COURSEWARE

Fonts

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Overview

Fonts are a key element of any website. When working with fonts it is vital to take into consideration what type of font we are using.

Fonts must be appropriate as well as consistent across different browsers and devices.

Tutorial

Font Encoding

Font encoding in a browser is done through *character sets*. If your browser does not understand a character, a placeholder glyph will appear in its place. Generally speaking, this is a sign of bad security by your browser, as some JavaScript client-side security attacks take advantage of bad character encoding.

We set the **encoding type** to ensure the HTML page is displayed correctly, as well as the browser knowing the character set used in the Web page.

In HTML5, it looks like this:

```
<meta charset="utf-8" />
```

XHTML and HTML4 use slightly different syntax:

```
<meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html"; charset="utf-8" />
```

Font Families

- CSS defines five font families to which most fonts are categorised:
  - `serif` - Times New Roman
  - `sans-serif` - Arial
  - `monospace` - Courier New
  - `cursive` - Brush Script
  - `fantasy` - Papyrus

There are also dingbats and other symbol library fonts, and HTML character entities (e.g. `£`).

Fonts are set in a comma delimited list, and the browser checks if that font family is available:

```
body{
    font-family: Helvetica, Verdana, Arial, sans-serif
}
```

Below are some common font CSS rules we tend to use:

Property	Usage
`font-size`	Uses any of the units previously discussed or a value between `xx-small` and `xx-large`
`font-weight`	Controls the appeared thickness of the font; either normal/bold or a weight scale between 100 and 900
`font-style`	Normal, italic or oblique – if no oblique is present, italic is used
`line-height`	Sets the leading height of each line of text
`vertical-align`	Sets the alignment of the text in relation to the line box

Compound rules

Fonts need to be set in a very specific way using CSS. It allows us to use a single element to set multiple CSS rules in one line, which speeds up development as well as readability.

Compound rules require a minimum set of keywords and a specific order. The most basic rule requires:

```
font: <font-size> <font-family>;
```

When using a complex rule optional values *precede* the mandatory:

```
font: italic small-caps 1.2em Georgia, serif;
```

The following is a list of some common text properties:

Property	Description	Common Values
`color`	Sets the text colour for this and child elements	Any valid colour
`text-align`	Sets the horizontal alignment of text	`left`, `right`, `center`, `justify`
`text-decoration`	Sets or removes decorations from text	none
`text-transform`	Specifies case for text	`uppercase`, `lowercase`, `capitalize`
`text-indent`	Specifies indentation of first line of text	Any valid measurement
`letter-spacing`	Specifies space between characters in text	Any valid measurement
`line-height`	Sets space between lines	Any valid measurement
`text-direction`	Changes the direction of text	`rtl`, `ltr`
`word-spacing`	Sets space between words	Any valid measurement

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Exercises

Create a simple HTML page and explore the different font-families that are available for styling.

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