

Here at Duke University Press, we provide our authors with PDF proofs. If, at this point, we still have questions about content, wording, line breaks in displays, etc., we put our queries in the margins. An author recently asked how we did this. Here are the (generic) details.

First we define a new command `\query`

```
\newcommand{\query}[1]{\marginpar{%  
  \vskip-\baselineskip %raise the marginpar a bit  
  \raggedright\footnotesize  
  \itshape\hrule\smallskip#1\par\smallskip\hrule}}
```

The argument of `\query` goes into a `marginpar` with rules above and below, `raggedright`, and in italic type.

```
Now is the time for all good  
men\query{Shouldn't 'men' be 'people'??}  
to come to the aid of the Party.  
Bring lots of beer.
```

Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of the Party. Bring lots of beer.

*Shouldn't "men"
be "people"?*

After we get the proofs back, we can remove the queries by the simple expedient of

```
\newcommand{\removequeries}{\renewcommand{\query}[1]{}}
```

and placing `\removequeries` after the `\begin{document}` declaration.

`\removequeries` gobbles up the arguments of the `\query`s and does nothing with them. This way the actual queries can remain in the source code, which can come in handy sometimes. The corrected input is

```
Now is the time for all good  
people\query{Shouldn't 'men' be 'people'??}  
to come to the aid of the Party.  
Bring lots of beer.
```

and the output is

Now is the time for all good people to come to the aid of the Party. Bring lots of beer.

I use this same mechanism to write notes to myself during document drafting. Enhancement to produce something like numbered margin footnotes is easily possible (left as an exercise for the curious).