

Reading order in two-column pages

A sample article written by Quarrywise for conversion tests.

Why columns matter

Column one starts here. Many reports, papers and newsletters set their text in two columns, because shorter lines are easier to read on a wide page.

A converter that reads straight across the page mixes the two columns line by line, and the result makes no sense to a person or to a language model.

What goes wrong

The first column continues with this paragraph. When lines from both columns are joined, sentences break in the middle and facts end up next to the wrong heading.

Search systems then return chunks that mix two unrelated topics, which lowers the quality of every answer built on them.

What a converter should do

Column two starts here. A good converter finds the gap between the columns and reads the whole first column before it moves to the second.

It keeps headings that span both columns in their place, and it never joins a line from one column with a line from the other.

How to check the result

The second column ends with this paragraph. Open the Markdown output and check that each paragraph reads as one complete thought.

If a sentence suddenly changes topic halfway, the reading order is wrong and the page should be reviewed by hand.

This line spans the full width below both columns and closes the article.