

Nested Styles in InDesign CS3

Nested styles are a feature of InDesign CS3 that allows you to automatically apply character formatting to characters and words at the beginning of paragraphs. Nested styles are very useful for list entries, glossaries, and run-in headings.

Sample Item List

Here's an example of a nested style. Notice that all of the text up to the colon is bold and italic, all of the text from the colon to the end of the paragraph is regular. We defined the nested style so that it applies a Character style to all text *up to* the first colon. The text after the colon is using the formatting that we defined in the Basic Character Formats for the Paragraph style.

Item name: followed by a descriptive phrase.

Next item name: followed by a descriptive phrase.

Start with a Character Style

To create a nested style you must first create a Character style.

1. Highlight some text (so you can view the result) and apply character formatting such as bold, italic, or a color.
2. Hold the Alt (Windows) or Option (Mac OS) key as you click on the New Character Style button at the bottom of the Character Styles palette. Give the new Character style a meaningful name.

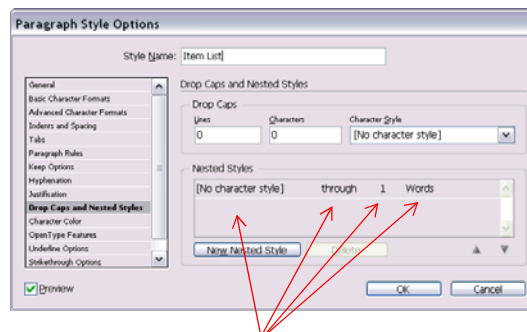


Create a Nested Paragraph Style

Now you're ready to create a nested paragraph style. Determine where you want the Character style you created to be applied—through the first word?, up to the first colon?, through the first sentence? These are all options.

1. Hold the Alt (Windows) or Option (Mac OS) key as you click on the New Paragraph Style button at the bottom of the Paragraph Styles palette.
2. Give the new Paragraph style a meaningful name.

3. Click on Drop Caps and Nested Styles at the left of the Paragraph Style Options.
4. Click the New Nested Style button.
5. In the Nested Styles area select the Character style that you created.
6. Select either “through” or “up to”.
7. If appropriate, type a number other than one.
8. Click on “Word” to see the list of options. We just typed a colon in this area to create our style. You can type any character you want in this area.



Each of these areas is editable

9. Once you have your nested style the way you want it, click OK.
10. Apply your new paragraph style to a paragraph to see the results!

Using Special Characters in the Nested Style

You can designate any character you like to end the character style formatting. Simply copy the character and use the keyboard shortcut Ctrl+V (Windows) or Command+V (Mac OS) to paste the character into the rightmost column of the Nested Styles area.