

The extsizes classes

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The standard L^AT_EX classes (`article`, `report` etc) support ten, eleven and twelve point text. These are the commonest sizes used in publishing. However, for certain applications there may be a need for other sizes. The `extsizes` classes (`extarticle`, `extreport`, `extbook`, `extletter`, and `extproc`) provide support for sizes eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve, fourteen, seventeen and twenty points.

The `extsizes` classes and class options were first written by Wolfgang May, by adapting the standard L^AT_EX classes. James Kilfiger made some modifications and rewrote the size options.

1 Should you be using `extsizes`?

Don't use `extsizes` just because you think its cool, or because you think the font looks too small on the screen. You should have a clear reason why 10, 11 or 12 pt text is not suitable for you. Also the `extsizes` package is not suitable for creating oversize pages for scaling by a printer or photocopier, this can be done with the the `geometry` package and the `mag` option (another of my hacks I'm afraid). Good reasons for using the `extsizes` package might include conforming to requirements set by an examining institution, or making a large print copy for use by the partially sighted.

2 How to install `extsizes`.

You should place all the files in 'a place where T_EX can find them'. Examples of where T_EX looks for files include the `.../texmf/tex/latex` directory tree, a local `texmf` tree, anywhere specified in a `TEXINPUTS` environment variable or the same directory as your L^AT_EX documents. You should then refresh the file name database. This is done with a command '`texhash`' on t_EX distributions and from the start menu with MikT_EX. For other distributions of T_EX read the manual to see if this step is required.

3 How to use `extsizes`.

Your `documentclass` command should look like:

```
\documentclass[14pt]{extreport}
```

or

```
\documentclass[9pt]{extarticle}
```

The sizes available are 8pt, 9pt, 10pt, 11pt, 12pt, 14pt, 17pt, and 20pt. There should be no need to change any other part of your document.

There is also a package, `extsizes.sty`, which can be used with nonstandard document classes. But it cannot be guaranteed to work with any give class. Don't use it at the same time as one of the `extsizes` classes. It takes as package options 8pt–20pt. This comes from an idea of Hans Steffani.

4 Compatibility mode broken.

You cannot use these classes in 'compatibility mode', nor can they be used with L^AT_EX2.09. Therefore `\documentstyle[20pt]{extarticle}` won't work. Compatibility mode should not be used for new documents.

5 Bad line breaking.

If you are using 20pt text T_EX will probably have difficulty finding good line breaks, so you will get warnings about overfull hboxes. If this is distracting you may put `\sloppy` in the preamble of your document, but it is better to try to help T_EX to find good line breaks by inserting `\-` or rewriting short sections.

6 Warnings about Font substitutions.

The large class options use some very large fonts. Up to about 50pt for the 20pt class options. You may find this causes problems with if these fonts are not declared to be available by a `\DeclareFontShape` command. You should either use fonts like Times which are usually available in all sizes, or redeclare the fonts. There is an example of this in the `extsizes` classes for `cmr`. You should also read `fntguide`.

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