

April 30, 2007

**Question:** I am using the twocolumn option and L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X keeps giving me warning errors and then running words over the margin between my columns. Can I do anything about this?

Sincerely yours,

G. Friend

Hi G. Friend,

L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X is probably giving you warning errors on hyphenation. Basically, you need to either give L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X proper hyphenation for the words that are going over the margin or tell L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X to just relax and hyphenate at will.

Let's take the last solution first because it is the easiest. To tell L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X to relax and just hyphenate at will, just enter `\sloppy` at the start of your document. If you ever want to switch back to L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X being a lot more compulsive about its hyphenation, then just enter `\fussy`. Normally, you probably want to keep L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X in the default `\fussy` mode for much of the document but when using the twocolumn option you might want to use `\relax` for most of your document.

To give L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X hyphenation for the words it doesn't know how to hyphenate properly you can just enter the hyphenation into the word itself: `constit-``uents` or if you use the word a lot then you might want to stick the hyphenation into the preamble for use throughout the document:

```
\documentclass{article}
\hyphenation{constit-uents}
\begin{document}
```

Sincerely yours,

Joe Struss  
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