Let's start with (p. 172): “We thus cannot say `\def\endverb{\endverbatim}’ ... because the string in macro `\endverb' starts with \_0 instead of \_12.” This is wrong because the replacement text of the \endverb macro is the token \endverbatim.

To learn the concept of token lists in \TeX{} we are told that \TeX{} is a living organism with four key organs: eyes, mouth, stomach, and bowels. Research work of leading \TeX{} anatomist Victor Eijkhout proved that these organs should be given new names (matching the functions they perform): input processor, expansion processor, execution processor, visual processor. David Salomon looking at the anatomical diagram on the page 456 of The \TeX{}book discovered a new organ which he named ‘gullet’. Its function is to expand tokens and execute certain commands. It is my opinion that introduction of the new organ which performs some functions of mouth and stomach, and at the same time narrows the functions of the eyes results in a creature which hardly resembles \TeX{}.

In several places the readers are warned by the author: “The macros and the programs listed in this book have been tested by the author but are not guaranteed. They are meant to be read, understood, and modified by the reader for specific applications. They are not meant to be copied and used verbatim.” OK, I feel warned.

On page 140 I found two lines of code which should make a comma stick out into the margin, if it occurs next to a line break.

```latex
\setbox0=\hbox{,} \catcode`,=\active
\def{,\kern-\wd0\kern\wd0}
```

This piece of code produces an infinite loop. It was not difficult to repair the code.

```latex
\setbox0=\hbox{,} \def\comma{\kern-\wd0\kern\wd0} \catcode`,=\active \let,=\comma
```

Next I tried to understand how the macros work. The comma hangs when the line is broken between the two kerns. This agrees with the explanation provided: “If a comma is used at the end of a line, however, the last \kern is discarded and the comma is left hanging out on the right.” But, on the page 91 we are told: “A line break can only occur at a glue, a penalty, a ‘math-’off’, or a discretionary break.” This means that a line break cannot separate kerns. The two kerns cancel each other and the comma does not hang at all. To recapitulate the situation: there are two sentences of which at least one could be true. (By the way, the above code could be criticized on two points more.)
Let me finish the review with personal comments on the design of the text. The design is very stingy on the vertical space. This causes a lot of trouble. Sometimes it looks as if the author added or dropped artificially a line of code to make a page exactly full. The effect is strange. Diagrams are oversized and look ugly. A keyboard and an arrow symbol are used to mark points in the text. Whatever reasonable meaning is attached to them, they are frequently misplaced or put in unnecessarily.

In spite of the above criticism I would like to recommend this book to anyone wanting to pay for the one-fourth of it covering multipass jobs and output routines plus insertions. The reason I offer is simple: these are places where I found a lot of inspiring material.

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"Why is \TeX{} so hard to use?" is the most frequent comment/complaint made by (frustrated) \TeX{} users. The answer: Because it is programmable (has many features commonly found in programming languages), because it pays attention to detail, and because its creator has developed it for his own use (perhaps also his administrative assistant’s) and not for general use. The material presented here is a direct result of this complaint and is an attempt to make it easier for inexperienced users to get the kind of high-quality typesetting that is possible with The Advanced Texbook book.