

# Defining Old Font Commands

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The package defines the old font commands `\rm`, `\sf`, `\tt`, `\bf`, `\it`, and `\sc` that became obsolete with L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 2<sub>ε</sub> and has been removed from the L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X kernel. It also defines the old KOMA-Script font command `\sfb`. It can be useful if you use a class like the KOMA-Script classes, which do not define the old commands by default, and also an old B<sub>I</sub>B<sub>T</sub>E<sub>X</sub> style or package, that depends on these commands. However, it should be seen as an emergency workaround rather than a solution.

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## 1 What are the possible reasons for using package defoldfonts and how to do it?

`\rm` With L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 2<sub>ε</sub> in 1994 the font commands of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 2.09 became obsolete. These are  
`\sf` not longer defined in the L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X kernel. Instead of them, you should use `\rmfamily` resp.  
`\tt` `\textrm`, `\sffamily` resp. `\textsf`, `\ttfamily` resp. `\texttt`, `\bfseries` resp. `\textbf`,  
`\bf` `\itshape` resp. `\textit`, `\slshape` resp. `\textsl`, and `\scshape` resp. `\testsc`. The old  
`\it` KOMA-Script command `\sfb` should be replaced by a combination of `\sf` and `\bf` resp.  
`\sl` `\textsf` and `\textbf`. But unfortunately not only some old B<sub>I</sub>B<sub>T</sub>E<sub>X</sub> styles but even some  
`\sc` packages still use these obsolete commands. The standard classes therefore still define them.  
`\sfb` The KOMA-Script classes also define them, but only to show an error message like:

```
Class scrartcl Error: undefined old font command ‘\bf’.
```

```
See the scrartcl class documentation for explanation.
```

```
Type H <return> for immediate help.
```

```
...
```

### 1.3 \bf

Within an interactive L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X run you can get some more information typing H and pressing the return key:

```
You should note that since 1994 LaTeX2e provides a new font selection scheme
called NFSS2 with several new, combinable font commands. KOMA-Script
classes had defined the old font commands like '\bf' only for compatibility
with old LaTeX 2.09 document styles of Script 2.0. Nevertheless, these
commands are deprecated and undocumented at least since 2003. Since 2013
KOMA-Script classes warned about soon removal of these deprecated commands.
Now, after two decades of LaTeX2e and NFSS2, these commands will not work any
more. If loading a package results in this error message, you should contact
the author of that package and ask him to replace the deprecated font command
'\bf', e.g., by '\normalfont \bfseries '. Otherwise you should reconfigure
or replace the package. If you have used the old font command '\bf' yourself,
you should replace it, e.g., by '\normalfont \bfseries '.
To make it work for now, you can use the already also deprecated class option
'enabledeprecatfontcommands'.
```

So to fix the issue, you could load the class with option `enabledeprecatfontcommands`. But because this option is also deprecated, this would result in warning messages like:

```
Class scrartcl Warning: deprecated option 'enabledeprecatfontcommands'.
(scrartcl) Note, that this option was already deprecated when
(scrartcl) it has been defined. Support for old font commands
(scrartcl) has been removed from KOMA-Script more than one
(scrartcl) decade ago. It is not recommended to use them any
(scrartcl) longer. Therefore usage of this class option also
(scrartcl) is not recommended.
```

and:

```
Class scrartcl Warning: deprecated old font command '\bf' used.
(scrartcl) You should note, that since 1994 LaTeX2e provides a
(scrartcl) new font selection scheme called NFSS2 with several
(scrartcl) new, combinable font commands. New KOMA-Script classes
(scrartcl) defined the old font commands like '\bf' only for
(scrartcl) compatibility with LaTeX 2.09 document styles of
(scrartcl) Script 2.0. These commands are deprecated and
(scrartcl) undocumented at least since 2003. Since 2013,
(scrartcl) KOMA-Script classes warned about soon removal of
(scrartcl) these deprecated commands. Now, after two decades of
(scrartcl) LaTeX2e, NFSS2, and KOMA-Script these commands will
(scrartcl) not work any longer. If loading a package results in
(scrartcl) this message you should contact the author of that
(scrartcl) package and ask him to replace the deprecated font
(scrartcl) command '\bf', e.g., by '\normalfont \bfseries '.
(scrartcl) Otherwise you should reconfigure or replace the
(scrartcl) package. If you have used the old font command
(scrartcl) '\bf' yourself you should replace it, e.g., by
(scrartcl) '\normalfont \bfseries ' on input line ....
```

As an alternative you can load package `defoldfonts`.  
 The package should be loaded in the preamble using:

```
\usepackage{defoldfonts}
```

Usually the order of `defoldfonts` and other packages is irrelevant.

## 2 Implementation

```
1 \ProcessOptions\relax
```

`\rm` We define these commands without compromise:

```
\sf 2 \DeclareOldFontCommand{\rm}{\normalfont\rmfamily}{\mathrm}
\st 3 \DeclareOldFontCommand{\sf}{\normalfont\sffamily}{\mathsf}
\bf 4 \DeclareOldFontCommand{\tt}{\normalfont\ttfamily}{\mathtt}
\it 5 \DeclareOldFontCommand{\bf}{\normalfont\bfseries}{\mathbf}
\sl 6 \DeclareOldFontCommand{\it}{\normalfont\itshape}{\mathit}
\sc 7 \DeclareOldFontCommand{\sl}{\normalfont\slshape}{\@nomath\sl}
\sc 8 \DeclareOldFontCommand{\sc}{\normalfont\scshape}{\@nomath\sc}
\sfb 9 \DeclareOldFontCommand{\sfb}{\normalfont\sffamily\bfseries}{\@nomath\sfb}
```

## References

- [Koh25a] Markus Kohm. *KOMA-Script. The Guide*. Sept. 9, 2025. URL: <http://mirrors.ctan.org/macros/latex/contrib/koma-script/scrguide-en.pdf> (visited on 09/29/2025).
- [Koh25b] Markus Kohm. *KOMA-Script. Die Anleitung*. Sept. 9, 2025. URL: <http://mirrors.ctan.org/macros/latex/contrib/koma-script/scrguide-de.pdf> (visited on 09/29/2025).
- [Koh25c] Markus Kohm. *KOMA-Script — A bundle of versatile classes and packages*. Version 3.48. The KOMA-Script bundle provides replacements for the article, report, and book classes with emphasis on typography and versatility. There is also a letter class. Sept. 9, 2025. URL: <https://ctan.org/pkg/koma-script> (visited on 09/29/2025).

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Numbers written in italic refer to the page where the corresponding entry is described; numbers underlined refer to the code line of the definition; numbers in roman refer to the code lines where the entry is used.

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## Change History

v0.1 – 2023/06/01		v1.1 – 2025-09-29	
General: start of KOMA-Script spin-off	1	General: typofix in \ProvidesPackage	1
v1.0 – 2023-07-28			
General: first release	1		