

Two spaces after a period? Never!

Many of the documents we receive at the Translation Services include the two-space error.

However, major style books such as the [Harvard Style Guide](#), the [Modern Language Association \(MLA\) style](#), the [Chicago Manual of Style](#) and [The Canadian Style](#), specify that there should only be a **single space** after a concluding punctuation mark. This rule applies to English and French.

Double spaces between sentences? ~~Ø~~ Absolutely not.

Why is double spacing such a common practice?

Inserting two spaces at the end of a sentence is a relic from typewriting conventions. Typewriters used monospaced fonts, meaning that every character occupied an equal amount of horizontal space. Today, almost all computer fonts (Courier being one exception) are proportional. The two spaces are therefore no longer required.

References:

Government of Canada, Portail linguistique du Canada. *Espace après le point*. Retrieved from: <http://www.noslangues-ourlangues.gc.ca/bien-bien/fra-eng/typographie-typography/espaces-spaces-fra.html>.

Strizver, I. *Fonts.com – Double Spaces Between Sentences - NOT!* Retrieved from: <http://www.fonts.com/content/learning/fyti/typographic-tips/double-spaces>.