Text that keeps to a shape

Each block below is one text set line by line: a line stands only where the shape holds it whole, and where a rectangle sits in its way, the line goes round it or carries on beyond it.

A note set into the column. The text keeps eight points clear of it.

A column of text with a note set into its top right-hand corner. The lines beside the note are shorter: each one stops eight points before the note's edge, and the line under it takes the whole width again. Nothing here was measured by hand. The flow is told where the column is and where the note stands, and it works out, line by line, how much room each line has. The same text in another language runs to a different number of lines, and the note still sits where it was placed, with the text going round it.

Around a note

Inside a circle, every line is as wide as the circle is at the height of its letters, measured where the circle is narrowest along that line, so no letter crosses the edge. The lines grow longer towards the middle and shorter towards the bottom, and each one is set flush left inside its own width.

Inside a circle

A six-sided shape with a picture box in its middle. Where a line meets the box, it is set in two parts: the text fills the stretch to the left of the box, then carries on in the stretch to its right, and only then goes down to the next line. A word never sits in a stretch too narrow for it. Above and below the box, the lines take the whole width the shape gives them, and along the slanted sides they grow shorter, so the block follows the outline from its top to its bottom. The shape is given as a list of corners, and any outline whose sides do not cross can be filled the same way.

Picture

Inside a polygon, around a picture box