

Delete to the End of a Sentence
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Once in a while – or even more often if you do a lot of writing – you type a sentence that begins well but ends poorly. The sentence might be grammatically incorrect, awkward or just too long. When that happens, you'd like to be able to delete the unsatisfactory part in one quick operation. Here's a macro that does just that.

The EOSDEL ("End-of-Sentence Delete") Macro

The included EOSDEL.WPM macro deletes all text and formatting codes from the cursor to the end of a sentence – or, more precisely, to the next period (.), exclamation mark (!), question mark (?) or end of document. If a period is within the sentence, such as "Mr. Smith" or "\$100.00," then the macro deletes just to the period or decimal.

To use the macro, move the cursor anywhere in a sentence, press Macro (Alt-F10), type "eosdel" and press (Enter). The text and codes from the cursor to the end of the sentence will automatically disappear.

The {WHILE} Command

The key to the EOSDEL macro is the {WHILE} command. When you need to instruct your macro to perform the same command or set of commands several times – but you don't know exactly how many – you can use the {WHILE} command.

The {WHILE} command has the following syntax: {WHILE}expr~, where expr is an expression that can be true or false. As long as expr is true, the WHILE loop continues and the set of functions within the loop are executed over and over again. When expr becomes false, however, the loop stops. The program control then resumes with the command after the WHILE loop, the end of which is marked by the {END WHILE} command.

The following three lines of a simplified version of the EOSDEL macro demonstrate the {WHILE} command:

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{WHILE}"{SYSTEM}Right~"!=". "~  
{Del}  
{END WHILE}
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The first line begins the WHILE loop. The WHILE expression (expr) is "{SYSTEM}Right~"!=". ", which can be true or false. The command {SYSTEM}Right~ checks the character at the cursor. The operand != means "not equal." The quotes around each side of the != are necessary when comparing a character or characters. Therefore, the expression "{SYSTEM}Right~"!=". " checks to see if the character at the cursor is not a period. If the expression is true – that is, if the character at the cursor is not a period – then the {Del} command in the second line deletes the character at the cursor. If the expression is false – that is, if the character at the cursor is a period – the WHILE loop stops. As you can see, this WHILE loop deletes all the characters from the cursor to the next period. To make the macro work properly, however, you'd want it not only to check for a period, but also check for an exclamation point, a question mark or no text at all. That's what the EOSDEL macro does.

Understanding the EOSDEL Macro

The {DISPLAY OFF} command in line 1 of the macro turns off the display, so that the display won't change until the macro is completed. This speeds up the macro considerably.

Line 2 begins the WHILE loop. In this case, the expression (expr) has four parts, all four of which must be true for the WHILE loop to proceed. The first part, found on line 2, is "{SYSTEM}Right ~"!=", which uses the {SYSTEM}Right~ command to get the character at the cursor and checks if that character is not equal to (!=) a period (.). The second, third and fourth parts of the expression, found on lines 3-5, check if the character at the cursor is not equal to an exclamation point (!), a question mark (?) or nothing. These lines begin with an ampersand (&), which tells the macro that the first part (line 2), second part (line 3), third part (line 4) and fourth part (line 5) must all be true for the WHILE loop to proceed.

Notice that a tilde must mark the end of the expression in the {WHILE} command. Thus, a tilde appears at the end of the expression in line 5.

Line 6 contains the {Del} command, which deletes the character at the cursor. Line 7 checks if a Yes/No question is active, which would happen if the {Del} command in line 6 tries to delete a formatting code such as [Italc] or [Style On] when Reveal Codes isn't on. If the Yes/No question is active, the macro responds with "y" for Yes, so that the code is deleted. Thus, lines 6 and 7 make up the commands within the WHILE loop. These lines continue to execute until the cursor encounters a period, an exclamation point, a question mark or end of the document.

The {END WHILE} command in line 8 marks the end of the WHILE loop. This command tells the macro to immediately jump back to the {WHILE} command, where the macro again evaluates the expression. If the expression is true, the WHILE loop executes again. If the expression is false, the WHILE loop ends and the macro jumps to the command after the {END WHILE} loop. Because the EOSDEL macro has no command after {END WHILE}, the macro terminates at that point.