Advanced Google Docs

This document covers some more advanced topics in the Google Docs web application.

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Revision History

To see how the current document has changed over time use the "Version history / See Version History" option in the File menu:

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This brings up this display:



The right sidebar shows all the dates and times you edited the document. You click on a version to view it. The changes you made are shown with a green background.

You can click on the blue "Restore this version" button to change back to that version of the document.

If you click on the left arrow at the top left, you will leave Show Versions mode and go back to editing the document.

The "Version history / Name Current Version" option in the File menu lets you add a name to the current version of the file to make it easier to find.

Voice Typing

Google Docs has a feature that lets you enter text by talking into the microphone on your computer. This is only available on the Chrome Browser and is under the Tools menu:



This brings up this button in the left sidebar:



Click to move the cursor where you want to enter text and then click on the microphone icon to start the recording. The microphone will turn into a red circle with a white microphone and you click on that to stop the voice entry.



Unfortunately, this only works in the Chrome browser. It works very well but you should check the text after it is entered.

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When you are done, click the "X" on the voice icon to leave voice typing mode:



Translate a document

You can make a new copy of your document in another language with the "Translate document" option in the Tools menu:



This brings up a popup where you can set the name:

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Click on the Choose a Language menu to choose the target language:

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of the current document
s - Spanish
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cel Translate

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In this case, we will choose Spanish



You can then click the Translate button:

Translate	document	t ×
Create a translat	ted copy of the cu	urrent document
New document	title	
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	Cancel	Translate

This will open up the new copy of your document with the name you gave it in the language you specified:

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Page Breaks

If you want to start a paragraph on a new page, you can can enter a page break by typing

Command / Return on a Mac

or

Control / Return on a PC

This will move the cursor to the next page to start a new paragraph

Margins

You can change the margins for the whole document with the "Page Setup" option the in Files menu:



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This brings up a popup menu that lets you change the page size, orientation and margins:

Page setup		\times
Orientation	Margins	(inches)
Portrait O Landscape	Тор	1
Paper size Letter (8.5" x 11") →	Bottom	1
Page color	Left	1
·	Right	1
Set as default Ca	ancel	ок

To change the margins in a paragraph you can click and hold down the mouse button on the downward pointing blue triangle in the ruler at the top of the page and drag it left or right to change the margin for the paragraph.



There is also a downward blue triangle on the right side of the ruler for the margins for the paragraph:



You can drag this right or left to adjust the right margin for the paragraph where the blinking cursor is located.

Styles

There are five built in styles available: Title, Normal text, Heading 1, Heading 2 and Heading 3. You can apply a style to a paragraph using the Style menu under the Google menu bar:



This lets change the style of the paragraph the cursor is in or you can update the style to match that paragraph. Modifying the Normal text style is an easy way to change the font and size of most text in a document.

The same menu is available in the Format menu under Paragraph Styles:

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	1	Paragraph styles	•	Borders and shadir	ng	3	
		Align & indent	•				
	t≡	Line spacing		Normal Text		✓ Apply 'Normal text' 第+Opt	ion+0
	=	Columns		Title		Update 'Normal text' to match	
		Bullets & numbering	•	Subtitle	►		
				Heading 1	►		
		Headers & footers		Heading 2	►		
		Page numbers		Heading 3	►		
		Table	Þ	Heading 4	⊳		
				Heading 5	►		
		Image	►	Heading 6	►		
	X	Clear formatting	% \	Options	►		

There are also keyboard shortcuts for applying all five styles that are displayed in the menus.

Table of Contents

You can use the Heading 1, Heading 2 and Heading 3 styles to define the major and minor sections of your document:



Move the cursor to where you want the table of contents and then use the Table of Contents option in the Insert menu:

Sample Docum	ent with Table of Contents	$\clubsuit \ \boxdot \ \oslash$
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And the document will now look like this:

C Chapter 1 First Section Part of Section 2 Another part of section 2 Third part of section 2 Third part of section 2 Second Section 2

Chapter 1

Third section of chapter 2

Intro to chapter 1

First Section

Some text here

Second Section

Some text here

You can click on the refresh button at any time to update the table.

1

1

1

1

1

1

2

2 2

2

Columns

It is possible to display your text in columns similar to a newspaper. This is done with the Columns option in the Format menu.

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		Page numbers		More options
		Table	►	
	B	Image	►	
	X	Clear formatting	% \	
		Borders & lines		

This supports one, two or three columns or you can click More options to specify exactly what you want.

That brings up this popup window:

Column options	×
Number of columns	1 *
Spacing (inches)	0.5
Line between columns	
Cancel	Apply

You can specify how many columns you want, the spacing between them and whether there should be a line between the columns.

The easiest way to do this is to highlight the text you want in columns and use the Format / Column menu.

For example, with this document:

Two Column Sample

This is a document with lots of text which is very long. This is a document with lots of text which is very long. This is a document with lots of text which is very long. This is a document with lots of text which is very long. This is a document with lots of text which is very long. This is a document with lots of text which is very long. This is a document with lots of text which is very long. This is a document with lots of text which is very long. This is a document with lots of text which is very long. This is a document with lots of text which is very long. This is a document with lots of text which is very long. This is a document with lots of text which is very long.

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We can highlight the first two paragraphs and make them into two columns

Two Column Sample

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Using the Format / Columns with the two column option leads to this:

Two Column Sample

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Tables

It is easy to add tables to your document with the Insert Table menu:

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	— Horizontal line		1 x 1	
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	Ω Special characters			

Drag from the blue box down and to the right to select the initial number of rows and columns

For example to make three columns and five rows:



Which adds this table:

You can type in the cells and also change the column widths and row heights.

When you hover the cursor over a vertical grid line between cells the cursor changes to a two sided arrow and you can drag the line right or left to make the column wider or narrower. If you hover over a horizontal line, you can change the row height using a vertical two sided arrow.

If you right click on a cell, you can insert or delete rows and columns. The context menu looks like this:



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If you drag over several cells to highlight them,

	-

You can right click to and select "Merge cells" to merge them into one cell:

These options are very similar to what you can do in Google Sheets or any other spreadsheet program.

If you highlight all the cells and select "Table properties" from the context menu, you see this popup:

Table properties		×
Table border	Dimensions (inches)	
• - 1 pt -	Column width	2.177
Cell background color	Minimum row height	
Cell vertical alignment	Cell padding	0.069
Тор 👻	Table alignment	
	Left indent (inches)	0
	Cancel	ОК

You can change the width of the gridlines, cell background color and alignment.

One way of doing multiple columns of text is to create a table and then change the border width to 0 or the border color to white.

Some text here	More text here	3rd column text here
2nd line column 1	2nd line column 2 which might be long	2nd line column 3
3rd line column 1 which might have some extra lines	3rd line column 2	3rd line column 3

If we change the border color to white



And then click OK:



The table now looks like this:

Some text here	More text here	3rd column text here
2nd line column 1	2nd line column 2 which might be long	2nd line column 3
3rd line column 1 which might have some extra lines	3rd line column 2	3rd line column 3

Changing Image Size and Other Properties

Sometimes you want to change the size of an image to make it fit on the previous page. If you click on an image, the image will be surrounded by a blue border and you will see this at these buttons at the bottom:



The left three buttons control whether text will wrap around the image. The "Size and rotation" option brings this up in a right sidebar:

Image options				×	
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5.83	*	in	4.41	-	in
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You can change the 100% width to a smaller number. With the blue check in the "Lock aspect ratio" the height will also be changed. Adjust this until the image is the size you want. You can also click on the image and drag the corners, but this option is more precise and easier to do.