

April 30, 2007

Question: How can I change the inter-line spacing in an enumerate or description environment? I know both of these are lists but I've tried dozens of things but nothing seems to work... Thanks.

Hi,

To get an inter-line spacing change in a list sounds trivial but it's really kind of tricky. The enumerate and description environments are a specific form of the list environment and thus not easily altered as they reset their own environmental values internally. Of course, you can use the raw list environment, as can be seen in example 1 below- but then you have to supply your own counter so it gets kind of messy. A better idea, if your going to do this more than once, is to define your own environment (example 2a) and then you can just use it (example 2b) whenever you want. In either example 1 or example 2, `\itemsep` is probably what you want to change to alter inter-line spacing.

```
\documentclass{report}
% example 2a
\newcounter{fig2}
\newenvironment{figlist}{\begin{list}{\arabic{fig2}.}
{\usecounter{fig2}
\setlength{\itemsep}{0 in}}}
{\end{list}}
\begin{document}
```

Standard enumerated list:

```
\begin{enumerate}
\item The dogs of war
\item Eggs
\item Bacon
\item Flour, water and those cheesy bits that everyone loves so much and
that no one admits to buying
\item More cheesy bits
\end{enumerate}
```

Here is some text between my lists so I can see what is really going on

here and to generally put in some space between the lists for clarity.

Now here is example one that defines a complete list by itself:

```
% example 1
\newcounter{fig}
\begin{list}{\arabic{fig}.}
{\usecounter{fig}
\setlength{\itemsep}{0 in}}
\item The dogs of war
\item Eggs
\item Bacon
\item Flour, water and those cheesy bits that everyone loves so much and
that no one admits to buying
\item More cheesy bits
\end{list}
```

Here is some text between my lists so I can see what is really going on here and to generally put in some space between the lists for clarity.

Here is my Example 2b list that was defined in the preamble (see Example 2a) and can be used over and over again:

```
% example 2b
\begin{figlist}
\item The dogs of war
\item Eggs
\item Bacon
\item Flour, water and those cheesy bits that everyone loves so much and
that no one admits to buying
\item More cheesy bits
\end{figlist}
\end{document}
```

Sincerely yours,

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