

# A one page, dictatorial guide to L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X packages

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## Summary

This is a list of the packages that are in my opinion the most useful for writing papers and theses in linguistics. I have made no attempt to justify the choices, but I find almost all of these packages useful in my own work. You can think of this list as a “How do I do X” list. Unless noted, all packages are part of TeXLive and MikTeX.

## 1 Generally useful packages

- **geometry**  
set margins and general page layout
- **inputenc** (pdfLaTeX)  
accented characters in your source<sup>1,2</sup>
- **fancyhdr**  
headers and footers
- **array**  
improved tables
- **booktabs**  
nice looking tables
- **multicol**  
multiple column text
- **graphicx**  
inclusion of graphics
- **natbib**  
bibliography and citations<sup>3</sup>

## 2 Packages for customizing the looks of things

- **titlesec**  
customization of all section titles
- **enumitem**  
customization of any list environment
- **setspace**  
double and 1.5 spacing
- **parskip**  
unindented paragraphs separated by blank lines

## 3 Fonts

- **fontenc** if using pdfLaTeX  
accented characters in your output<sup>4</sup>
- **fontspec** if using XeLaTeX or LuaLaTeX.
- **mathptmx**, **mathpazo**, **helvet**  
Times (New) Roman; Palatino; Helvetica
- If you need other fonts, use XeLaTeX or LuaLaTeX  
which allow you to use any font installed in your system.

## 4 Linguistics packages

- **gb4e**  
linguistic examples and glosses<sup>5</sup>
- **cgloss**  
improved glosses<sup>6</sup>
- **tikz-qtrees**  
syntactic trees
- **forest**  
fancier and more compact syntactic trees
- **tipa**  
IPA fonts<sup>7</sup>
- **OTtblx**  
Optimality Theory tableaux<sup>8</sup>
- **stmaryrd**  
semantics brackets
- **amsmath**  
improved math support; useful also for linguistics

## 5 Other kinds of documents

### Book-length documents

- **memoir**  
this is a document class, and includes the functionality some of the packages mentioned above.<sup>9</sup>
- **msu-thesis**  
this is a complete class for MSU Theses and Dissertations based on memoir.

### Presentations

- **beamer**  
this is a document class for Powerpoint-like presentations

## 6 Drawing

- **tikz**  
Powerful drawing package

<sup>1</sup> Choose [utf8] and save your file in UTF-8. <sup>2</sup> Do not use inputenc with XeLaTeX or LuaLaTeX. <sup>3</sup> A very good alternative is biblatex. <sup>4</sup> Use [T1] option for most documents. <sup>5</sup> Do not use covington for examples. <sup>6</sup> Available from <http://www.let.uu.nl/~alexis.dimitriadis/personal/latex/> <sup>7</sup> Or use XeLaTeX/LuaLaTeX and a system IPA font. <sup>8</sup> Requires document to be compiled using latex+dvips or xelatex. Available from <http://sanders.phonologist.org/OTtblx/> <sup>9</sup> The KOMA classes are also good.