

The `xspace` package*

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Abstract

`\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.

1 Introduction

After `\newcommand{\gb}{Great Britain\xspace}`

`\gb` is a very nice place to live.

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`\gb`, a small island off the coast of France.

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

Sometimes `\xspace` may make the wrong decision, and add a space when it is not required. In these cases follow the macro with `{}`, 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’.

2 The Macros

```
1 (*package)
```

```
\xspace \xspace just looks ahead, and then calls \@xspace.
```

```
2 \DeclareRobustCommand\xspace{\futurelet\@let@token\xspace}
```

```
\@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 \fi at the end!)
```

```
3 \def\@xspace{%
4   \ifx\@let@token\bgroup\else
5   \ifx\@let@token\egroup\else
6   \ifx\@let@token\/\else
```

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