



The Handbook

Codex

[http://codex.wordpress.org/Template Tags/the excerpt](http://codex.wordpress.org/Template_Tags/the_excerpt)

Version Date

9 August 2005

Template Tags/the excerpt

Description

Displays the excerpt of the current post. If a post does not contain an explicit excerpt, the first 120 words of the post's content are returned. In this latter case, [HTML](#) tags and and graphics are stripped from the excerpt's content. This tag must be within [The_Loop](#).

Usage

```
<?php the_excerpt(); ?>
```

Examples

Default Usage

Displays the post excerpt. Used on non-single/non-permalink posts as a replacement for [the_content\(\)](#) to force excerpts to show within the Loop.

```
<?php the_excerpt(); ?>
```

Use with Conditional Tags

Replaces the [the_content\(\)](#) tag with the [the_excerpt\(\)](#) when on archive (tested by [is_archive\(\)](#)) or category ([is_category\(\)](#)) pages.

Both the examples below work for versions 1.5 and above.

```
<?php if(is_category() || is_archive()) {  
    the_excerpt();  
} else {  
    the_content();  
} ?>
```

For versions of WordPress prior to 1.5, only the following will work :

```
<?php if($cat || $m) {  
    the_excerpt();  
} else {  
    the_content();  
} ?>
```

Parameters

This tag has no parameters.

Related

[the_ID](#), [the_title](#), [single_post_title](#), [the_title_rss](#), [the_content](#), [the_content_rss](#),
the_excerpt, [the_excerpt_rss](#), [previous_post](#), [next_post](#), [posts_nav_link](#), [the_meta](#)