The xspace package*

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1997/10/13

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.`
Great Britain is a very nice place to live.
`\gb, a small island off the coast of France.`
Great Britain, a small island off the coast of France.

`\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'.

*This file has version number v1.06, last revised 1997/10/13.