The Pie-Eating Contest

PracTeX Journal Reader

July 15, 2005

This year's contest is about to begin and the defending champion, Fuji Apple, is nervous but confident. "I'm back and ready to face the competition and 'face' the pies," he boasted. Last year Fuji stunned everyone by eating 15% more pie in the allotted time than any of his competitors, and took home the $100 first prize generously provided by the sponsor, Rise & Shine Yeast Company.

The field has some tough competitors. Bing Cherry is last year's #2 finisher — he nearly won but had a −10 point penalty for using his hands. The Frenchman with the *grand appétit*, Tarte A. Tatin, will need to increase his intake by 7–8% to move into one of the top positions.

The competitors' faces are perched over the pie-filled tables, and their hands are clasped behind their backs. Mr. P. I. "Simple" Simon, the contest judge, points the starting gun skyward as he looks intently at his watch. Ready . . . Set . . . Who will win it this year?

$* - * - *$

Here is the "corrected" input for the PracTeX Journal pitfalls contest, along with some commentary by Barbara Beeton.

```
\documentclass{article}

\begin{document}

\title{The Pie-Eating Contest}
\author{Prac\TeX\ Journal Reader}
```

Since spaces are gobbled following *control words*, a "slash space" has been used following "`\TeX`" (`\TeX\ `) to make sure a space appears. Other acceptable approaches are to use an *empty group* (`\TeX{}`) or enclose the control word in braces (`Prac{\TeX}`); the last two are better choices at the end of a line in the input file, as final spaces on a line may get lost, and there's no guarantee that an end-of-line character has the same meaning as the space, even though that's the default.

```
\date{July 15, 2005}
\maketitle

This year's contest is about to begin and the defending champion, Fuji
Apple, is nervous but confident.  ''I'm back and ready to face the
competition and 'face' the pies,'' he boasted.  Last year Fuji stunned
```

Typeset quotes should be *directional*, different on the left and on the right; this
applies to both double and single quotes. Many word processors provide only
the "ditto" character ("); some good TeX editors automatically convert the
ditto into the proper directional double quotes, but don't count on it.

```
everyone by eating 15\% more pie in the allotted time than any of his
competitors, and took home the \$100 first prize generously provided
by the sponsor, Rise \& Shine Yeast Company.
```

```
The field has some tough competitors. Bing Cherry is last year's \#2
```

The percent sign (%), dollar sign ($), ampersand (&) and number sign (#) have
special functions in LaTeX, and must be *escaped* by preceding these characters
by a backslash: \%, \$, \$ and \#.

```
finisher --- he nearly won but had a $-10$ point penalty for using
```

A break in a thought can be indicated by an *em-dash*, input as three hyphens in
a row (---). A minus sign is input as a hyphen within math—between dollar
signs or \(...\) . Here, in order to ensure a *unary minus* with proper spacing,
the negated numerals are also included within the math context.

```
his hands.  The Frenchman with the \emph{grand app\'etit}, Tarte~A.
```

Phrases in a foreign language are often *emphasized,* by using the \emph{...}
construction. See below regarding names with initials.

```
Tatin, will need to increase his intake by 7--8\% to move into one
```

Another dash—the *en-dash*—indicates a range, and is input as two hyphens
in a row (--).

```
of the top positions.
```

```
The competitors' faces are perched over the pie-filled tables, and their
hands are clasped behind their backs.  Mr.~P.~I. ''Simple'' Simon, the
```

There are several different concerns about names. First, abbreviated titles are
best not separated from the rest of the name; also, abbreviations that end with
a lowercase letter will be interpreted by TeX as the end of a sentence, and
followed by a wider space. To eliminate both problems at once, use a *tie* (~)
both to avoid a line break and to use an ordinary word space. Another concern
with names is the treatment of initials: multiple initials shouldn't be allowed to

break at the end of a line, nor should initials be broken from a first name. The tie can be used here as well, but a slightly nicer solution for multiple initials is to use a thin space (`P.\,I.` — P. I.). Some authors simply omit spaces altogether between initials (P.I.), but that's too drastic.

```
contest judge, points the starting gun skyward as he looks intently at his
watch.  Ready~\dots{} Set~\dots{} Who will win it this year?
```

Here's another situation where a line break would interrupt a thought inappropriately; the tie is used to prevent it. The *ellipsis* is input using `\dots` (or `\ldots`) to get correct spacing between the dots, and an empty group keeps the following space from being gobbled without reducing the space to an ordinary word space.

```
\end{document}
```