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Adobe

**Tips
Tricks
Techniques**

**Adobe
InDesign CS**

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multiple delimiters for nested styles

Nested styles is one of the most powerful features in InDesign. Here's a tip to help you make your nested styles even more useful.
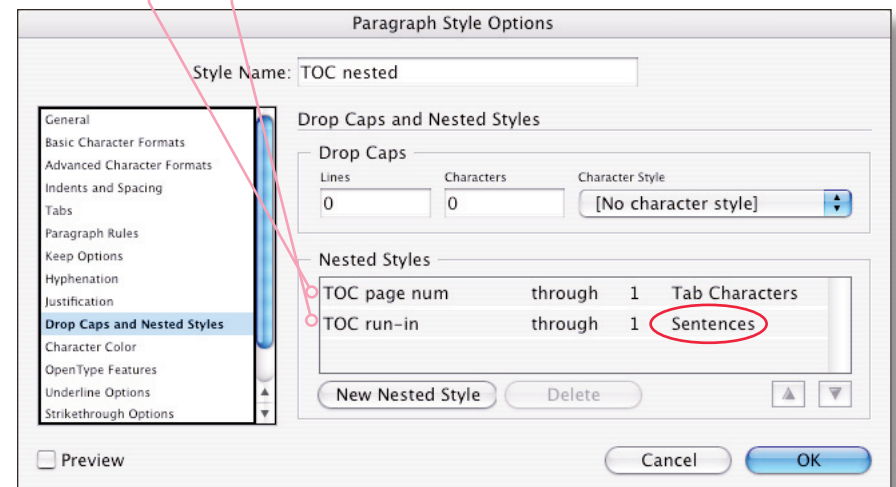
Nested styles are simply rules for applying character styles within a paragraph. It enables you to automate a process that, up to now, you've done manually.

For example, this TOC paragraph requires character level formatting for both the page number (larger point size, different color, bold face), as well as a run-in head (bold face). The rest of the paragraph uses a roman version of the typeface as defined in the paragraph style.

4   In contact. We check in with the movers and shakers in the field of artificial intelligence.

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To create this using nested styles in InDesign, a character style called 'TOC page num' is applied at the beginning of the paragraph through a delimiter character (in this case a tab character), and the another character style called 'TOC run-in' is applied through the end of a sentence. After the end of the sentence, the formatting reverts back to whatever is defined in the paragraph style.

Paragraph Style Options

Style Name: TOC nested

General
Basic Character Formats
Advanced Character Formats
Indents and Spacing
Tabs
Paragraph Rules
Keep Options
Hyphenation
Justification
Drop Caps and Nested Styles
Character Color
OpenType Features
Underline Options
Strikethrough Options

Drop Caps and Nested Styles

Drop Caps
Lines   Characters   Character Style
0   0   [No character style]

Nested Styles
TOC page num   through   1   Tab Characters
TOC run-in   through   1   Sentences

New Nested Style   Delete   ▲ ▼

☐ Preview   Cancel   OK

multiple delimiters for nested styles

But suppose the delimiter character isn't always the same?

What if using 'Sentence' as a delimiter setting won't handle all the variations that your copy might contain? Using this TOC example, suppose we need to be able to accommodate a colon as per the example at right. Using 'Sentence' as the delimiter setting won't give us what we want if the running head ends in a colon.

In order to accommodate this kind of variation in your copy, use this little-known InDesign trick: you can enter multiple characters in the delimiter field of a nested style. In this case, I would enter all the characters that can end a normal sentence in my TOC, plus the colon character which is occasionally used instead. InDesign will then use the first of the characters it encounters as the delimiter for the nested style. This means one paragraph style can handle many delimiter variations in your text.

4 **In contact.** We check in with the movers and shakers in the field of artificial intelligence.

12 **Indispensable!** The latest, greatest, irresistible news in technology.

53 **Confidential: Angus Macintyre's journal of his activities as an undercover lobbyist in the capitol.**

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Nested Styles

TOC page num	through	1	Tab Characters
TOC run-in	through	1	.?!":

New Nested Style   Delete