

# Top Ten Solutions To Common L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X Problems

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1. Normally use the article, book or report documentclass (or the slides documentclass for overhead slides).
2. Leave a blank line to start a new paragraph. Use `\noindent` before a paragraph to get a paragraph without paragraph indentation.
3. Watch out for special characters as listed in standard L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X documentation. Usually you just put a backslash `\` in front of the special character to get the character you want. (Exception: `+ = | ><`; all require `$` signs around them.)
4. For double-quotes in LaTeX, use two left single quotes `‘ ‘` to start your quoted statement and two right single quotes `’ ’` to end your quoted statement.
5. Use a tilde `~` (sticky space) after words such as Mr. or Mrs. or Dr. to prevent line breaking and use `\` after a period that does not end a sentence and is not after an uppercase letter.
6. To use different font styles and sizes, like a bold or a tiny character: enclose the area for the change in braces and use a command from the standard L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X font size list after the first brace to get the change that you want. For example: `{\tiny dog}` which gets you a tiny <sub>dog</sub>.
7. Do not underline items in L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X use emphasis `\emph{item}` instead.
8. Enter math mode with a `$` then use a `^` to get a superscript and `_` to get a subscript. Use `{}` to group items together in a superscript or

subscript— for example:  $\$a^{34}\$ \rightarrow a^{34}$  or  $\$b_7\$ \rightarrow b_7$ . Remember to leave math mode with another  $\$$  before you continue on.

9. You can divide your paper into parts by using the following sectioning commands: `\chapter` (not available in article), `\section`, `\subsection`, `\subsubsection`, `\paragraph`, and `\subparagraph`.
10. Use `\` or `\space` to put in a required blank into your document or use `\hspace` or `\vspace`; for example: `\vspace{1 in}`— to add horizontal or vertical space within your document. You must have something on a page before you can do a `\vspace` so if necessary do a `\space` followed by a `\vspace`. You can also use `\hspace*` or `\vspace*` to force horizontal or vertical space into a document. Use `\newpage` to force L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X to go to a new page in your document.