

# Re: True parallel columns in Word

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Word/microsoft.public.word.pagelayout/2006-08/msg00527.html>

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- *From:* CyberTaz <[onlygeneraltaz1@xxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:onlygeneraltaz1@xxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Fri, 18 Aug 2006 06:51:43 -0400
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Just for your consideration...

What you are seeking is a page layout solution. Word is *\*not\** a page layout program.

The features that have been added to its word processing powers provide just enough capability to suggest otherwise, but as you are finding, they have limitations that require complex, time-consuming improvisation to 'force' them beyond those limitations.

With full respect for professionals who handle this sort of project successfully on a routine basis, it involves techniques that don't necessarily come as easy to less experienced users. The truly unfortunate aspect of the issue is that even if you succeed the document will most probably be quite problematic where further revisions are required and could likely result in corruption of the file.

Constructing & editing the content in Word is quite the way to go, but assembling the final product by placing the Word doc(s) into a page layout program would be a far easier & more effective 'next step'.

Regards |:>)  
Bob Jones  
[MVP] Office:Mac

On 8/16/06 2:29 AM, in article  
4A0951C7-D50E-4CB8-A572-5E95C277F23C@xxxxxxxxxxxxx, "Flavelle Ballem"  
<[fballem@xxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:fballem@xxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote:

Suzanne:

Thanks for the suggestion. Given the current capabilities of Word, this is probably the best available suggestion. There are two ways to go – separate rows for each paragraph or a table with a single row spanning multiple pages. If vertical alignment of the same paragraph in each language is required,

Re: True parallel columns in Word

then it's best done as one row per paragraph. If this is less of an issue, then a single row table is probably better (not sure of the limitations of how many pages can be spanned with a single row).

A three column table appears to be quite satisfactory. The middle column is small and used to control the separation of the other two columns.

I still stand by my enhancement suggestion that the column capability of a future version of Word should be enhanced to support newspaper or parallel columns.

Flavelle

"Suzanne S. Barnhill" wrote:

For this purpose we mostly recommend a two-column (borderless) table, breaking to a new row for each paragraph.

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Suzanne S. Barnhill  
Microsoft MVP (Word)  
Words into Type  
Fairhope, Alabama USA  
Word MVP FAQ site: <http://word.mvps.org>  
Email cannot be acknowledged; please post all follow-ups to the newsgroup so all may benefit.

"Flavelle Ballem" <[fballem@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:fballem@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message [news:18D8202E-FF38-40AD-85DF-D429D7492BBD@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:18D8202E-FF38-40AD-85DF-D429D7492BBD@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

I finally have to produce a document that uses parallel columns in Word –

one

side in English, the second side in French. In reading how to do this, the only option appears to be through the use of linked Text Boxes, which is a particularly ugly solution.

A far more elegant (and simple) solution would be allow the definition of two (or more columns) that don't snake like a newspaper, but instead will

go

Re: True parallel columns in Word

to the next page automatically. If I need to enter text in the second

column,

then I can move to the column (mouse click or keystroke) and start typing away.

This surely cannot be this hard.

Regards,

Flavelle

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