

# The **simplex** package

## Linguistic example environments for L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

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Version 1.0

### Abstract

The **simplex** package provides three numbered example environments for use in linguistics papers—`unlabeledexample`, `shortexample`, and `example`—together with interlinear gloss macros (`\gll`, `\glll`, `\glt`, `\gln`, `\glend`) adapted from `covington.sty` and `gloss.tex`.

## Contents

### 1 Introduction

Linguistics papers routinely include numbered examples, sometimes with descriptive labels, and frequently with word-by-word interlinear glosses paired with a free translation. The **simplex** package provides a minimal, self-contained set of macros for both tasks.

The gloss alignment code is adapted from `gloss.tex` (v1.0, Marcel R. van der Goot, 1991) and `covington.sty` (Michael Covington). The example counter environments are original.

### 2 Requirements

**simplex** requires L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 2<sub>ε</sub> and automatically loads the `xparse` package (part of the standard L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X distribution).

### 3 Numbered example environments

All three environments share a single counter, `exampleno`, which increments automatically and is typeset as an Arabic numeral in parentheses, e.g. (1), (2),

...

`unlabeledexample` (*env.*) The `unlabeledexample` environment produces a numbered example with no label. It takes no arguments.

```
\begin{unlabeledexample}
The cat sat on the mat.
\end{unlabeledexample}
```

(1) The cat sat on the mat.

`shortexample` (*env.*) The `shortexample` environment produces a numbered example whose optional label appears on the *same line* as the number. The label is given as an optional argument in square brackets.

```
\begin{shortexample}[Substance-freeness of structural change]
Features changed by rule application need not be present in the rule's
structural environment.
\end{shortexample}
```

(2) SUBSTANCE-FREENESS OF STRUCTURAL CHANGE: Features changed by rule application need not be present in the rule's structural environment.

`example` (*env.*) The `example` environment is like `shortexample` except that the label appears on a *separate line* above the example content, separated by a small vertical skip. This is useful when the label is long or when the content is multi-line (such as a gloss block).

```
\begin{example}[Assibilating perfect passive participles and agents]
\begin{tabular}[H]{l}
metere & 'reap' & messus & 'harvested' & messor & 'reaper' \\
fodere & 'dig' & fossus & 'dug' & fossor & 'digger'
\end{tabular}
\end{example}
```

(3) Assibilating perfect passive participles and agents:

metere	'reap'	messus	'harvested'	messor	'reaper'
fodere	'dig'	fossus	'dug'	fossor	'digger'

### 3.1 Cross-referencing

All three environments call `\refstepcounter`, so standard `\label/\ref` cross-referencing works normally.

```
\begin{unlabeledexample}
The cat sat on the mat.
\label{ex:basic}
\end{unlabeledexample}
```

See~(`\ref{ex:basic}`).

## 4 Interlinear gloss macros

`simplex` provides macros for typesetting word-aligned interlinear glosses of the kind common in linguistic fieldwork and typological work. The macros accept two or three lines of space-separated tokens and stack them vertically, aligning each column.

## 4.1 Two- and three-line glosses: `\gll` and `\glll`

`\gll` `\gll` introduces a two-line gloss: a source-language line followed by a morpheme-gloss line. The two lines are separated by a literal newline (end of line) inside the macro argument; each line ends with `\\`. After the two gloss lines, supply a translation with `\glt` (or `\gln` if no translation is needed), and optionally close with `\glend`.

`\glll` `\glll` is like `\gll` but accepts three aligned lines (typically: source, morpheme gloss, and a second-tier gloss or transliteration).

```
\begin{example}[\textsc{Pre-Liquid Shortening} bled by external sandhi]
\gll clāmōr=ad cael-um
      shout=to heaven-\textsc{acc.sg.}
\glt ‘a shout to heaven’ %(fragments of Ennius)
      Omitted---no-op here.
\glend
\end{example}
```

(4) PRE-LIQUID SHORTENING bled by external sandhi:

```
clāmōr=ad cael-um
shout=to heaven-ACC.SG.
‘a shout to heaven’
```

## 4.2 Translation and closing macros

`\glt` `\glt` closes the aligned gloss block and introduces a free translation. It must appear after the final gloss line even when no translation is needed (pass an empty line in that case).

`\gln` `\gln` is an alternative to `\glt` for use when no translation is wanted at all; it closes the gloss block without adding a newline.

`\glend` `\glend` is a semantic no-op provided for readability; it marks the end of a gloss block.

## 4.3 Customizing gloss fonts

Three token-list hooks control the font applied to each line:

```
\eachwordone font for the source line (default: \rm)
\eachwordtwo font for the first gloss line (default: \rm)
\eachwordthree font for the second gloss line (default: \rm)
```

To italicize the source line, for example, add to your preamble:

```
\let\eachwordone=\it
```

The inter-word spacing in gloss blocks is controlled by the skip register `\glossglue`, whose default value is `5pt plus 2pt minus 1pt`.

## 5 Known limitations

- The `exampleno` counter is not reset at chapter boundaries. Users who want per-chapter numbering should add `\@addtoreset{exampleno}{chapter}` to their preamble.
- `\gll` and `\glll` rely on active end-of-line characters and may behave unexpectedly inside certain environments or macro arguments.
- Long words without spaces will not be broken across lines.

## 6 License

This package is copyright © Kyle Gorman and is distributed under the L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X Project Public License, version 1.3 or later (<http://www.latex-project.org/lppl.txt>). The gloss alignment code in `simplex.sty` was adapted from `gloss.tex` by Marcel R. van der Goot (1991). Additional adaptations are derived from `covington.sty` by Michael Covington.

## 7 Version history

**v1.0 (2026/03/02)** Initial public release.