The \texttt{xspace} package\footnote{This file has version number v1.06, last revised 1997/10/13.} \\

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\textbf{Abstract} \\
\texttt{xspace} should be used at the end of a macro designed to be used mainly in text. It adds a space unless the macro is followed by certain punctuation characters. 

\section{Introduction} 

After \texttt{\newcommand{\gb}{Great Britain\xspace}} \\
\texttt{\gb} is a very nice place to live. 
Great Britain is a very nice place to live. 
\texttt{\gb}, a small island off the coast of France. 
Great Britain, a small island off the coast of France. 

\texttt{xspace} saves the user from having to type \textbackslash{} or \{} after most occurrences of a macro name in text. However if either of these constructions follows \texttt{xspace}, a space is not added by \texttt{xspace}. This means that it is safe to add \texttt{xspace} to the end of an existing macro without making too many changes in your document. 

Sometimes \texttt{xspace} may make the wrong decision, and add a space when it is not required. In these cases follow the macro with \texttt{\{}$, as this has the effect of suppressing the space. 

Note that this package must be loaded after any language (or other) packages that make punctuation characters ‘active’. 

\section{The Macros} 

\begin{verbatim} 
\xspace \texttt{xspace} just looks ahead, and then calls \texttt{@xspace}. 
\end{verbatim} 

\begin{verbatim} 
\DeclareRobustCommand\xspace{\futurelet\@let@token\@xspace} 
\end{verbatim} 

\begin{verbatim} 
@xspace If the next token is one of a specified list of characters, do nothing, otherwise add a space. If you often use a different punctuation character, add the appropriate line (do not forget the \texttt{\fi} at the end!) 
\end{verbatim} 

\begin{verbatim} 
\def\xspace{
\ifx\@let@token\bgroup\else
\ifx\@let@token\egroup\else
\ifx\@let@token/\else
\fi\fi\fi
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When I first wrote this there were about half a dozen \fi here, and I thought that was bad enough.