

PolySermo Font Selection Guide

Font Strategy Summary:

1. **Inter** (**--font-ui**) = Most content
 - All interface elements, buttons, navigation, dashboards, forms
 - Short text snippets, labels, controls
 - Basically everything that's not multilingual or long-form reading
2. **Noto Sans** (**--font-content**) = Multilingual aspects only
 - Foreign language text, vocabulary words, translations
 - Pronunciation guides, phonetic transcriptions
 - Any text that might contain non-Latin characters
 - User conversations in different languages
3. **Source Serif Pro** (**--font-reading**) = Long-form content only
 - AI-generated stories and articles
 - Extended reading passages
 - Academic explanations and essays
 - Anything requiring sustained reading

Quick decision tree:

- Does it contain foreign characters or multilingual content? → **font-content**
- Is it a long passage meant for extended reading? → **font-reading**
- Everything else (UI, short text, controls) → **font-ui**

So yes, Inter handles the bulk of your interface, Noto Sans kicks in specifically for language learning content, and Source Serif Pro is reserved for when users need to read longer passages comfortably.

Simple and clear!

1. Inter - Primary UI Font

Why Inter?

- **Digital-first design:** Specifically crafted for user interfaces and screen reading
- **Excellent legibility:** Clear character distinction crucial for real-time conversation interfaces
- **Number clarity:** Perfect for progress tracking, analytics, and learning metrics
- **Wide weight range:** Supports your gamification elements (progress bars, achievement badges)
- **Optimized spacing:** Reduces cognitive load during rapid UI interactions

Where to Use:

- Navigation menus and sidebar
- Dashboard analytics and progress tracking
- Button text and form labels
- Real-time conversation interface elements
- Quiz question text and multiple choice options
- Settings and configuration panels

Font Appearance Example:

Inter Display:

Learning Progress Dashboard

Daily Streak: 12 days | Words Learned: 247 | Conversations: 8

Clean, geometric letterforms with excellent number clarity

Example Usage (Tailwind v4):

// Dashboard metrics

```
<div className="font-[Inter] text-lg font-semibold">
```

Daily Streak: 12 days

```
</div>
```

// Navigation

```
<nav className="font-[Inter] text-sm">
```

```
<a href="/practice">Voice Practice</a>
```

```
<a href="/vocabulary">My Words</a>
```

```
</nav>
```

2. Noto Sans - Multilingual Content Font

Why Noto Sans?

- **Universal language support:** Google's comprehensive font covering 1,000+ languages
- **Consistent design:** Maintains visual harmony across different writing systems
- **No missing characters:** "Noto" = "No Tofu" (no □ boxes for unsupported characters)
- **Screen optimized:** Designed for digital reading across cultures
- **Pronunciation clarity:** Essential for your real-time pronunciation feedback

Where to Use:

- Vocabulary lists with foreign words
- AI conversation text in multiple languages
- Pronunciation guides and phonetic transcriptions
- User-generated content in any language
- Grammar examples and corrections
- Cultural context explanations

Font Appearance Example:

Noto Sans Display:

Multilingual Vocabulary

English: Hello • Spanish: ¡Hola! • French: Bonjour

Arabic: مرحباً • Chinese: 你好 • Japanese: こんにちは

Consistent, harmonious design across all writing systems

Example Usage (Tailwind v4):

```
// Multilingual vocabulary
```

```
<div className="font-[Noto_Sans]">
```

```
  <span>Spanish: ¡Hola!</span>
```

```
  <span>Arabic: مرحباً</span>
```

```
  <span>Chinese: 你好</span>
```

```
</div>
```

```
// Pronunciation feedback
```

```
<p className="font-[Noto_Sans] text-sm">
```

```
  Pronunciation: / ˈθæŋk juː/
```

```
</p>
```

3. Source Serif Pro - Reading Content Font

Why Source Serif Pro?

- **Reading optimization:** Serifs guide the eye along lines of text for extended reading
- **Academic credibility:** Establishes authority for educational content
- **Reduced eye strain:** Better for longer form content consumption
- **Story immersion:** Creates engaging atmosphere for AI-generated narratives
- **Professional appearance:** Ideal for formal language practice and business contexts

Where to Use:

- AI-generated stories and reading comprehension
- Academic writing samples and essays
- Formal conversation practice scenarios
- Cultural context articles and explanations
- Exported PDF study materials
- Long-form grammar explanations

Font Appearance Example:

Source Serif Pro Display:

Educational Story Content

María walked through the bustling streets of Madrid, practicing her newly learned Spanish phrases with every shopkeeper she encountered. The elegant serifs and traditional letterforms create an immersive, scholarly reading experience.

Classic, readable serifs with academic authority

Example Usage (Tailwind v4):

// Generated story content

```
<article className="font-[Source_Serif_Pro] text-base leading-relaxed">
  <p>
    María walked through the bustling streets of Madrid,
    practicing her newly learned Spanish phrases with
    every shopkeeper she encountered...
  </p>
</article>
```

// Academic writing example

```
<blockquote className="font-[Source_Serif_Pro] italic">
  "The subjunctive mood in Spanish expresses doubt,
  emotion, or hypothetical situations..."
</blockquote>
```

</blockquote>

Why Not Geist & Geist Mono?

Geist Font Appearance:

What Geist looks like:

Generic Web App Text

Learning Progress Dashboard

Daily Streak: 12 days | Words Learned: 247

Modern but sterile, lacks personality and multilingual robustness

What Geist Mono looks like:

Code-Style Text (Inappropriate for Learning)

Learning Progress Dashboard

Daily Streak: 12 days

Fixed-width spacing disrupts natural language flow

The Problem:

Your original font choice treats PolySermo like a generic web app rather than a specialized educational platform. Language learning requires:

- **Cultural sensitivity** through appropriate typography
 - **Multilingual robustness** for global users
 - **Reading optimization** for extended study sessions
 - **Educational hierarchy** through varied font styles
-

Implementation Strategy

Font Hierarchy:

1. **Inter**: All UI elements, navigation, controls
2. **Noto Sans**: Any multilingual content, vocabulary, conversations
3. **Source Serif Pro**: Stories, articles, formal content, exported materials

Performance Considerations:

- Load Inter first (most used)
- Lazy load Source Serif Pro for story sections
- Expand Noto Sans subsets based on target languages

Accessibility Benefits:

- Clear character distinction aids dyslexic users
- Multiple font weights support visual hierarchy
- Consistent cross-language rendering reduces confusion
- Optimized for screen readers across writing systems

This font system transforms PolySermo from a generic app into a professional language learning platform that respects global users and educational best practices.