

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

+++++

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

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

5 The foregoing was produced by:

```
    ¶tmm party a and party b
    ¶tcrt supreme court of xyz
    ¶tbench name j
    ¶tdate 07 aug 2020
    ¶ttran
    ¶comm{Something is about to happen.}
    ¶tcomm This comment is defined by its line, rather than by
braces.

    ¶tcc{judge gavel} How do you plead? ¶td I didn't do it. ¶tp
Oh yes he did. ¶tdd I object! ¶tc Sustained! ¶tw Oh no he
didn't. ¶tj Not guilty!

    ¶comm{The case is finished.} ¶td I'm so happy. Now to give
a long speech thanking the jury: \ldots ¶tp quite quickly.
Quietly quietly. ¶tu ¶tww{professor knowall} Yes, that's
right. ¶tc You may go now. Next case! ¶tpp ¶ti ¶tc Switch on
your microphone, Counsel. ¶tv ¶tppp{Slicker Greenhorn} I
apologise for that, ¶yh. I'm here to represent the plaintiff
in ¶ta ¶ts ¶tc Order in the Court! ¶tpp ¶tb to represent ¶tc
Remove that rapscallion from the rafters! Call the next
witness. ¶tww{el zorro} ¶tl ¶ttr I am known as The Fox ¶tu
¶tpp We know who you are. Now, ¶tlol ¶tc Time for a short
recess. ¶tadjourn 11:18 am ¶tbreak ¶tresume 11:20 am ¶tc Now,
you realise you are still under oath? ¶tw Yes ¶yh. ¶tend
```

## 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 character  $\text{\textasciitilde}$  being defined as an escape character to take some of the typing load off the  $\backslash$  key (albeit off the keyboard). To get an ordinary  $\text{\textasciitilde}$ , double it like this  $\text{\textasciitilde}\text{\textasciitilde}$ . And  $\backslash$  can still be used as the escape character. This  $\text{\textasciitilde}$  method will eventually clash with some command or package somewhere if any are added into the code (or kernel), 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.

```
 $\text{\textasciitilde}\text{tcomm}$  This is a comment
```

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

Otherwise, the commands can follow each other inline, as the context allows. The cryptic  $\text{\textasciitilde}\text{tpr}$   $\text{\textasciitilde}\text{yh}$   $s$ , if I may take you to section ... $\text{\textasciitilde}\text{tc}$  Yes, Mr Crown.  $\text{\textasciitilde}\text{tpr}$  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\\_bq7d.pdf](https://www.supremecourt.gov/oral_arguments/argument_transcripts/2019/19-46_bq7d.pdf)

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

# 1 Commands

## 1.1 Speakers

Command	Display
¶tc	THE COURT:
¶tp	PLAINTIFF:
¶tpp	COUNSEL (PL):
¶td	DEFENDANT:
¶tdd	COUNSEL (DEF):
¶tpr	PROSECUTION:
¶tde	DEFENCE:
¶tw	WITNESS:
¶ttr	TRANSLATOR:
¶tj	JURY:
¶tap	APPELLANT:
¶tre	RESPONDENT:

1

## 1.2 Speaking

2

¶ta ...[interrupted]  
¶tb ...[continues]  
¶ti [INAUDIBLE]  
¶tim [MUMBLES]  
¶tin [INCOMPEHENSIBLE]  
¶tis [SOFTLY]  
¶tlp [LONG PAUSE]  
¶tl [SPEAKS IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE]  
¶tu [?]

3

¶tem{emphasis}                    emphasis  
¶temm{more\ emphasis}           moreemphasis  
¶temmm{strongest\ emphasis}   strongest emphasis  
¶tspell{spell}                   s-p-e-l-l

1

### 1.3 Phrases

2

¶alc as the Court pleases  
¶alh as Your Honour pleases  
¶alp as Your Lordship pleases  
¶alpy as Your Ladyship pleases  
¶ml My Lord  
¶mlu Your Lordship  
¶mly My Lady  
¶mlyu Your Ladyship  
¶pc May it please the Court  
¶yh Your Honour  
¶yw Your Worship

1

## 1.4 Stages

2

¶tadjourn COURT ADJOURNS  
¶tresume COURT RESUMES

## 1.5 Structure

¶tran

Transcript

¶thead{HEADING}

HEADING

¶tmm casename

CASE: CASENAME

¶tcrt court name

COURT: COURT NAME

¶tbench presiding judge(s)/justice(s)

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

¶tdate hearing date

DATE: HEARING DATE



## 1.6 Events

`{tg{Generic description}`

`=GENERIC DESCRIPTION=`

`{tgg a generic description`

`=A GENERIC DESCRIPTION=`

`{tbreak`

`+++++`

`{tf`

`=CONFUSION IN COURT=`

`{tlo1`

`=LAUGHTER IN COURT=`

`{ts`

`=SHOUTING=`

`{tv`

`=VOICES OVERLAPPING=`

`{tend`

`--*****--`

## 1.7 {} parameter commands

Command	Display
<code>\comm{Comment}</code>	<code>[Comment]</code>

These are for use on first introduction. Subsequently, role or defined name may be used.

Command	Display
<code>\tcc{name}</code>	THE COURT (NAME):
<code>\tpx{name}</code>	PLAINTIFF (NAME):
<code>\tppp{name}</code>	COUNSEL FOR THE PLAINTIFF (NAME):
<code>\tdx{name}</code>	DEFENDANT (NAME):
<code>\tddd{name}</code>	COUNSEL FOR THE DEFENDANT (NAME):
<code>\tpr{name}</code>	NAME FOR THE PROSECUTION:
<code>\tprx{name}</code>	PROSECUTION (NAME):
<code>\tdee{name}</code>	NAME FOR THE DEFENCE:
<code>\tdex{name}</code>	DEFENCE (NAME):
<code>\tw{name}</code>	WITNESS (NAME):
<code>\ttt{name}</code>	TRANSLATOR (NAME):
<code>\tapp{name}</code>	NAME FOR THE APPELLANT:
<code>\tapx{name}</code>	APPELLANT (NAME):
<code>\tree{name}</code>	NAME FOR THE RESPONDENT:
<code>\trex{name}</code>	RESPONDENT (NAME):

## 1.8 Dynamic names

For creating names on-the-fly,

`\tname{a}{b}` creates a command `\ya` which expands to  
B:

So that `\tname{who}{the doctor}`, `\tname{whit}{leela}`, and  
`\tname{dog}{k9}` create `\ywho`, `\ywhit` and `\ydog` which expand to  
THE DOCTOR:  
LEELA:  
and  
K9:

A defined name can be re-defined with `\tname`, so that  
`\tname{who}{clara}` resets `\ywho` such that it now produces  
CLARA:

## 1.9 Rest-of-line parameter commands

`¶tcomm This text is on a line`

`[This text is on a line]`

`¶tgg a generic description`

`=A GENERIC DESCRIPTION=`

`--*****--`