

# The fwlw package

## First Word, Last Word

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The fwlw package provides a mechanism to determine the first and last words on the current page, plus the first word on the *next* page. (So perhaps it should have been named ‘fwlwnw’). These words can be used in head-lines or foot-lines. The ‘words’ you see may not be real words, but any unbreakable object.

Two pagestyles are defined to print these words: `\pagestyle{NextWordFoot}` which helps you read ahead to the word on the next page; and `\pagestyle{fwlwhead}` which is like the headers in a lexicon. Or you can use the words in your own page-style. The words are made available in the box registers:

`\FirstWordBox` – first word on this page

`\NextWordBox` – first word on next page

`\LastWordBox` – last word on this page

Use them in your header lines like: `\usebox\LastWordBox`.

Such labelling does not make sense when `\chapter` generates a page break, so the last page before a `\chapter` (or any `\clearpage`) gets a blank “next word”, and the first page of the chapter gets a blank “first word”. The fwlwhead page style produces blank headers on float pages.

Note that ‘words’ are any unsplittable unit and may be things like:

- `two_words` (`two~words`) with unbreakable space between them
- `___Word` (where `___` represents a paragraph indent)
- a whole displayed equation
- the first column of an aligned equation
- a list item label
- anomalously blank, if there are `\writes` or split footnotes etc.
- blank for the first word of the document (because of a `\write`)
- partial words like ‘par-’ or ‘-tial’ due to hyphenation.

In short, a wide range of irregularities will cause non-words to be captured, or nothing at all.