

Assignment 1- Common Feedback and L^AT_EX compiler errors

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1 Feedback

1.1 Lists

For your introduction, we expected a descriptive list, and an unordered list nested within it:

```
1 \begin{description}
2   \item [Name] Mihir Vahanwala. “Mihir” means “The
3     sun.”
4   %use a backward inverted comma for open quotes!
5   \item [Department] Computer Science and Engineering
6   \item [Music] Here’s another non-exhaustive list of
7     my favourite songs!
8   \begin{itemize}
9     \item Sweet Child O’ Mine (Guns N’ Roses)
10    \item Madari (Clinton Cerejo , Coke Studio)
11    \item Nothing Else Matters (Metallica)
12  \end{itemize}
13 \end{description}
```

Name Mihir Vahanwala. “Mihir” means “The sun.”

Department Computer Science and Engineering

Music Here’s another non-exhaustive list of my favourite songs!

- Sweet Child O’ Mine (Guns N’ Roses)
- Madari (Clinton Cerejo, Coke Studio)
- Nothing Else Matters (Metallica)

Note: There was an oversight in the original tutorial that was uploaded: the `\textbf` in the square parenthesis is redundant. Apologies.

1.2 Text Formatting

Here are a couple of subtle points we wish to bring to your notice:

Here is a paragraph with a lot of indentation; different

FROM THIS TEXT, WHICH IS CENTRED.

Here's how we did it:

```
1 \setlength{\parindent}{8em}
2 Here is a paragraph with a lot of indentation; different
3
4 \vspace{2em}
5
6 \begin{center}
7   \textsc{From this text, which is centred.}
8 \end{center}
9
10 \setlength{\parindent}{0em}
11 %set the indentation back to normal
```

1.3 Quotation Marks

A lot of you have used " the double quotes symbol for quotation marks. \LaTeX renders the double quotes symbol as ” regardless of whether it closes or opens the quotation.

The correct way to do it is use `` two backticks (the key above TAB on a conventional keyboard) to open the quote, and two single quotes (or a double quote) to close the quote''. \LaTeX will correctly render the “quotation marks”

2 Common Errors

This is a brief, and certainly not exhaustive list of compiler errors that you might have run into.

2.1 Undefined control sequence

This means that the compiler was unable to interpret one (or more) of your commands. The most probable reasons are:

- You made a typo while declaring the command. For example, $\text{\textcolour{red}\text}$ throws an error; you must use the American spelling $\text{\textcolor{red}\text}$ instead.

- You forgot to import the package that provides this command. If you don't declare `\usepackage{xcolor}` in the preamble, `\textcolor{red}{text}` still throws an error, because the compiler has no idea where to look to know how to actually interpret your command.
- Text after a backslash (`\`) is taken to be a command. You might want to write something like `\foobar`. The naive `\foobar` throws an error, because `foobar` isn't a command that's predefined. Try using `\verb!\!foobar` to typeset the backslash verbatim. In math mode (more on that in Week 3), use the `\backslash` command to typeset.

Note: The first two points also explain **Undefined environment**. We've introduced the concept of environments in Week 1, and we shall learn more in Week 3.

2.2 Color related errors

The compiler tends to throw an error when you supply percentages more than 100 while mixing colours. For example, `\color{red!120!black}` is problematic; while `\color{red!50!black}` is ok. If you're scratching your head over how to achieve an effect, please refer to the documentation. However, the introductory page should serve most purposes.

Clarification: this is how it's parsed

red it's pure red

red!50 it's red, taken in 50% proportion with white. A light shade

red!50!blue it's violet, with equal proportions of red and blue. call this "violet"

red!50!blue!50 equivalent to `violet!50`. Lighter violet (50% white)

red!50!blue!60!black equivalent to `violet!60!black`. Dark violet, 40% black. Call this "darkviolet".

red!50!blue!60!black!40 equivalent to `darkviolet!40`

Please avoid specifying percentages more than 100.

2.3 Overfull hbox

This error, or rather, warning, can safely be ignored for now; (it might be useful to pay attention to it later on in the course, while inserting tables, figures, etc.)

It generally isn't your fault. While justifying blocks of text, \LaTeX may have to break words at the end of the line, and throws this warning when it comes across a word it doesn't know how to break.

2.4 L^AT_EX equivalent of a missing semicolon

Make sure you end all the environments you begin. It's incredibly frustrating to see that the compiler gets stuck, until you realise you're missing an `\end{document}`.

Also, make it a habit to close all parentheses (processing blocks) you open. This avoids the **Runaway argument?** errors.