The foreign* package for LaTeX2e

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Abstract

This package affords the user automatic typeface differentiation (*e.g.* by italicising) of foreign (*e.g.* Latin) words, phrases and abbreviations. It is supplied with a number of predefined words, phrases and abbreviations that should normally be italicised in an English text. Macros are automatically applied to add periods and/or commas, where necessary. Note that, since the basic definitions are universal in form, the package is easily adaptable to languages *other* than English.

1 Introduction

It is standard practice to distinguish foreign words and expressions via the use of italics. The commands defined in this package are intended to aid in rendering this automatic and switchable; the default font change is *emphasis* via `\emph`.

With regard to punctuation (periods) in abbreviations and the use of different fonts or typefaces, the choice (more-or-less unavoidably) has been made to *exclude* such marks from any font changes; *i.e.* they always appear in the current default text font. The problem is due to the presence of periods that may *accidentally* coincide with natural sentence-ending full-stops. Since LaTeX cannot determine the actual syntactic rôle of such periods and any method of signalling this externally would be inevitably cumbersome, the package author has decided on the simplest course of action.

2 Usage

The call format for the package is

`\usepackage[`⟨*options*⟩`]{foreign}`,

`\defasforeign`
`\defnotforeign`
`\redefasforeign`
`\redefnotforeign`

while the syntax of the most general definition is

`\defasforeign[`⟨*foreignphrase*⟩`]{`⟨*foreign phrase*⟩`}`.

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The above line defines `\foreignphrase` to expand as *foreign phrase*. The optional argument is used to provide a legal command string when the word or phrase itself is unsuitable due to the presence of non-alphabetic characters, such as spaces (as in the example), accents, macros, numbers *etc*. Thus, to define a single foreign word a call of the following type is sufficient:

```
\defasforeign{caveat},
```

after which `\caveat` will expand to *caveat*.

A similar command `\defnotforeign` allows variation of preset default combinations; analogous macros `\redefasforeign` and `\redefnotforeign` are also defined. Note that any necessary capitalised versions must be defined additionally. Note also that trailing spaces are handled automatically via the `xspace` package and its `\xspace` command.

`\foreign` `\notforeign` `\foreignfullfont` `\foreignabbrfont`

The two single-argument macros `\foreign` and `\notforeign` cause their arguments to be typeset in the desired manner. The font used for foreign words and phrases depends on the definition of `\foreignfullfont`, the default is `\emph`, but this may be redefined by the user via `\renewcommand\foreignfullfont{...}`. Abbreviations are defined using `\foreignabbrfont`, default `\em`.

2.1 Options

`abbreviations` `xfrench` `xgerman` `xlatin` `phrases` `all`

At present there are seven user options, four of which allow a few preset default definitions to be activated:

`abbreviations`	foreign abbreviations,
`xfrench`	French words and phrases,
`xgerman`	German words and phrases,
`xlatin`	Latin words and phrases,
`phrases`	non-Latin foreign words and phrases,
`all`	*all* of the above.

`UKenglish` `british`

The remaining, `UKenglish` (`british` is a synonym), allows choosing no comma following the abbreviations "*i.e.*" and "*e.g.*"; this is the generally recommended usage in British English. The default, recommended American, usage is to use a comma (both before and after).

Note that if either the `UKenglish` or `british` option is present in the `\documentclass` statement (*e.g.* for the `babel` package), then the `UKenglish` (`british`) option will be activated in the `foreign` package.

2.2 User configuration file

It may be convenient to create a `foreign.cfg` file for all user definitions, especially in the case of localisations. The package will automatically look for such a file on the LaTeX search path.

2.3 Caveats

No particular care is necessary in using the commands defined by this package (they are "robust"). However, it should be noted that the `\xspace` command does not generate space when appearing before "`{`" (even if there is an intervening space) and therefore in such a case a following "`\␣`" or `\space` is required.

2.4 External package requirements

The `xpunctuate` and `xspace` packages are required for correct punctuation and trailing spaces (though see the above caveat)

2.5 Package conflicts

There are no known conflicts with any standard LaTeX2e packages

3 Implementation

3.1 External packages

Load the `xpunctuate`* and `xspace` packages, for correct punctuation and trailing spaces.

```
1 \RequirePackage{xpunctuate,xspace}
```

The `xspace` package is loaded explicitly, despite being loaded by `xpunctuate`, as it is also used explicitly here.

3.2 User options

3.3 User commands

3.3.1 Foreign-word macros

`\foreign` `\notforeign`

The macro `\foreign` prints the argument (word or phrase, but should be avoided for abbreviations) in the typeface predefined for foreign words (*e.g.* italicised) while the macro `\notforeign` prints the argument (word or phrase) in the default text typeface (this allows choice of options according to the recommended usage):

```
2 \DeclareRobustCommand\foreign[1]{{\foreignfullfont{#1}}\xspace}
3 \DeclareRobustCommand\notforeign[1]{#1\xspace}
```

We use `\DeclareRobustCommand` to avoid problems (due to the action of `\xspace` *etc.*) when used inside so-called "moving arguments".

`\foreignfullfont` `\foreignabbrfont`

The user-redefinable macros `\foreignfullfont` and `\foreignabbrfont` invoke the font adopted for indicating foreign words and phrases, the default is `\emph` for unabbreviated words but `\em` for abbreviations, to avoid the extra space before the period:

*The `xpunctuate` package is also by the author of the present package.

```
\newcommand\foreignfullfont{\emph}
\newcommand\foreignabbrfont{\em}
```

`\defasforeign` `\defnotforeign`

The macro `\defasforeign` defines a new command to represent a foreign (*e.g.* italicised) word or phrase. Similarly, `\defnotforeign` defines a macro to represent a non-foreign (and therefore non-italicised) word or phrase.

```
\newcommand\defasforeign[2][]{%
  \define@foreign{#1}{#2}{\newcommand}{\foreign}
}
\newcommand\defnotforeign[2][]{%
  \define@foreign{#1}{#2}{\newcommand}{\notforeign}
}
```

Note that `\defasforeign` and `\defnotforeign` may *not* be used successively with the *same* arguments to reverse their effects; for such a behaviour use the following naturally defined commands.

`\redefasforeign` `\redefnotforeign`

The macros `\redefasforeign` and `\redefnotforeign` *re*define their arguments (which must therefore have been previously defined, with either standard LaTeX commands or those provided here) to represent foreign (italicised) and non-foreign (non-italicised) words or phrases.

```
\newcommand\redefasforeign[2][]{%
  \define@foreign{#1}{#2}{\renewcommand}{\foreign}
}
\newcommand\redefnotforeign[2][]{%
  \define@foreign{#1}{#2}{\renewcommand}{\notforeign}
}
```

`\define@foreign`

Here is the engine to the previous four macros.

```
\newcommand\define@foreign[4]{%
  \def\foreign@csname{#1}%
  \ifx\foreign@csname\@empty
    \def\foreign@csname{#2}%
  \fi
  \expandafter#3\csname\foreign@csname\endcsname{#4{#2}}%
}
```

3.4 Predefined phrases

The following macros provide a short default set of (commonly italicised) foreign (including Latin) words, abbreviations and phrases. Their activation is triggered via the package-call options `phrases`, `xfrench`, `xgerman`, `xlatin`, `abbreviations` or `all` (see above). Here are the options described above:

3.4.1 Foreign words, phrases and abbreviations

A few predefinitions are provided for words and expressions that are commonly italicised (at least according to standard British English usage).

The following are common Latin words and phrases (which should normally be italicised):

```
\DeclareOption{xlatin}{%
  \defasforeign{addendum}
  \defasforeign{Addendum}
  \defasforeign[adhoc]{ad hoc}
  \defasforeign[Adhoc]{Ad hoc}
  \defasforeign[aposteriori]{a posteriori}
  \defasforeign[Aposteriori]{A posteriori}
  \defasforeign[apriori]{a priori}
  \defasforeign[Apriori]{A priori}
  \defasforeign{caveat}
  \defasforeign{Caveat}
  \defasforeign{circa}
  \defasforeign{Circa}
  \defasforeign{curriculum}
  \defasforeign{Curriculum}
  \defasforeign{erratum}
  \defasforeign{Erratum}
  \defasforeign{ibidem}
  \defasforeign{Ibidem}
  \defasforeign{idem}
  \defasforeign{Idem}
  \defasforeign{sic}
  \defasforeign{Sic}
  \defasforeign[viceversa]{vice versa}
  \defasforeign[Viceversa]{Vice versa}
  \defasforeign[vitae]{vit{\ae}}
  \defasforeign[Vitae]{Vit{\ae}}
}
```

Macros for (commonly used and italicised) French words and phrases:

```
\DeclareOption{xfrench}{%
  \defasforeign[ala]{\`{a} la}
  \defasforeign[Ala]{\`{A} la}
  \defasforeign[visavis]{vis \`{a} vis}
  \defasforeign[Visavis]{Vis \`{a} vis}
}
```

Macros for (commonly used and italicised) German words and phrases:

```
\DeclareOption{xgerman}{%
  \defasforeign{ansatz}
  \defasforeign{Ansatz}
  \defasforeign{gedanken}
  \defasforeign{Gedanken}
}
```

The following are commonly italicised abbreviations (as explained earlier, we choose to keep the periods in the surrounding font for uniformity):

```
\DeclareOption{abbreviations}{%
  \DeclareRobustCommand\cf{\UKUS@comma{{\foreignabbrfont{cf}}}}
```

```
  \DeclareRobustCommand\eg{%
    \UKUS@comma{{\foreignabbrfont{e}}.{\foreignabbrfont{g}}}}
  \DeclareRobustCommand\etal{\xperiodafter{{\foreignabbrfont{et al}}}}
  \DeclareRobustCommand\etc{\xperiodafter{{\foreignabbrfont{etc}}}}
  \DeclareRobustCommand\etseq{\xperiodafter{{\foreignabbrfont{et seq}}}}
  \DeclareRobustCommand\ibid{\xperiodafter{{\foreignabbrfont{ibid}}}}
  \DeclareRobustCommand\ie{%
    \UKUS@comma{{\foreignabbrfont{i}}.{\foreignabbrfont{e}}}}
  \DeclareRobustCommand\loccit{%
    {\foreignabbrfont{loc}}.\ \xperiodafter{{\foreignabbrfont{cit}}}}
  \DeclareRobustCommand\opcit{%
    {\foreignabbrfont{op}}.\ \xperiodafter{{\foreignabbrfont{cit}}}}
  \DeclareRobustCommand\viz{\xperiodafter{{\foreignabbrfont{viz}}}}
  \DeclareRobustCommand\Cf{\UKUS@comma{{\foreignabbrfont{Cf}}}}
  \DeclareRobustCommand\Eg{%
    \UKUS@comma{{\foreignabbrfont{E}}.{\foreignabbrfont{g}}}}
  \DeclareRobustCommand\Etal{\xperiodafter{{\foreignabbrfont{Et al}}}}
  \DeclareRobustCommand\Etc{\xperiodafter{{\foreignabbrfont{Etc}}}}
  \DeclareRobustCommand\Etseq{\xperiodafter{{\foreignabbrfont{Et seq}}}}
  \DeclareRobustCommand\Ibid{\xperiodafter{{\foreignabbrfont{Ibid}}}}
  \DeclareRobustCommand\Ie{%
    \UKUS@comma{{\foreignabbrfont{I}}.{\foreignabbrfont{e}}}}
  \DeclareRobustCommand\Loccit{%
    {\foreignabbrfont{Loc}}.\ \xperiodafter{{\foreignabbrfont{cit}}}}
  \DeclareRobustCommand\Opcit{%
    {\foreignabbrfont{Op}}.\ \xperiodafter{{\foreignabbrfont{cit}}}}
  \DeclareRobustCommand\Viz{\xperiodafter{{\foreignabbrfont{Viz}}}}
}
```

The possibility to choose between the standard U.S. (default) and U.K. usages (comma and no comma respectively following "*e.g.*" and "*i.e.*") is set up here.

```
\newcommand\UKUS@comma{\xperiodafter}
\DeclareOption{UKenglish}{\renewcommand\UKUS@comma{\xperiodafter}}
\DeclareOption{USenglish}{\renewcommand\UKUS@comma{\xperiodcommaafter}}
\ExecuteOptions{USenglish}
```

Add a pseudonym for U.K. English:

```
\DeclareOption{british}{\ExecuteOptions{UKenglish}}
```

3.4.2 All non-Latin phrase definitions

All of the non-Latin preset phrase definitions (but not abbreviations) may be selected in one go with the option `phrases`:

```
\DeclareOption{phrases}{\ExecuteOptions{xfrench,xgerman}}
```

3.4.3 All definitions

All of the preset options may be selected in one go with the option `all`:

```
\DeclareOption{all}{\ExecuteOptions{xlatin,phrases,abbreviations}}
```

3.4.4 Final option processing

We may now process the chosen options:

```
\ProcessOptions
```

3.5 Configuration file input

If a file named `foreign.cfg` is found on the LaTeX search path, then it will be loaded (thus allowing a local default configuration). It would normally contain user definitions, redefinitions and, for example, any desired redefinitions of the font specification commands `\foreignfullfont` and `\foreignabbrfont`.

```
\InputIfFileExists{foreign.cfg}{%
  \typeout{%
    ============================================^^J%
    Loading local configuration file foreign.cfg^^J%
    ============================================%
  }
}{}%
```

Change History

v1.0
General: first non-public release . . 1
v2.5
General: first public release 1
v2.6
General: minor corrections to documentation 1
v2.7
General: added capitalised abbreviations 1

Index

Numbers written in italic refer to the page where the corresponding entry is described; numbers underlined refer to the code line of the definition; numbers in roman refer to the code lines where the entry is used.

\␣ 76, 78, 90, 92

A

abbreviations *2*
all *2*

B

british *2*

C

\Cf 80
\cf 66

D

\DeclareOption 25, 53, 59, 65, 96, 97, 99–101
\DeclareRobustCommand 2, 3, 66, 67, 69–73, 75, 77, 79–81, 83–87, 89, 91, 93
\defasforeign *1*, 6, 26–51, 54–57, 60–63
\define@foreign 7, 10, 13, 16, 18
\defnotforeign . . . *1*, 6

E

\Eg 81
\eg 67
\em 5
\emph 4
\Etal 83

\etal 69
\Etc 84
\etc 70
\Etseq 85
\etseq 71
\ExecuteOptions 98–101

F

\foreign 2, *2*, 7, 13
\foreign@csname 19–21, 23
\foreignabbrfont *2*, 4, 66, 68–72, 74, 76, 78–80, 82–86, 88, 90, 92, 93
\foreignfullfont 2, *2*, 4

I

\Ibid 86
\ibid 72
\Ie 87
\ie 73

L

\Loccit 89
\loccit 75

N

\notforeign . 2, *2*, 10, 16

O

\Opcit 91
\opcit 77

P

phrases *2*
\ProcessOptions . . . 102

R

\redefasforeign . . *1*, 12
\redefnotforeign . *1*, 12
\RequirePackage 1

U

UKenglish *2*
\UKUS@comma 66, 68, 74, 80, 82, 88, 95–97

V

\Viz 93
\viz 79

X

xfrench *2*
xgerman *2*
xlatin *2*
\xperiodafter 69–72, 76, 78, 79, 83–86, 90, 92, 93, 95, 96
\xperiodcommaafter . 97
\xspace 2, 3