

Example:

CASE: PARTY A AND PARTY B  
COURT: SUPREME COURT OF XYZ  
BENCH: NAME J  
DATE: 07 AUG 2020

Transcript

[Something is about to happen.]

[This comment is defined by its line, rather than by braces.]

THE COURT (JUDGE GAVEL): How do you plead?

DEFENDANT: I didn't do it.

PLAINTIFF: Oh yes he did.

COUNSEL (DEF): I object!

THE COURT: Sustained!

WITNESS: Oh no he didn't.

JURY: Not guilty!

[The case is finished.]

DEFENDANT: I'm so happy. Now to give a long speech thanking the jury: ...

PLAINTIFF: quite quickly. Quietly quietly. [?]

WITNESS (PROFESSOR KNOWALL): Yes, that's right.

THE COURT: You may go now. Next case!

COUNSEL (PL): [INAUDIBLE]

THE COURT: Switch on your microphone, Counsel.

=VOICES OVERLAPPING=

COUNSEL FOR THE PLAINTIFF (SLICKER GREENHORN): I apologise for that,  
Your Honour. I'm here to represent the plaintiff in ...[interrupted]

=SHOUTING=

THE COURT: Order in the Court!

COUNSEL (PL): ...[continues] to represent

THE COURT: Remove that rascalion from the rafters! Call the next  
witness.

WITNESS (EL ZORRO): [SPEAKS IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE]

TRANSLATOR: I am known as The Fox [?]

COUNSEL (PL): We know who you are. Now,

=LAUGHTER IN COURT=

THE COURT: Time for a short recess.

COURT ADJOURNS 11:18 am

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1 COURT RESUMES 11:20 am  
2 THE COURT: Now, you realise you are still under oath?  
3 WITNESS: Yes Your Honour.

4 --\*\*\*\*\*--

## INTRODUCTION

This template, more-or-less standalone, and inspired by some answers to a question on  $\text{\TeX}$  Stack Exchange,<sup>1</sup> provides some shorthand commands for touch-type transcription of a (fast-moving) conversation in court, with the letter `q` being defined as an escape character to take some of the typing load off the `\` key (albeit at the other end of the keyboard). To get an ordinary `q`, double it like this `qq`. And `\` can still be used as the escape character. This `q` method will eventually clash with some command or package somewhere if any are added into the code, but, within its own space, it works well enough. Familiarity with  $\text{\TeX}$  layout is an advantage.

Speaker names can be defined 'on-the-fly', and text formatting is embedded within the commands, so that formatting does not have to be typed separately.

To reduce typing even further, some commands that take a parameter can be typed on their own line without the need for any `{` or `}`, with the rest of the line being taken as the parameter.

```
qtcomm This is a comment
```

```
[This is a comment]
```

Otherwise, the commands can follow each other inline, as the context allows. The cryptic `qtpr qyh s, if I may take you to section ...qtc Yes, Mr Crown. qtpr 42 of the Act.` produces:

```
PROSECUTION: Your Honours, if I may take you to section ...
```

```
THE COURT: Yes, Mr Crown.
```

```
PROSECUTION: 42 of the Act.
```

Trial by transcript can seldom be an adequate representation of an oral trial before a judge or an oral trial before a judge and jury.

-- McHugh J, in *Rosenberg v Percival* [2001] HCA 18; (2001) 205 CLR 434 at 448.

MS. ROSS: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it please the Court: It is a fundamental principle of trademark law that no party can obtain a trademark for a generic term like "wine," "cotton," or "grain."

-- Transcript of oral argument, 04 May 2020, page 3 lines 10-15, in *United States Patent and Trademark Office versus Booking.com*

[https://www.supremecourt.gov/oral\\_arguments/argument\\_transcripts/2019/19-46\\_b\7d.pdf](https://www.supremecourt.gov/oral_arguments/argument_transcripts/2019/19-46_b\7d.pdf)

<sup>1</sup><https://tex.stackexchange.com/questions/557680/fastest-typed-latex-template-for-live-conversations>

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## 2

3

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## 1.2 Speaking

2

qta ...[interrupted]  
qtb ...[continues]  
qti [INAUDIBLE]  
qtlp [LONG PAUSE]  
qtl [SPEAKS IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE]  
qtu [?]

1

### 1.3 Phrases

2

qalc	as the Court pleases
qalh	as Your Honour pleases
qalp	as Your Lordship pleases
qalpy	as Your Ladyship pleases
qml	My Lord
qmlu	Your Lordship
qmly	My Lady
qmlyu	Your Ladyship
qpc	May it please the Court
qyh	Your Honour
qyw	Your Worship

1

## 1.4 Stages

2

qtadjourn COURT ADJOURNS  
qtresume COURT RESUMES

## 1.5 Structure

qtran Transcript

qthead{HEADING} HEADING

qtm casename

CASE: CASENAME

qtcrt court name

COURT: COURT NAME

qtbench presiding judge(s)/justice(s)

BENCH: PRESIDING JUDGE(S)/JUSTICE(S)

qtdate a date

DATE: A DATE



## 1.6 Events

qtg{Generic description}

=GENERIC DESCRIPTION=

qtgg a generic description

=A GENERIC DESCRIPTION=

qtbreak

+++++

qtf

=CONFUSION IN COURT=

qtlol

=LAUGHTER IN COURT=

qts

=SHOUTING=

qtv

=VOICES OVERLAPPING=

qtend

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## 1.7 {} parameter commands

Command	Display
qcomm{Comment}	[Comment]
qtcc{name}	THE COURT (NAME):
qtpx{name}	PLAINTIFF (NAME):
qtppp{name}	COUNSEL FOR THE PLAINTIFF (NAME):
qtdx{name}	DEFENDANT (NAME):
qtddd{name}	COUNSEL FOR THE DEFENDANT (NAME):
qtpr{name}	NAME FOR THE PROSECUTION:
qtprx{name}	PROSECUTION (NAME):
qtdee{name}	NAME FOR THE DEFENCE:
qtdex{name}	DEFENCE (NAME):
qtw{name}	WITNESS (NAME):
qt{tt}{name}	TRANSLATOR (NAME):
qtapp{name}	NAME FOR THE APPELLANT:
qtapx{name}	APPELLANT (NAME):
qt{ree}{name}	NAME FOR THE RESPONDENT:
qt{rex}{name}	RESPONDENT (NAME):

## 1.8 Dynamic names

For creating names on-the-fly,

qtname{a}{b} creates a command qya which expands to

B:

So that qtname{who}{the doctor}, qtname{whit}{leela}, and  
qtname{dog}{k9} create qywho, qywhit and qydog which expand to

THE DOCTOR:

LEELA:

and

K9:

A defined name can be re-defined with qtnamer, so that  
qtnamer{who}{clara} resets qywho such that it now produces

CLARA:

## 1.9 Rest-of-line parameter commands

qtcomm This text is on a line

[This text is on a line]

qtgg a generic description

=A GENERIC DESCRIPTION=

--\*\*\*\*\*--