babeltools
Fixing (some) babel annoyances

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This package is deprecated. Use babel 3.9 and later instead.

The babel package introduces some changes in the LaTeX kernel which are not strictly necessary (perhaps just convenient), but have some unwanted side-effects. Oddly enough, most of these changes cannot be disabled, with a few exceptions (eg, `activeacute` and `activegrave`, but note there are not `activecaret` or `activetilde`).

With babeltools you can modify the babel behaviour by means of a set of package options, with a few macros serving as tools for specific purposes. This package must be loaded **before** babel.

1 Package options

shorthands=off The shorthands mechanism is turned off. As some languages use this mechanism for tools not available otherwise, a macro `\babelshorthand` is defined, which allows using them; see below.

shortands=... The shorthands mechanism is on, but the only shorthands activated are those given, like, eg:

    \usepackage[shorthands=:;!?]{babeltools}

If ' is included, `activeacute` is passed to babel; if ` is included, `activegrave` is passed. Active characters (like ~) should be preceded by `\string` (otherwise they will be expanded by LaTeX before they are passed to the package and therefore they will not be recognized).

adaptive By default, all babel shorthands are active and live from start to end of documents. You can deactivate them by hand with `\shorthandoff`, but this is cumbersome and you cannot use it "just in case" (if the character is not a shorthands an error is raised, instead of ignoring silently the redundant setting). That means you have to accept a character like : is active in an English document even if you need it for just a few quotations in French. The default engine may be replaced by a new one which adapts the shorthands behaviour to the context in the following way:

1. In math mode, while still shorthands, they behave always like the corresponding normal char. Things like `$a \mathrel{x'} b$` work as expected.

2. When the language is switched, shorthands chars are made normal or active, as appropriate. Thus, : or ? are active only in `french`.

nocrossrefs newlabel, ref and pageref are not redefined. You cannot use shorthands in labels.

nocitations nocite, bibcite and bibitem are not redefined. You cannot use shorthands in labels.

langcaptions Captions are redefined if possible so that an intermediate macro `\lang...name` is used, eg, `\germanchaptername`. Somewhat experimental.

noconfig Config files are not loaded, so you can make sure your document is not spoilt by an unexpected `.cfg` file.

Babel tweaks several packages for shorthands to be accepted. At the time of this writing they are cite, natbib, varioref and hhline (the latter for the colon). If you don't use shorthands, these redefinitions are unnecessary and inconvenient. If you give a list of shorthands and it doesn't include :, then `hhline` is left untouched. The other packages are handled by `nocrossrefs` and `nocitations`, as appropriate.

2 Macros

`\babelshorthand` Use a shorthand, even with `shorthands=off` or not listed in it, eg, `\babelshorthand{"u}` or `\babelshorthand{:}`. You can conveniently define your own macros.

3 Known limitations

If a class loads babel with a language, you cannot use babeltools. However, if a class loads babel without loading any language, you can use it. Languages given in `\documentclass` work as expected (provided the class doesn't load it, of course).