Word 2013: Using Section Breaks

Section formatting allows you to apply different page layout settings within the same document. For example, you can change the following formats for each section:

- Margins
- Paper size or orientation
- Page borders
- Vertical alignment
- Headers and footers
- Columns
- Page numbering
- Footnotes and endnotes

Section breaks are used to divide the document into sections. Once section breaks are inserted, you can format each section separately. For example, format a section as a single column for the introduction of a report, and then format the next section as two columns for the report’s body text.

Different types of section breaks:

- **Next page** inserts a section break and starts the new section on the next page
- **Continuous** inserts a section break and starts the new section on the same page
- **Odd page** or **Even page** inserts a section break and starts the new section on the next odd-numbered or even-numbered page

When working with section breaks it is advised to turn on the formatting marks so you can see the section breaks in the document.

- Click the Show/Hide button in the Paragraph group

When working with sections it is important to check the **status bar** to see what section you are working in before you apply any formatting. The status bar is located at the bottom of the screen.

**NOTE: If the section numbers do not appear on the status bar:**

1) Right-click on the status bar
2) Click on Section
The following is an example of a document before any section formatting. Note that the entire document is formatted as one column (one section):

To format only a section of the document into two columns, you must insert section breaks at the beginning and at the end of the section to be formatted.

1) Click at the beginning of the text that will begin the new section
2) Click on the Page Layout tab
3) Click on Breaks
4) Under Section Breaks click Continuous
Selecting **Continuous** will allow the text to remain on the same page, yet be a separate section.

The journey began at Folly Bridge near Oxford and ended five miles away in the village of Godstow. During the trip the Reverend Dodgson told the girls a story that featured a bored little girl named Alice who was looking for an adventure. The girls loved it, and Alice Liddell asked Dodgson to write it down for her. He began writing the manuscript the next day, although the earliest version no longer exists. The girls and Dodgson took another boat trip a month later when he elaborated the plot of the story of Alice, and in November he began working on the manuscript in earnest.[8]

The document is now divided into two sections. Above the Section Break line is **Section 1**; below the Section Break line is **Section 2**.

**To Format Section 2 into Two Columns:**
1) Check the Status Bar to confirm that you are in **Section 2**
2) Click on the Page Layout tab
3) Click on **Columns**
4) Click on **Two**
A section break needs to be inserted to specify the end of the section and to return page 3 to one column.

To Return Page 3 to the Original One Column Formatting:
1) Click at the bottom of page 2
2) Click on the Page Layout tab
3) Click on Breaks
4) Click on Next Page

To Return Page 3 to One Column Formatting:
1) Click on page 3 and confirm that you are in Section 3
2) Click the Page Layout tab
3) Click on Columns
4) Click on One

Now that page 3 is a separate section, additional page formatting may be applied.
Paper Size and Orientation

To Change the Orientation of Page 3 to Landscape:
1) Check the Status Bar to confirm that you are in Section 3
2) Click on the Page Layout tab
3) Click on Orientation
4) Click on Landscape

Headers and Footers

There are instances when different headers and footers are needed within the same document. For example: to apply a header on page 3 that is different from the header on pages 1 and 2.

To Create a Header on Pages 1 and 2:
1) Starting on page 1, section 1, click on the Insert tab
2) Click on Header in the Header & Footer group
3) Choose a style for the header
4) Click in the Header – Section 1 area and type the header information

To Add a Different Header on Page 3:
1) Click in the Header – Section 3 area on page 3
2) Turn off Link to Previous in the Navigation group on the Header & Footer Tools tab
3) Type a new header for page 3
To Add Page Numbers on Page 1 and 2:
1) Starting on page 1, click on the Insert tab
2) Click on Page Number… in the Header & Footer group
3) Highlight Bottom of Page
4) Choose the style and location for the page number

To Change the Starting Number on Page 3 to read Page 1:
1) Highlight the page number in the Footer – Section 3 area
2) Click on Page Number on the Header & Footer Tools tab
3) Click on Format Page Numbers…
4) Under Page numbering select Start at:
5) Type the page number that you want page 3 to start with
6) Click on OK