



Word Processor +'s and -'s

One of the best advantages of word processors is being able to see the results as you enter text and pictures. For example, it is easy to insert images and wrap text around them. You can also change as you type such text attributes as **bold**, *italic*, **font** and size.



On the downside, word processors generally do a below average job of typography, that is controlling the overall appearance of how words and images appear on a page. They have few, or difficult to use, functions for fine-tuning line breaks, justified type, word spacing, hyphenation, line spacing and so on.

While word processors are great for many uses, for the most part, printed materials created today with word processors are of lower typographic quality than those published in the 19th and 20th centuries using pre-computer typesetting methods.



Also making changes to a large word processor document format can be very difficult and time consuming, even if you use the so-called "style sheets".

TeX and its offspring such as eplain, LaTeX and ConTeXt can consistently produce high-quality typographic output.