

Hyphenating a table cell

The same three rows in the same 40 mm column. On the left the description column as it has always been set; on the right the one word {hyphenate de-DE} in its column description. Everything else about the two calls is identical.

without hyphenation

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Der Grundstuecksverkehr braucht die Genehmigung der Gemeinde.	3
Die Wirtschaftspruefungsgesellschaft bestaetigt den Abschluss.	7

with hyphenation

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Left: the first row takes 4 lines, the table 49.16 mm.

Right: 3 lines and 41.86 mm, which is 7.30 mm less for the same three rows. The compound is wider than what is left of the line it meets, so without the patterns it can only be split between two characters: the left cell's second line reads "Betriebskostenabrechnun", and the fragment that opens the line after it is the rest of that word. The right cell breaks the same word where the dictionary does, and its first line ends "Die Betriebskostenab-".

Read the other way round - the number a layout actually turns on: three lines per row need a description column of 46.5 mm without the patterns and 37.5 mm with them, 9.0 mm of table width for one word in the column description.

The patterns are not part of tclpdf and are loaded by the caller with `[::tclpdf::hyphenate load de-DE <path> -left 2 -right 2]`; a language nobody loaded refuses the whole table by name rather than setting it unhyphenated in silence.

A broken cell brackets its break hyphen the way a [text -width] paragraph does: in a tagged document the hyphen sits in a Span with an empty ActualText, so extracting the cell gives the word back whole. The line itself is never cut up here - it goes to [text] whole, and the splitting happens inside one text object after the position of the whole line has been computed, so the drawn line is as wide as the measured one. The table draws its cells line by line from what it measured, which is what makes it impossible for the measuring and the drawing to disagree about where the breaks fall.