

The Very Short Guide to LaTeX

This is the 1 October 2009 revision of the Guide. It is designed for printing on A4 paper, double-sided, and folding once to A5.

This revision corrects some minor typographical inconsistencies and rephrases some descriptions for greater clarity.

From the source comments:

This is the Very Short Guide to LaTeX, a 4pp folder designed as an *aide-mémoire* for people who have just done a course in LaTeX and need something by them on their desk the next day to refresh their memories. It is *not* intended as a substitute for full documentation.

Production notes

An earlier (Jan 2008) version was typeset on two A4 landscape pages ready to print, but this restricted the ways people wanted to print it, so this version is set as four normal A5 pages, leaving the imposition up to your printer driver.

Adobe Acrobat 9, for example, can print the PDF two-sided, two-up, landscape on A4 using the "Booklet Printing" option, and a ready-imposed PDF generated this way is included below. A similar effect can be achieved by preprocessing the PS output with the command

```
pstops -pa4 -b "4: -3L(30cm,0)+0L(30cm,14.85cm),1L(30cm,0)+-2L(30cm,14.85cm)" \
  veryshortguide.ps | ps2pdf - veryshortguide-imposed.pdf
```

The weird value of 30cm appears to be due to a bug in pstops (and in psbook: it ought to have been possible to use psbook and psnup for this, but that method does not allow for offsetting).

The page margins are set to 12mm, because many desktop inkjet printers cannot print the bottom 12mm of a sheet; it was felt best to equalise this all round, at the small expense of making the printable area slightly smaller.

The image shows a preview of the LaTeX guide document, divided into several columns. The first column contains introductory text and a table of contents. The second column discusses 'Basic document structure' with code examples for document classes and packages. The third column covers 'Tables and figures', showing a table and a figure. The fourth column discusses 'Footnotes, citations, references, and indexes'. The fifth column contains a 'References' section with a list of sources.

If you have been maintaining a mirror or other copy of this document, please update it with this version and delete the previous files.

License

This is free documentation, issued under the [LaTeX Project Public License](#).

Files

Source code

[veryshortguide.tex](#) 22K LaTeX source

Output

[veryshortguide.pdf](#) 480K PDF output

[veryshortguide-imposed.pdf](#) 312K PDF output

[veryshortguide.dvi](#) 30K DVI output

[veryshortguide.ps](#) 1.2M PS output

Images

[menno-a.eps](#) 444K Map (EPS)

[menno-a.jpg](#) 30K Map (JPG)

Peter Flynn