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Context Breaks

Context breaks denote a break in the continuity of the narrative. It represents a shift in thought, time, location, or similar in a work of fiction or non-fiction. These changes are typically represented by a large blank space between paragraphs, which sometimes including asterisks and other decorations (traditionally when the shift occurs immediately at the bottom of a print page where it might not be apparent).

Often images are used to represent context breaks. Images are a suboptimal way to indicate a context change because they carry no semantic information.

For all context breaks, remove decorative image or content break and insert horizontal line.

- Go to the Home Section of the Ribbon Menu
- Select the dropdown menu for Borders
- Select Horizontal line

This will convert to the `<hr class="transition">` tag in EPUB.

Here is [a link to a video tutorial for Inserting Horizontal Lines in Word](#).

Sometimes decorative breaks come right before or after a new section (heading). In these cases, we do not need to replace it, rather we can just remove it entirely since the headings imply thematic changes themselves.

[Example of a context break](#)

[Types of context breaks](#) ===== Q&A Archive =====

Q: If a book uses 2 different types of breaks, what should our approach be?

A: NNELS replaces all breaks with 3 asterisks.

Q: Truth & Honour is using extra spaces between paragraphs in place of decorative breaks. Should I still treat it as a normal decorative break?

A: Yes.

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