

# The spacekern package

## Kerning between words and against space

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2023/07/08 v0.3

### 1 Introduction

For typesetting a short space,  $\LaTeX$  provides the `\,` macro. However, there are several issues with it. First, the following word is not hyphenated. Furthermore, kerning against space is not applied. And finally, the inserted space is non-breaking, which may not be desirable in many cases.

For this reason, the `spacekern` package provides shorthands for typesetting breaking and non-breaking short spaces where both hyphenation and kerning against space are correctly applied. By default, the `\,` macro is redefined accordingly.

The other main feature of this package is the application of interword kerning.

Please note that this does not necessarily lead to better results in all cases. For example, if kerning against space is defined for a glyph, interword kerning might be superfluous and result in too little spacing. Also, you should be aware that interword kerning regularly deals with glyph combinations that do not occur within words and for which the font therefore does not provide kerning.

### 2 Basic usage

To load the package, simply add the following line to the preamble of the document:

```
\usepackage{spacekern}
```

### 3 Package options

Options can be loaded by adding them comma separated within square brackets:

```
\usepackage[<option1>,<option2>,...]{spacekern}
```

`noiwkern` By default, interword kerning is applied. This option disables it.

`noredef` Disables the redefinition of `\,`.

## 4 Shorthands and Macros

- `;;` Typesets a small breaking space.
- `;;;` Typesets a small non-breaking space.
- `\semicolon` This macro allows the user to typeset consecutive semicolons.

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