

Working with character styles

Character styles over-ride the formatting in a paragraph style. They are applied to groups of characters, such as words or phrases, rather than whole paragraphs. They are mainly used when you want to change the appearance or attributes of parts of a paragraph without affecting other parts. Examples of effects that can be obtained by means of character styles are **bold** or *italic* typeface or colored words.

Other ways of using character styles are described elsewhere in this book. These uses include making chapter numbers, page numbers, or list numbers larger than the surrounding text and formatting hyperlinks. When you do not want some words (for example, names, or words in a different language) to be detected as spelling mistakes, you can define the language (if any) to be applied in the character style's properties.

Creating a new character style

The tabs of the Character Styles dialog are similar to those for paragraph styles:

- Use the *Organizer* tab to name the new character style and set up its hierarchical level (if needed).
- Use the *Font* tab to choose the font, style, and size for the new character style. You can specify the font size as a percentage or a point increase or decrease in the size of the font in the paragraph where the character style is applied. You can also specify the language of the text to which the character style is applied, so you can insert words in a different language and have their spelling checked using the correct dictionary.
- Use the *Font Effects* tab to set up attributes such as font color, underlining, relief, or other effects. If you frequently use hidden text, for example, it may be convenient to define a character style where the **Hidden** option is marked. Relief effects may be appropriate for a drop cap or to give more emphasis to the chapter number or other parts of the title.
- Use the *Highlighting* tab to apply a colored background to the text. This yields the same effect as using the **Highlight Color** tool on the Standard toolbar.
- Use the *Borders* tab to apply a border and a shadow to the text, if so desired.
- Use the *Position* tab to create a subscript or superscript in case you are not satisfied with the default ones or even a sub-subscript which may be useful for certain scientific publications. In the same tab, you can create rotated, condensed, or expanded text.

Note

When rotating a group of characters, you also need to specify whether the rotated text should fit in the line or if, instead, it is allowed to expand above and below the line. This property is active only for character styles.

Working with frame styles

Frames are often used as containers for text or graphics. To provide consistency in the appearance of frames used for similar purposes, it is a good idea to define styles for frames. For example, you might want photographs to be enclosed in a frame with a drop-shadowed border, line drawings in a frame with a plain border, marginal notes in a frame without a border but with a shaded background, and so on.

Writer provides several predefined frame styles (see Table 6), which you can modify as needed, and you can define new frame styles. The technique for defining and applying frame styles is similar to that for other styles.