

Justified & Ragged

Art & Design

Setting text flush on both sides or ragged right, and what each one costs.

Justified

- Flush on both edges
- Word spaces vary line to line
- Needs a wide measure and hyphenation
- Rivers appear when spacing stretches
- Conventional in books and newspapers

Ragged right

- Even word spacing throughout
- The right edge varies line to line
- Works at any measure
- The rag itself has to be shaped
- Standard on screen and in reports

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

Justify only with hyphenation on and a measure wide enough that no line has to stretch.

Centred and ragged-left settings slow reading: the eye loses the start of each line. Keep them for short display text.