

# 1 Introducing LaTeX

LaTeX is not hard to learn. With a few simple commands you can produce a very nice looking document. *Here's how to put something in italics* and **here's how to make something boldface**.

The text inside these braces is smaller than normal. Now the size is back to normal. Notice the effect of “grouping” (enclosing a section in braces). The change to a smaller font only applies inside the braces. *This is a different use of braces than grouping. Here you are using them to enclose the argument of a command!*

## 1.1 Dashes

Here's how to print dashes—the em-dash is written by typing three consecutive dashes; an en-dash (used between two numerals or in phone numbers such as 764–9595) is written by typing two consecutive dashes.

## 1.2 Quotes

Left quotes are written with the left quote (or grave) character (‘); right quotes with the standard single quote (or prime) character (’). Double quotes are written by typing two consecutive quote characters of the desired flavor. For example, here's “a quoted phrase.”