How to Create a Hanging Indent in MS Word

"Hanging indent" is the typographical term for a paragraph in which the first line is not indented, but subsequent lines in the paragraph are. Typically, hanging indents are used for citations or numbered and bulleted lists. To create a hanging indent in Word, use the following steps:

1. Type your citation information without any formatting.
2. Highlight the citation information or the paragraph for which you want the hanging indent.
3. Right click and Choose Paragraph from the Format menu. Word displays the Paragraph dialog box. (See figure below)

   ![Paragraph dialog box](image)

4. In the Special drop-down list, choose **Hanging**.
5. Adjust the By field to indicate how much you want each line in the paragraph (except the first) indented, usually 0.5 inch.
6. Click on OK.
How to Create a Hanging Indent in Google Docs

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. As you will notice, the ▃ First Line Indent marker (light blue rectangle ▃) will come along for the ride, and all 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: