` package, but the fixed names haven't been translated. The `glossaries` package currently only supports the following languages: Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Irish, Italian, Hungarian, Polish and Spanish. If you want to add another language, send me the translations, and I'll add them to the next version.

How do I change the default translations provided by the `glossaries` package? If you are using the `babel` package, the `translator` package will be loaded by the `glossaries` package (if it's installed). If the `translator` package is loaded, you need to provide your own custom dictionary to change the translations, otherwise you need to use `babel`'s `\addto`.

If you are using `polyglossia`, the `translator` package won't automatically be loaded. Instead, `glossaries-polyglossia` will be loaded.

1. The following changes the fixed names using the `translator` package. First create a file called, say, `my-personal-dictionary-English.dict` that contains the following:

```
\ProvidesDictionary{my-personal-dictionary}{English}
\deftranslation{Acronym}{List of Acronyms}
\deftranslation{Glossary}{List of Terms}
```

Remember to use this dictionary in your document:

```
\documentclass[english]{article}
\usepackage{babel}
\usepackage[toc,acronym]{glossaries}

\usedictionary{my-personal-dictionary}

\newglossaryentry{sample}{name=sample,description={An example}}
\newacronym{sa}{SA}{Sample Acronym}

\makeglossaries

\begin{document}

\tableofcontents

\section{Sample}

\gls{sample}. \gls{sa}.

\printglossaries
\end{document}
```

2. The following suppresses the automatic loading the `translator` package using `translate=false` and explicitly loads `glossaries-babel`.

```
\documentclass[english]{article}
\usepackage{babel}
\usepackage[toc,translate=false]{glossaries}
\usepackage{glossaries-babel}

\newglossaryentry{sample}{name=sample,description={An example}}

\addto\captionsenglish{\renewcommand*{\glossaryname}{List of Terms}}

\makeglossaries

\begin{document}
\tableofcontents

\section{Sample}
```

```
\gls{sample}.
```

```
\printglossary  
\end{document}
```

3. The following is another way of preventing the automatic loading of the translator package.

```
\documentclass[english]{article}  
\usepackage[toc]{glossaries}  
\usepackage{babel}  
\usepackage{glossaries-babel}  
  
\newglossaryentry{sample}{name=sample,description={An example}}  
  
\addto\captionsenglish{\renewcommand*{\glossaryname}{List of Terms}}  
  
\makeglossaries  
  
\begin{document}  
\tableofcontents  
  
\section{Sample}  
\gls{sample}.  
  
\printglossary  
\end{document}
```

4. The following sets the information in the optional argument to `\printglossary`:

```
\documentclass[english]{article}  
\usepackage{babel}  
\usepackage[toc]{glossaries}  
  
\makeglossaries  
  
\newglossaryentry{sample}{name=sample,description={An example}}  
  
\begin{document}  
\tableofcontents  
  
\section{Sample}  
\gls{sample}.  
  
\printglossary[title=List of Terms,toctitle=List of Terms]  
\end{document}
```

If you have any queries regarding the `babel` or `translator` package, please address them to the authors of those packages (after first checking the [UK TeX FAQ](#) and [comp.text.tex archives](#)).

8.3 Unexpected Output

8.3.1 Unexpected Output in the Main Document Text

When I display an entry’s description using `\glsentrydesc` it doesn’t come out right If your description contains commands, you will have to switch off the sanitization for the description, using the package option `sanitize={description=false}`. You must then protect any fragile commands using `\protect`.

When I display an entry’s symbol using `\glsentrysymbol` it doesn’t come out right You will have to switch off the sanitization for the symbol, using the package option `sanitize={symbol=false}`. You must then protect any fragile commands using `\protect`.

If you need to do the same for the description, you will need to use the package option `sanitize={description=false,symbol=false}`.

I’ve used the `smallcaps/smaller` option but the long form in the list of acronyms is always the long form of the last defined acronym This has been fixed in version 1.15. Earlier versions can fix this by using the package option `sanitize={description=false}`.

`\Gls` doesn’t work with the `smaller` option (everything is converted to uppercase) Redefine `\acronymfont` to use `\textsmaller` instead of `\smaller`:

```
\renewcommand{\acronymfont}[1]{\textsmaller{#1}}
```

This has been fixed in version 1.19.

Note that if your acronym starts with a capital letter, `\Gls` will produce the same text as `\gls`.

`\Gls` doesn’t work when `\acronymfont` uses a declaration This is similar to the previous problem. Using a declaration instead of a text block command confuses `\makefirstuc`. So use a text block command instead. If there is no text block equivalent, you will have to define one. For example:

```
\newcommand{\textlarge}[1]{\large #1}
\renewcommand{\acronymfont}[1]{\textlarge{#1}}
```

The long form of acronyms won’t break across a line This can occur when you are using `hyperref` and `latex` (rather than `pdflatex`) which won’t break a hyperlink. Either use `pdflatex` or you can **suppress the hyperlink on first use**.

Acronyms are displayed as “`acronymfont`” followed by the label in certain situations (such as page headers) Use the package option `sanitize=none` and protect fragile commands in acronym and glossary definitions.

8.3.2 Unexpected Output in the Glossaries

One or more of my glossaries haven't appeared Check the following:

1. You have used `\makeglossaries` in the preamble.
2. You have used either `\printglossaries` or `\printglossary` at the point in the document where you want the glossary to appear. Remember that if you have multiple glossaries and you use `\printglossary`, you must specify the glossary name in the optional argument for the additional glossaries (this includes the list of acronyms when you have used the `acronym` option). The name is not required for the main glossary.
3. Make sure you have used one or more of: `\glslink`, `\glsadd`, `\glsaddall`, `\gls` or `\glspl` (or the uppercase variants).
4. Remember that once you have saved your `.tex` file, you must follow the *three step* process:
 - (a) `latex filename`
This creates the `.glo` file that contains the glossary information for `makeindex` to collate, but there is no glossary in the document yet. Any hyperlinks to glossary entries will be undefined because the glossary doesn't exist yet.
 - (b) `makeglossaries filename`
Note there is **no extension** — `makeglossaries` reads `filename.aux` to determine the relevant glossary information, but passes `filename.glo` to `makeindex`, which in turn creates `filename.gls` which contains the glossary.
 - (c) `latex filename`
This reads `filename.gls` (created in the previous step). The document should now contain the glossary, and the hyperlinks to glossary entries should now be defined. If not, check the `makeindex` transcript file (`filename.glg`) for errors.

If you don't have Perl installed or are otherwise unable to run `makeglossaries`, you can run `makeindex` on each of your glossaries. For example, to create the main glossary (assuming your file is called `myfile.tex`):

```
makeindex -s myfile.ist -t myfile.glg -o myfile.gls myfile.glo
```

If you have used the `acronym` package option, you will need to create the list of acronyms file as follows:

```
makeindex -s myfile.ist -t myfile.alg -o myfile.acr myfile.acn
```

Repeat this procedure for each glossary that you have defined.

All my glossary entries have appeared in the same glossary instead of in separate glossaries If you are using `makeindex` directly instead of via `makeglossaries`, you must remember to call `makeindex` separately for each glossary. For example, if you have both a main glossary and a list of acronyms you will need to do (assuming your file is called `myfile.tex`):

```
makeindex -s myfile.ist -t myfile.glg -o myfile.gls myfile.glo
makeindex -s myfile.ist -t myfile.alg -o myfile.acr myfile.acn
```

If you have Perl installed, I would strongly recommend that you use `makeglossaries` instead, as then all you need do is:

```
makeglossaries myfile
```

which significantly reduces the chance of errors.

Also try checking the `makeindex` transcript files to see if there were any errors in the `makeindex` run.

Entries that appear in the first paragraph of a page have the wrong page number in the glossary This has been fixed in version 1.07.

Why have numbers appeared after my glossary entries? These are the page numbers on which that glossary entry has been used. You can suppress the number list using the package option `nonumberlist`.

Why have my glossary terms appeared in bold in the glossary? The most likely reason is that you are using one of the list-type glossary styles which put the term in the optional argument of `\item` which sets its argument in bold. The tree-like glossary styles also make the term bold. You can override this by redefining `\glsnamefont`. For example:

```
\renewcommand{\glsnamefont}[1]{\mdseries #1}
```

I have used the smallcaps option, but the entry names appear in lowercase bold in the glossary See the previous query for the reason why the entry is in bold. It is most likely in lowercase because you are using a set of fonts that don't support bold small caps, so the closest match has been used instead. Try using a different font encoding. For example:

```
\usepackage[T1]{fontenc}
```

Or change `\glsnamefont` to use a medium weight font instead of bold, as in the previous answer.

Why is there a larger vertical gap between some glossary entries? The glossary is divided into 28 groups corresponding to the initial character: symbols, digits, a, ..., z. Each group is separated by `\glsgroupskip` which is set to `\indexspace` when using one of the list styles or is set to a blank row when using one of the tabular styles. This can be suppressed by redefining `\glsgroupskip` to do nothing:

```
\renewcommand{\glsgroupskip}{}
```

However note that `\glsgroupskip` is redefined each time the glossary style is changed, so make sure you either redefine it after you set the glossary style or define your own custom glossary style.

When I use the hyperlink to take me to an entry in the glossary, the relevant line is just above the top edge of the viewer. As from glossaries v1.16, this shouldn't occur. For earlier versions use:

```
\newlength\mylen
\makeatletter
\renewcommand{\@glstarget}[2]{%
\settoheight{\mylen}{#2}\raisebox{\mylen}{\hypertarget{#1}{}}#2}
\makeatother
```

(`\@glstarget` is an internal command, so it should go between `\makeatletter` and `\makeatother` in the `.tex` file. If you put the above code into a style file, remember to remove the `\makeatletter` and `\makeatother` commands.)

Note that this fix is only required for the glossary styles that use lists.

I redefined one or more of the commands governing the glossary style, but it hasn't had an effect Remember that these commands are overridden whenever `\glossarystyle` is used, so make sure the new definitions are placed after `\glossarystyle`. In particular, remember that if you use the `style` key in the optional argument of `\printglossary`, it will override any previous definitions.

I've used the smallcaps option, but the acronyms are displayed in normal sized upper case letters. The `smallcaps` package option uses `textsc` to typeset the acronyms. This command converts lower case letters to small capitals, while upper case letters remain their usual size. Therefore you need to specify the acronym in lower case letters.

I've redefined `\acronymfont` but the acronyms are still displayed in the surrounding font. `\acronymfont` is only used by the package options that redefine `\newacronym` (e.g. `description`, `smallcaps`, `footnote`). Try using the `smaller` package option and redefine `\acronymfont` in the preamble.

Glossary terms at the start of a cell in `tabularx` don't align properly on the row This has been fixed in version 2.03.

8.3.3 Unexpected Output in the Table of Contents

The glossary entry in the TOC is not aligned with the numbered chapter/section titles By default, the glossary entry in the table of contents is aligned with the chapter/section numbers. As from version 1.1, you can use the package option `numberline` (in addition to the `toc` option) to align the title with the other TOC titles.

If you are using an older version, you can achieve the same effect by redefining `\@gls@toc`:

```
\renewcommand*{\@gls@toc}[2]{%
\ifglstoc\addcontentsline{toc}{#2}{\numberline{#1}\fi}
```

Note that this contains internal commands (commands that have an @ character in the name) so it either needs to go in a style file or it must be placed within `\makeatletter` and `\makeatother` in a .tex file.

The glossaries haven't appeared in the table of contents Remember to use the `toc` package option and to re-run LaTeX.

8.4 General Queries

8.4.1 Defining Terms

Why must I protect fragile commands in the name key when the documentation says the name key is sanitized? By default, the `glossaries` package sanitizes the values of the `name`, `description` and `symbol` keys, but not any of the other keys (except the `sort` key which is always sanitized regardless of the `sanitize` package option.) This means that you can use fragile commands in the `name`, `description` and `symbol` keys, but not the other keys. However, if you don't specify the `text` key, it will obtain its value from the `name` key (before it is sanitized), so if you have only specified the `name` key and not the `text` key, you must protect fragile commands using `\protect`.

Is it possible for an entry to have a name and an associated symbol? Yes, just use the `name` for the term and the `symbol` key for the symbol. If you want the symbol to also appear in the text when you use commands such as `\gls`, then you can redefine `\glsdisplayfirst` and `\glsdisplay`.

My term has multiple plural forms, how can I deal with this? Use the `plural` key for the plural term you are most likely to use, and use the `user` keys for the other plurals. For example:

```
\newglossaryentry{cow}{name=cow,
  description={a fully grown female of any bovine animal (plural
cows, archaic plural kine)},
  user1={kine}}

\let\glsaltpl\glsuseri
```

You can now use `\glspl` for the first plural and `\glsaltpl` for the second plural. There are six user keys, so this method can be used for other grammatical constructs as well.

How do I cross-reference entries? As from v1.17, you can use `\glssee` or use the `see` key when you define the entry. See the section [Cross-Referencing Entries](#) in the manual for further details.

8.4.2 Glossary Formatting

How do I get rid of the full stop after the description in the glossary?

If you are using version 1.03 or above, simply redefine `\glspostdescription` to do nothing:

```
\renewcommand{\glspostdescription}{}%
```

As from v1.17, if you want to remove it for a particular entry, use `\nopostdesc` in that entry's description.

Can I suppress the page lists in the glossary? Yes. Use the `nonumberlist` package option or as an option in `\printglossary`.

As from v1.17, you can suppress the number list for a particular entry using the `nonumberlist` option when defining the entry.

How do I make my glossaries appear in numbered chapters/sections?

As from version 1.1, you can use the package option `numberedsection`. This option takes three possible values: `false` (unnumbered), `nolabel` (glossaries are numbered but not labelled) and `autolabel` (glossaries are numbered and automatically labelled). If `numbersection=autolabel`, the labels are taken from the glossary type, so the main (default) glossary is given the label `main`, the list of acronyms (when using the `acronym` option) is given the label `acronym` and additional glossaries are given the same label as used in the first argument to `\newglossary`. So you can refer to each glossary in the text using `\ref`. For example:

See `chapter~\ref{main}` for the main glossary and
`chapter~\ref{acronym}` for a list of acronyms.

For earlier versions, you can do something like:

```
\let\glossarysection=\chapter
```

or

```
\let\glossarysection=\section
```

to produce a numbered glossary.

Note that with the package option `numbersection=nolabel`, you will need to add your own label to the glossary preamble if you want to reference it. For example:

```
\renewcommand{\glossarypreamble}{\label{glossary}}%
\printglossary
```

However take care if you have multiple glossaries. For example:

```
\renewcommand{\glossarypreamble}{\label{glossary}}%
\printglossary
\renewcommand{\glossarypreamble}{\label{acronyms}}%
\printglossary[type=acronym]
```

How do I have some of my glossaries in numbered sections and some in unnumbered sections? As from version 1.14, you can use the key `numberedsection` in the optional argument to `\printglossary`. For example, to put the main glossary in an unnumbered section and the list of acronyms in a numbered section:

```
\printglossary[numberedsection=false]
\printglossary[type=acronym,numberedsection]
```

How do I make my glossaries appear in different sectional units? Suppose you want the main glossary to appear in a chapter, but you want the list of acronyms to appear in a section, then use the package option `section=chapter` (which is actually the default if your document class defines chapters) and then change the document sectioning unit to `section` at the place where you want the change to occur. Version 1.1 introduced an easy interface to do this: `\setglossarysection{<section name>}`, where `<section name>` is the name of a sectional unit. For example:

```
\printglossary % print the main glossary
% change the glossary sectional unit to section
\setglossarysection{section}
\printglossary[type=acronym] % print the list of acronyms
```

For earlier versions, you need to redefine `\@glossarysec`, but remember that this is an internal command so it needs to be placed inside `\makeatletter` and `\makeatother`. For example:

```
\printglossary % print the main glossary
\makeatletter
% change the glossary sectional unit to section
\renewcommand*{\@glossarysec}{section}
\makeatother
\printglossary[type=acronym] % print the list of acronyms
```

How do I prevent my glossaries from starting a new section/chapter?

Redefine `\glossarysection` to ignore its arguments:

```
\renewcommand{\glossarysection}[2][{}]
```

(Remember to do this before using `\printglossaries` or `\printglossary`.)

Can I divide my glossary into groups? As from v1.17, hierarchical glossaries are supported. See the section [Sub-Entries](#) in the manual for further details.

How do I define my own glossary style? As from version 1.08, there is a section on this in the manual (called [Defining your own glossary style](#)).

Is it possible to prevent the glossaries package from loading `longtable`/`supertabular`?

As from v1.18, you can use the package options `nolong` or `nosuper` to prevent the glossaries package from automatically loading the `glossary-long` or `glossary-super` packages. Note, however, that if you use these options, you won't be able to use any of the glossary styles defined in those packages.

Is it possible to make the long/super styles use ragged right formatting? As from v2.01, you can use the styles defined in `glossary-longragged` or `glossary-superragged`, but note that these packages have to be loaded explicitly after loading the `glossaries` package.

8.4.3 Referencing Terms

How do I change the way the glossary term is formatted in the document (when using `\gls` etc)? The font can be changed by redefining `\glstextformat` which takes one argument (the text to be displayed). For example, if you want all your glossary terms to appear in bold, you can do:

```
\renewcommand{\glstextformat}[1]{\textbf{#1}}
```

(See also next question.)

How do I change the way the text appears when I use commands like `\gls`? Commands like `\gls` and `\glspl` use `\glsdisplayfirst` and `\glsdisplay` to display the relevant information. The former command is used on first use and the latter command is used subsequently. Both commands take four arguments: the first is either the singular or plural form given by the `text`, `plural`, `first` or `firstplural` keys (used when the term was defined) depending on context. The second argument is the term’s description (as supplied by the `description` key), the third argument is the symbol associated with the term (as supplied by the `symbol` key) and the fourth argument is the additional text supplied in the final optional argument to `\gls` or `\glspl` (or their uppercase variants). The default simply prints the first argument immediately followed by the fourth argument and ignores the remaining arguments.

For example, suppose you want a glossary of measurements and units, you can use the `symbol` key to store the unit:

```
\newglossaryentry{distance}{name=distance,
description={The length between two points},
symbol={km}}
```

and now suppose you want `\gls{distance}` to produce “distance (km)” on first use, then you can redefine `\glsdisplayfirst` as follows:

```
\renewcommand{\glsdisplayfirst}[4]{#1#4 (#3)}
```

Note that the additional text is placed after `#1`, so `\gls{distance}[’s]` will produce “distance’s (km)” rather than “distance (km)’s” which looks a bit odd (even though it may be in the context of “the distance (km) is measured between the two points” — but in this instance it may be better not to use a contraction).

Caveat: care needs to be taken if you want to use the symbol within the text as the `symbol` key is sanitized by default. This means that any commands within the symbol will not be interpreted which can lead to strange results. If you do want to redefine `\glsdisplay` or `\glsdisplayfirst` so that the symbol is used, you need to use the package option `sanitize={symbol=false}` and protect fragile commands within the `symbol` key.

Remember that you need to use a glossary style that displays the symbol if you use the `symbol` key as many of the styles ignore it.

How do I change the way the text appears when I use commands like `\gls` for a given glossary? If you have multiple glossaries, changing `\glsdisplayfirst` and `\glsdisplay` (see above) will change the way all glossary entries appear when using commands like `\gls`. If you only want the change to affect entries for a given glossary, then you need to use `\defglsdisplay` and `\defglsdisplayfirst` instead of redefining `\glsdisplay` and `\glsdisplayfirst`.

Both `\defglsdisplay` and `\defglsdisplayfirst` take two arguments: the first is the glossary name and the second is how the term should be displayed when it is invoked using commands like `\gls` and `\glspl`. This is similar to the way `\glsdisplayfirst` was redefined in the [previous section](#) except that you must use `##1`, `##2`, `##3` and `##4` instead of `#1`, `#2`, `#3` and `#4`.

For example, suppose you have created a new glossary called `notation` and you want to change the way the entry is displayed on first use so that it includes the symbol, you can do:

```
\defglsdisplayfirst{notation}{##1##4 (denoted ##3)}
```

Now suppose you have defined an entry as follows:

```
\newglossaryentry{set}{type=notation,
name=set,
description={A collection of objects},
symbol={$$},
}
```

The first time you reference this entry using `\gls` it will be displayed as: “set (denoted S)” (similarly for `\glspl` and the other variants).

How do I define my own custom acronym style? You can use the custom acronym format. For example, suppose you want the long form to appear in the margin on first use, you can do the following:

```
\DeclareRobustCommand{\MARGINPAR}[1]{\marginpar{#1}}

\renewcommand*{\CustomAcronymFields}{%
  name={\the\glsshorttok},% name is abbreviated form
  description={\the\glslongtok},% description is long form
  first={\the\glsshorttok\MARGINPAR{\the\glslongtok}},%
  firstplural={\the\glsshorttok\noexpand\acrpluralsuffix\MARGINPAR{\the\glslongtok}},%
  text={\the\glsshorttok},%
  plural={\the\glsshorttok\noexpand\acrpluralsuffix}%
}

\SetCustomStyle % Switch to custom style
```

(Note that you need to use an up-to-date version of `glossaries`.)

How do I set the font for just the long form when using `\newacronym`? You can use the custom acronym format, as described above. For example, suppose you want the long form to be emphasized using `\emph`, you can do the following:

```

\renewcommand*{\CustomAcronymFields}{%
  name={\the\glsshorttok},% name is abbreviated form
  description={\the\glslongtok},% description is long form
  first={\noexpand\emph{\the\glslongtok}\space(\the\glsshorttok)},%
  firstplural={\noexpand\emph{\the\glslongtok\noexpand\acrpluralsuffix}\space(\the\glsshorttok)},%
  text={\the\glsshorttok},%
  plural={\the\glsshorttok\noexpand\acrpluralsuffix}%
}

```

`\SetCustomStyle`

This displays *long* (short). You can swap, add or remove `\glslongtok` and `\glsshorttok`, as required. Remember to use `\SetCustomStyle` to switch to this acronym style. (If you get an error saying that `\CustomAcronymFields` can't be redefined as it doesn't exist or an "Undefined control sequence" error for `\SetCustomStyle`, then you need to update your version of glossaries.)

How do I make the acronym on first use display the short form followed by the long form in brackets?

1. If you are using the default definition of `\newacronym`, you can change the definition of `\acrfullformat`:

```
\renewcommand{\acrfullformat}[2]{#2\space(#1)}
```

2. If you are using the `description`, `smaller` or `smallcaps` options (but neither the `dua` or `footnote` options) you can do:

```
\defglsdisplayfirst[\acronymtype]{\firstacronymfont{#3}#4 (#1)}
```

3. Use the custom acronym format described in [How do I define my own custom acronym style?](#)

How do I make acronyms appear in a different font (but not the long form)? If you are just using the default definition of `\newacronym`, then use the package option `\smaller` and redefine `\acronymfont` to use the required font.

If you are using any of the package options that redefine `\newacronym` (such as `description`), then just redefine `\acronymfont` to use the required font.

How do I make the short form of the acronyms appear in a different font for the first use? As from version 1.14, follow the instructions for the previous query, but redefine `\firstacronymfont` instead of `\acronymfont`.

How do I suppress the hyperlink for the first use just for acronyms? Use the `footnote` package option and do:

```
\defglsdisplayfirst[\acronymtype]{#2#4 (\firstacronymfont{#1})}
```

Note that this won't work for acronyms that belong to a glossary not given by `\acronymtype`.

As from version 2.03, you can also use the package option `hyperfirst=false` to suppress the first use link for all terms (including acronyms).

Is it possible to reset acronyms so that they can be fully expanded again? Yes. To reset an acronym you can use `\glsreset{<label>}` or `\glslocalreset{<label>}` where `<label>` is the label identifying the acronym. (These commands also work with glossary entries in general, but you will only see a difference if you set different values for first and subsequent use.)

To reset all entries for a given glossary type use `\glsresetall[<glossary list>]` or `\glslocalresetall[<glossary list>]`. If the optional argument is omitted, all entries for all defined glossaries will be reset.

Is it possible to set an acronym so that it uses the short form on first use? Yes, this is basically the reverse of the previous question. To unset an acronym you can use `\glsunset{<label>}` or `\glslocalunset{<label>}` where `<label>` is the label identifying the acronym. (These commands also work with glossary entries in general, but you will only see a difference if you set different values for first and subsequent use.)

To unset all entries for a given glossary type use `\glsunsetall[<glossary list>]` or `\glslocalunsetall[<glossary list>]`. If the optional argument is omitted, all entries for all defined glossaries will be unset.

8.4.4 Upgrading from the Glossary Package

Can you help me upgrade my document from using the old glossary package to the new glossaries package? Try reading [Upgrading from the glossary package to the glossaries package](#)

Why doesn't the new glossaries package create command names for the acronyms like the old glossary package? There are a number of reasons:

1. The new way of accessing terms using commands like `\gls` is more compatible with standard L^AT_EX syntax.
2. Each term would require a command for the single as well as plural term, as well as commands to generate the upper case versions. For a large glossary that can amount to a lot of extra commands.
3. Provision would also be needed to allow for the optional arguments, which is awkward as commands such as `\gls` have 2 optional arguments, one before and one after the mandatory argument. Without the mandatory argument, you would need to use an empty optional first argument if you want to use the second argument, which is a nuisance.

If you really want to, as from v1.18, you can use `\oldacronym` which emulates the old `glossary` package's syntax. See the [section on acronyms](#) in the `glossaries` documentation.

8.4.5 Sorting and Collating Entries

How do I get TeXnicCenter to use makeglossaries.bat? This is described in the [introductory guide](#) in the LaTeX Community's [Know How](#) section.

How do I get WinEdt to make the glossaries? This is explained in a [thread on comp.text.tex](#).

Do I have to use makeglossaries? No, you can use makeindex or xindy directly, but you will need to remember to use it for each glossary that has been defined, and you will need to remember all the relevant switches. If you want to use xindy, you must remember to use the `xindy` option when loading the `glossaries` package. See [Generating the associated glossary files](#) for further details.

Alternatively, you can use the [MakeGlossariesGUI](#) Java application.

How do I change the way entries are sorted? If it's for an individual entry, then you can use the entry's `sort` key to sort it according to a different term. If it's for the entire alphabet, then you will need to use `xindy` (instead of `makeindex`) and use an appropriate `xindy` language module. I'm sorry, I can't give any assistance with writing or adapting `xindy` modules or styles. If you want help, try the `xindy` mailing list on the [Xindy Web Site](#).

8.4.6 Documentation

The manual is very long, is there an introductory guide? There is now a separate [beginners guide](#) distributed with the `glossaries` package. There is also [an introductory guide](#) in the LaTeX Community's [Know How](#) section.

What's happened to the Quick Guide for the Impatient section in the manual? I've replaced it with a [separate beginners guide](#).

9 probsoln FAQ

9.1 Unexpected Output

9.1.1 I have lots of blank space before the first problem when using `\selectrandomly`

This is probably because you have lots of extraneous white space in your database. `\selectrandomly` will input the entire file, so any extra space will be included. Try commenting out the extra space using `%`.

As from version 3.0, you can first load the problems using `\loadselectedproblems`, and then iterate through the data set using `\foreachproblem`, so you may find it easier to load the problems in the preamble where the space between problem definitions won't matter. (Spaces occurring within problem definitions will still matter.) Then in the document you can iterate through the data set.

9.2 Error Messages

9.2.1 Label ... already used

Each label identifier used in `defproblem` or `\newproblem` must be unique. Check to make sure you haven't used the same label more than once. Also check to make sure you haven't loaded the same file more than once.

9.2.2 Label ... undefined

You need to define a problem before you can use it. Check to make sure you haven't mis-spelt it, and check to make sure you have used the file in which it is defined either via `\input`, `\loadallproblems` or `\loadselectedproblems`. If you have used `\loadrandomproblems`, you shouldn't try referencing a problem since there's a chance it may not have been selected.

9.2.3 Requested number too large

You have asked for more problems than are defined within the specified file. All problems in that file will be selected.

9.2.4 Can't randomly select $\langle n \rangle$ item(s)

You have asked to randomly select $\langle n \rangle$ items from a list that has less than $\langle n \rangle$ elements. For example, the following will generate this error:

```
\doforrandN{10}{\file}{file1,file2,file3}{%
\loadrandomproblems{2}{\file}}
```

In this case the list, `file1,file2,file3` has only 3 elements, but the user has asked for 10 elements. If you type "h" at the L^AT_EX prompt, it will tell you how many items it thinks there are in the list. Remember that each item must be separated by a comma.

9.2.5 Lonely `\item`—perhaps missing list environment

Each problem selected using `\selectrandomly` is proceeded by `\PSNitem` which by default is defined as `\item`, and should therefore be placed in one of the list environments, such as `enumerate`. Alternatively, redefine `\PSNitem`.

As from v3.0, you can iterate through a data set using `\foreachproblem` and which doesn't use `\PSNitem` as it leaves it up to you to decide how to format the problems in the body of the loop.

9.2.6 Something's wrong—perhaps a missing `\item`

This error occurs when you have a list type of environment with out any items. So if the data set is empty (i.e. you haven't defined any problems yet, or you have loaded all the problems into a different data set) then the following code

```
\begin{enumerate}
\foreachproblem{\item\thisproblem}
\end{enumerate}
```

will produce this error message (because the body of the loop never gets implemented because there aren't any problems).

9.2.7 I get an error when I put a command definition in my database when using `\selectrandomly`

`\selectrandomly` inputs the database twice, so any command definition will be read twice, causing an error. You can use the switch `\iffirstpass` to prevent the error. For example:

```

\iffirstpass
\newcommand{\mycmd}{\fi}
\fi

```

However it is generally not a good idea to put anything other than problem definitions (`\newproblem` or `defproblem`) within the database. Note that if you use `\loadallproblems`, `\loadselectedproblems` or `\loadrandomproblems`, the file will be loaded within a group, so any commands in the file that occur outside of problem definitions will only have a local effect.

9.2.8 The solution environment is already defined

As from version 2.03, the `probsoln` package will not define the `solution` environment if it has already been defined.

9.2.9 Missing `}` inserted

This error can be caused if you try to put verbatim text inside the body of `onlyproblem` or `onlysolution`. See next item.

9.2.10 I get an error when using verbatim text

Remember that you can't use verbatim text in command arguments (see [Why doesn't verbatim work within...?](#)). You also can't use verbatim text within the environments `defproblem`, `onlysolution` or `onlyproblem` since they have to gather their contents and pass the contents in the argument of a command.

9.3 General Queries

9.3.1 How do I substitute the word “Solution” for something else?

Redefine `\solutionname`. For example:

```

\renewcommand{\solutionname}{La soluci\'on}

```

9.3.2 How do I change the way the word “Solution” is formatted?

Redefine the `solution` environment (as from version 2.01). For example:

```

\renewenvironment{solution}{\par\textsf{\solutionname}}{\fi}

```

9.3.3 How do I insert something at the end of each problem?

As from v3.0, you can use `\foreachproblem` to iterate through each problem in the data set. It's then up to you to decide how to format each problem. For example, if you want each problem to be in a separate item of a numbered list, followed by a horizontal line:

```

\begin{enumerate}
\foreachproblem{\item\thisproblem\par\hrulefill}
\end{enumerate}

```

9.3.4 How do I stop `\selectrandomly` from using `\item`?

As from version 3.0, you can first load the randomly selected problems using `\loadrandomproblems` and then iterate through the data set using `\foreachproblem`. It's then up to you to format the problems. For example, suppose you want multiple choice style questions formatted in a tabular style environment with the question in the first column and possible answers in the subsequent columns. Then you could define the problems in the following style:

```
\begin{defproblem}{sample}%  
What is  $2+3$ ? & 1 & 5 & 10 & 42  
\end{defproblem}
```

Then load the problems (say you want to randomly select 10 problems from `myproblems.tex`):

```
\loadrandomproblems{10}{myproblems}
```

Now display the problems:

```
\begin{tabular}{lllll}  
\bfseries Question & \bfseries A & \bfseries B & \bfseries C &   
\bfseries D\\  
\foreachproblem{\thisproblem\\}%  
\end{tabular}
```

(If the table is likely to be longer than a page, then use `longtable` or `supertabular` instead of `tabular`.)

9.3.5 How do I align my problems in a table instead of a list?

See previous answer.

9.3.6 How do I determine whether or not the answers are being displayed?

Use the boolean variable `showanswers`. For example:

```
Problem Sheet 1\ifthenelse{\boolean{showanswers}}{(Solutions)}{}
```

As from version 3.0, you can also use the environments `onlyproblem` and `onlysolution`.

9.3.7 How can I define a problem without a solution (e.g. an essay style question)?

As from version 3.0, you can just use the `defproblem` environment. For example:

```
\begin{defproblem}{inheritance}%  
Describe what is meant by the term \emph{inheritance} in  
object-oriented programming. Use examples.%  
\end{defproblem}
```

As from version 2.03 you can use `\newproblem*`. For example:

```
\newproblem*{inheritance}{Describe what is meant by the term  
\emph{inheritance} in object-oriented programming. Use examples.}
```

9.3.8 How do I select all problems from a database in the order in which they were defined?

As from version 3.0, you can load all problems in a file using `\loadallproblems` and then iterate through the data set using `\foreachproblem`.

As from version 2.02, you can use the command `\selectallproblems`. For example, if your problems are defined in the file `probs.tex`:

```
\begin{enumerate}
\selectallproblems{probs}
\end{enumerate}
```

As with `\selectrandomly`, `\selectallproblems` uses `\PSNitem` at the start of each problem.