

How to Create a Hanging Indent in Google Docs*

Two Methods to Choose From

Method 1: “Format” Menu

1. Highlight the paragraph you want to indent
2. In the menu bar, click “Format”
3. Hover the cursor over “Align & indent” (currently, 3rd option down)
4. In the drop-down menu, click “Indentation options” (currently at the bottom)
5. Under “Special indent”, click the drop down selection menu, which probably reads “None”
6. Click “Hanging”
7. The value “0.5” will appear to the right. Leave as is, or select a different value, depending on your needs.
8. Click the blue “Apply” button, and watch the magic happen. ;)
9. Thank you Michael C. for alerting me to and clearly describing this option!

Method 2: Visible Ruler

First, make sure the Google Docs ruler is visible.

- Click “View” and make sure “Show Ruler” is checked. If it isn't, click on it, and the ruler will appear beneath the menu bar.

First Line Indent & Left Indent

On the ruler, at the left margin, there is a light blue rectangle atop a triangle:



The light blue rectangle (▭) represents the location of the *First Line Indent*.

The light blue triangle (▴) represents the location of the *Left Indent*.

- On the ruler, hover the cursor over each shape, and its function will be displayed.

Create the Hanging Indent

- **First:** Select the text you want indented. You can select a single paragraph or multiple paragraphs at a time.
- **Next:** On the ruler, drag the ▼ *Left Indent* (light blue inverted triangle ▼) to the *right* as far as you want the text to be indented.
 - *Alert!* As you will notice, the ■ *First Line Indent* marker (light blue rectangle ■) will come along for the ride, and all of your selected text will move to the right.
- **Finally:** Drag the ■ *First Line Indent* marker (light blue rectangle ■) back to the left margin. It will move independently, and your hanging indent will be created.

When the cursor is within the indented area, the indent icons will now look something like this:



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- If you find any errors, or things that work differently as Google Docs updates over time, please [let me know](#).

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