

Example

Files involved in this discussion:

Statistics.doc (Atlantis document)
Statistics_not_tweaked.epub (produced by Atlantis)
Statistics_partially_tweaked.epub (see discussion)
Statistics_fully_tweaked.epub (see discussion)

PROBLEM:

Please note: In the CSS code, **text-indent** refers only to the first line of the paragraph, not to the whole paragraph.

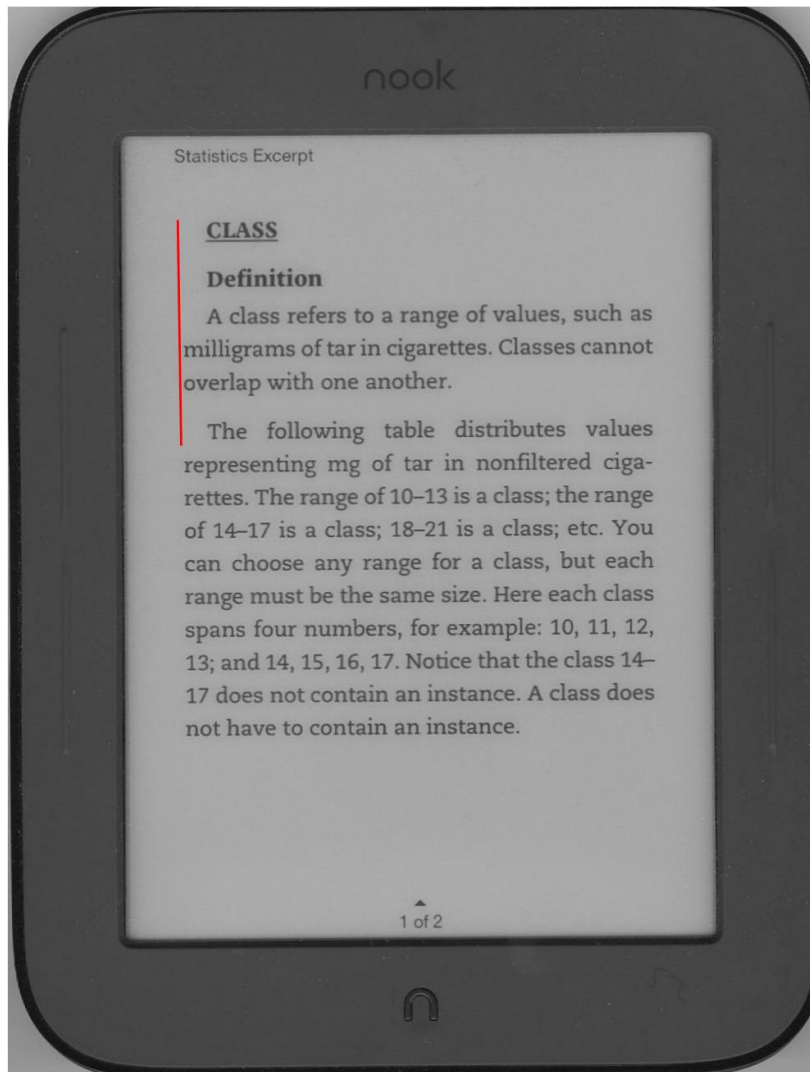
The Nook (which uses the epub format) automatically indents the first line of any paragraph that does not have an associated style (in CSS) that mandates a specific **text-indent:0** or some other text-indent. If you do not address text-indent in the paragraph style, the paragraph will automatically indent by a small amount. Having text-indent:0 in the basic *p*{ style does not affect other *p* styles. Every paragraph style must have a specific text-indent value, or the Nook will default to a slight indentation of the first line (the Kindle does the same thing for its formats).

Here is the CSS code that Atlantis (current beta) generates when it converts my file **Statistics.doc** to **Statistics_not_tweaked.epub**. I have attached the .doc file and the relevant .epub files. The following CSS code will cause the Nook output to have indentations where they are not supposed to be. The output is presented in a graphic below the code.

```
p {text-indent:0;margin-left:0;margin-right:0;text-align:justify;margin-top:0;margin-bottom:0;font-family:"Times New Roman",serif;font-size:109%}  
.p0 {text-align:left;margin-top:1em}  
.p1 {text-align:left;margin-top:.75em;margin-bottom:.25em}  
.p3 {margin-top:.75em}  
.p4 {margin-left:1.8em;margin-top:.75em}  
.p5 {margin-left:1.8em}  
.p6 {text-align:left}  
.t0 {font-family:Arial,sans-serif;font-weight:bold;text-decoration:underline}  
.t1 {font-family:Arial,sans-serif;font-weight:bold}  
.t3 {font-style:italic}  
.t4 {font-family:Wingdings}  
.t5 {font-weight:bold}  
.t6 {font-family:Arial,sans-serif;font-size:.92em}
```

See next page for the resulting Nook output.

The paragraphs are supposed to be flush left, with no indentation of the first line. But in the Nook, even the heads, like the words **CLASS** and **Definition** are indented, because they are “first lines” in their own paragraphs. (If you want to check, you can see that, in the Atlantis .doc file, the paragraphs are all flush left.)



This file uses "internet paragraph" style for all the paragraphs seen here. None of the paragraphs are supposed to have first-line indents.

A PARTIAL SOLUTION

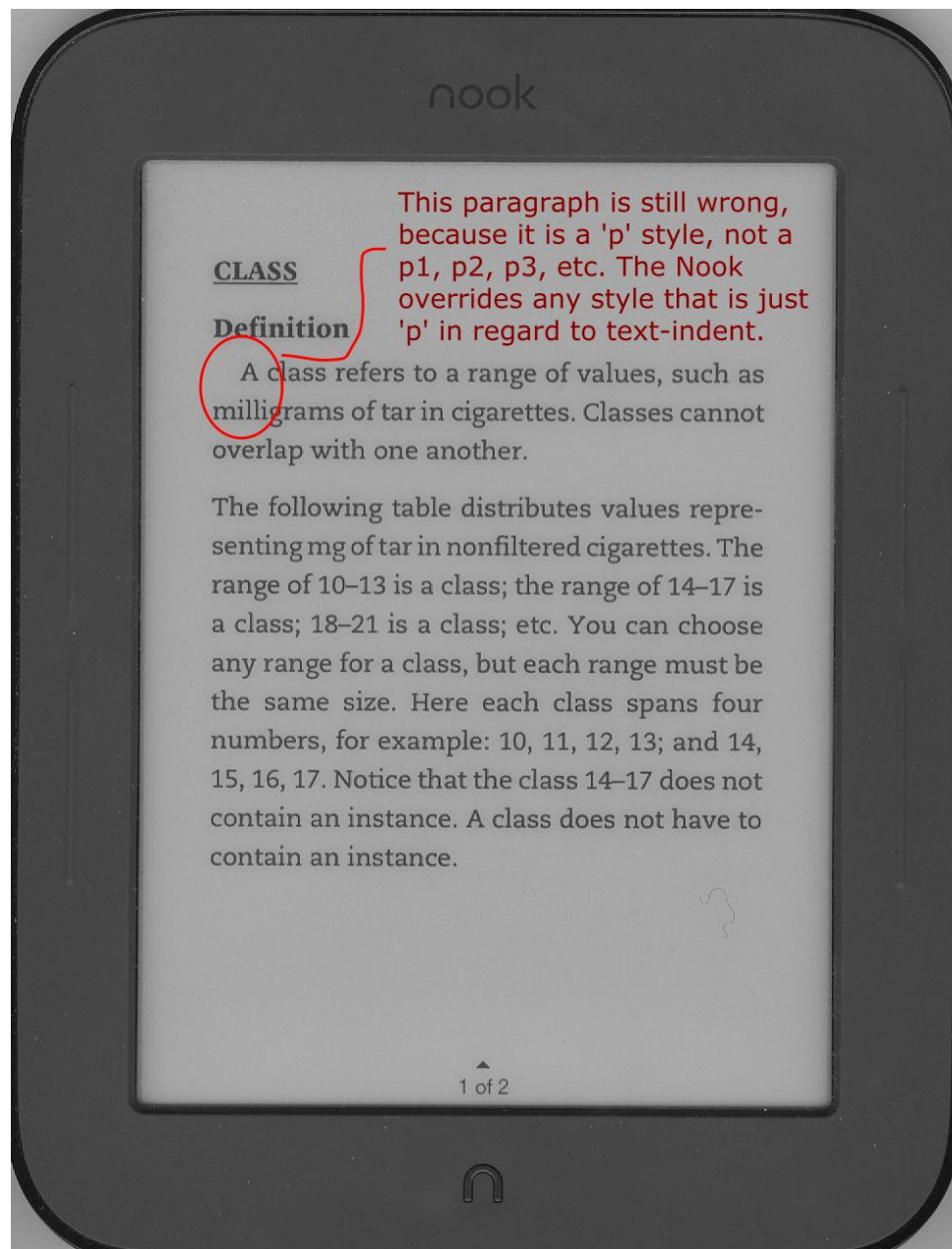
Let's suppose that we include a text-indent value for every paragraph style.

That ought to solve the problem, right? Well, almost. But we need to look at this incomplete solution in order to understand the *core* of the problem. Here is the CSS code for our partial solution:

```
p{text-indent:0;margin-left:0;margin-right:0;text-align:justify;margin-top:0;margin-bottom:0;font-family:"Times New Roman",serif;font-size:109%}  
.p0{text-indent:0;text-align:left;margin-top:1em}  
.p1{text-indent:0;text-align:left;margin-top:.75em;margin-bottom:.25em}  
.p3{text-indent:0;margin-top:.75em}  
.p4{text-indent:0;margin-left:1.8em;margin-top:.75em}  
.p5{text-indent:0;margin-left:1.8em}  
.p6{text-indent:0;text-align:left}  
.t0{font-family:Arial,sans-serif;font-weight:bold;text-decoration:underline}  
.t1{font-family:Arial,sans-serif;font-weight:bold}  
.t3{font-style:italic}
```

```
.t4 {font-family:Wingdings}  
.t5 {font-weight:bold}  
.t6 {font-family:Arial,sans-serif;font-size:.92em}
```

Here is what the “partially corrected” Nook output now looks like:

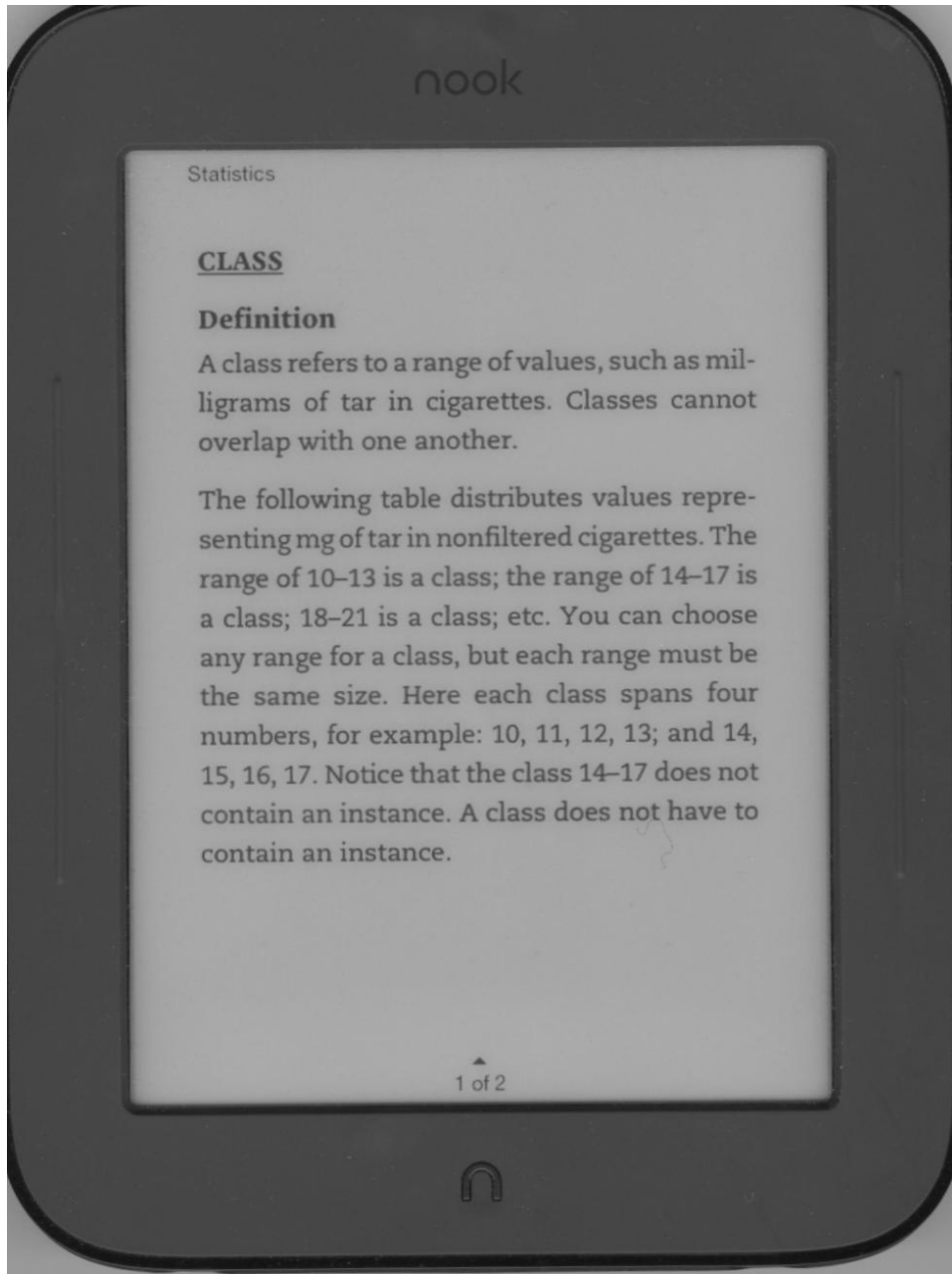


We still have a defective paragraph — the one that begins “A class . . .” is not supposed to have a first-line indent. So why does it? If you look at the HTML code in Sigil or Tweak, you will see that the style of the paragraph (which Atlantis assigns to it) is *p*. The Nook ignores the text-indent information of this basic paragraph style *p*. I do not know why. But I have seen this time and again. Sometimes the style that Atlantis calls *p* is one that has a specified paragraph indent (like **text-indent:2em**), and in that case things work fine. The Nook accepts 2em as the default first-line indent, and it then adjusts any other paragraphs that have different values for the first-line indent.

The take-home message is: The Nook rejects a first-line indent of zero (`text-indent:0`) in the basic *p* style. However, you can successfully use *text-indent:0* in other paragraph styles, like *p2*, *p3*, *p5*, etc.

The only way to correct this problem is to use Sigil or Tweak to do a search-and-replace for every `<p>` in the HTML code and replace it with a code like `<p class="p7">`. Of course, you have to revise the CSS to include a new entry for *.p7* that will establish the desired first-line indent of *text-indent:0*. In effect, you bypass *p* entirely in regard to the indentation issue.

When you do that, you obtain a correct rendering (which also looks just like the Atlantis document).



And here is the relevant HTML and CSS code for this fully corrected file:

The CSS Code

(I have added a *.p7* style. I think it is only necessary to address the text-indent issue; I think the other values in *p* are properly inherited.)

```
p {text-indent:0;margin-left:0;margin-right:0;text-align:justify;margin-top:0;margin-bottom:0;font-family:"Times New Roman",serif;font-size:109%}
.p0 {text-indent:0;text-align:left;margin-top:1em}
.p1 {text-indent:0;text-align:left;margin-top:.75em;margin-bottom:.25em}
.p3 {text-indent:0;margin-top:.75em}
.p4 {text-indent:0;margin-left:1.8em;margin-top:.75em}
.p5 {text-indent:0;margin-left:1.8em}
.p6 {text-indent:0;text-align:left}


.p7{text-indent:0}


.t0 {font-family:Arial,sans-serif;font-weight:bold;text-decoration:underline}
.t1 {font-family:Arial,sans-serif;font-weight:bold}
.t3 {font-style:italic}
.t4 {font-family:Wingdings}
.t5 {font-weight:bold}
.t6 {font-family:Arial,sans-serif;font-size:.92em}
```

The Relevant HTML Code

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8" standalone="no"?>
<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.1//EN"
  "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml11/DTD/xhtml11.dtd">

<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml" xml:lang="en">
<head>
  <meta content="Atlantis Word Processor 1.6.5.10" name="Generator" />
  <link href="../Styles/style.css" rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" />

  <title>Statistics</title>
</head>

<body>
  <p class="p0"><span class="t0">CLASS</span></p>

  <p class="p1"><span class="t1">Definition</span></p>

  <p class="p7">A class refers to a range of values, such as milligrams of tar in cigarettes. Classes
cannot overlap with one another.</p>

  <p class="p3">The following table distributes values representing mg of tar in nonfiltered cigarettes.
The range of 10&ndash;13 is a class; the range of 14&ndash;17 is a class; 18&ndash;21 is a class; etc.
You can choose any range for a class, but each range must be the same size. Here each class spans four
numbers, for example: 10, 11, 12, 13; and 14, 15, 16, 17. Notice that the class 14&ndash;17 does not
contain an instance. A class does not have to contain an instance.</p>
```

CONCLUSIONS

1. The epub that Atlantis produces should not rely on the basic *p* style for indents. Although other *p*-styles (like *.p2*, *.p5*, etc.) seem to derive their style information correctly for things like margins and the font, the text-indent value needs to be specified for every paragraph style.
2. The basic *p* style should not be used in the HTML for any paragraphs, because as we have seen in the “partially corrected” CSS above, if a paragraph that is supposed to be entirely flush left uses `<p>` for its style, the first line will still be indented, despite the presence of *text-indent:0* in the definition of *p* in the CSS code.
3. PC viewers for Nook, epub, Kindle, and mobi formats are not reliable indicators of what the file will look like in the actual e-reader device. My epub files always look fine in the Calibre viewer, the Nook PC viewer, and in Sigil. But as you can see from my screen shots, the Nook displays things differently. The first-line indent issue is a known issue on the internet. It receives more attention in regard to the Kindle, but a Google search will turn up information about the Nook also.