### styleLink (Numbering Style Definition)

This element specifies that the parent abstract [numbering](numbering.docx) definition is the base [numbering](numbering.docx) definition for the specified [numbering](numbering.docx) style referenced in its val attribute.

If this element is omitted, or it references a style which does not exist, then this [numbering](numbering.docx) definition shall not be the underlying properties for a [numbering](numbering.docx) style.

[Note: [Numbering](Numbering.docx) [styles](styles.docx) are never directly referenced by paragraphs or runs in the document – instead, an abstract [numbering](numbering.docx) definition specifies that it contains the underlying [numbering](numbering.docx) information for a [numbering](numbering.docx) style, and one or more [numbering](numbering.docx) definition instances reference a [numbering](numbering.docx) definition which inherits from it. The [numbering](numbering.docx) style itself is just a friendly name on an abstract [numbering](numbering.docx) definition. end note]

[Example: Consider the WordprocessingML fragment below, representing an abstract [numbering](numbering.docx) definition which defines the properties for a [numbering](numbering.docx) style:

<w:[numbering](numbering.docx)>

  …

  <w:[abstractNum](abstractNum.docx) w:[abstractNumId](abstractNumId.docx)="5">

  …

  <w:styleLink w:val="ExampleNumberingStyle" />

…

</w:[abstractNum](abstractNum.docx)>

</w:[numbering](numbering.docx)>

…

<w:[styles](styles.docx)>

  …

  <w:[style](style.docx) w:[type](type.docx)="[numbering](numbering.docx)" w:styleId="ExampleNumberingStyle">

    <w:[name](name.docx) w:val="ExampleNumberingStyle" />

    …

    <w:[pPr](pPr.docx)>

      <w:[numPr](numPr.docx)>

        <w:[numId](numId.docx) w:val="6" />

      </w:[numPr](numPr.docx)>

</w:[pPr](pPr.docx)>

</w:[style](style.docx)>

  …

</w:[styles](styles.docx)>

The styleLink element specifies that the abstract [numbering](numbering.docx) definition defines the properties for a [numbering](numbering.docx) style whose styleId matches its val attribute, and is defined in the [styles](styles.docx) element of the WordprocessingML. end example]

|  |
| --- |
| Parent Elements |
| [abstractNum](abstractNum.docx) (§) |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Attributes | Description |
| val (String Value) | Specifies that its contents will contain a string.  The contents of this string are interpreted based on the context of the parent [XML](XML.docx) element.  [Example: Consider the following WordprocessingML fragment:  <w:[pPr](pPr.docx)>  <w:[pStyle](pStyle.docx) w:val="heading1" />  </w:[pPr](pPr.docx)>  The value of the val attribute is the ID of the associated paragraph style's styleId.  However, consider the following fragment:  <w:[sdtPr](sdtPr.docx)>  <w:[alias](alias.docx) w:val="SDT Title Example" />  ...  </w:[sdtPr](sdtPr.docx)>  In this case, the decimal number in the val attribute is the [caption](caption.docx) of the parent structured document tag. In each case, the value is interpreted in the context of the parent element. end example]  The possible values for this attribute are defined by the [ST\_String](ST_String.docx) simple [type](type.docx) (§). |

The following [XML](XML.docx) Schema fragment defines the contents of this element:

<complexType [name](name.docx)="CT\_String">

<attribute [name](name.docx)="val" [type](type.docx)="[ST\_String](ST_String.docx)" use="required"/>

</complexType>