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# Understanding typography

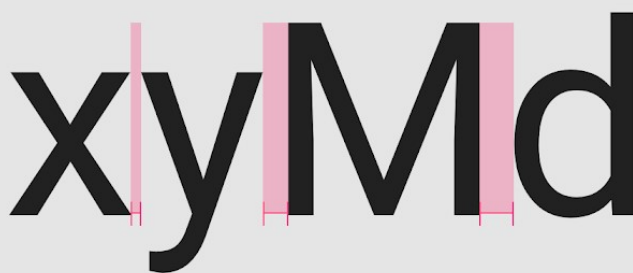
4 minutos

While legibility is determined by the characters in a typeface, **readability** refers to how easy it is to read words or blocks of text, which is affected by the style of a typeface.

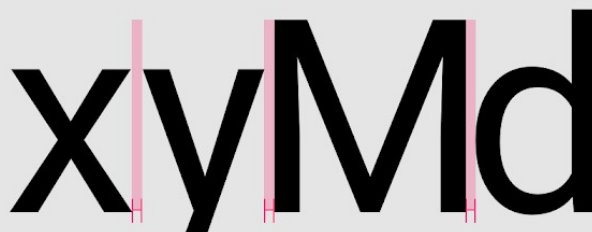
## Letter-spacing

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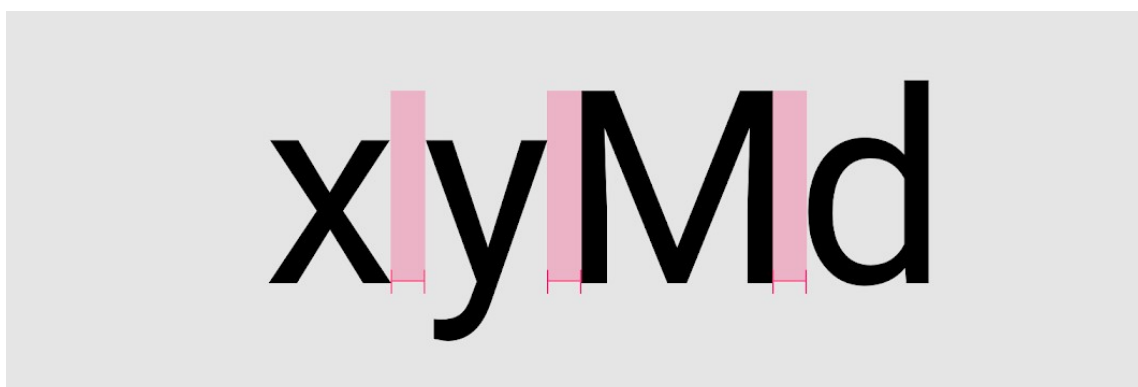
A diagram illustrating letter-spacing (tracking) for the text "xyMd". The letters are shown in a large, bold, black sans-serif font. Three vertical pink lines are positioned between the letters: one between 'x' and 'y', one between 'y' and 'M', and one between 'M' and 'd'. Small horizontal pink lines at the base of each letter indicate the spacing between them. The spacing is wide, creating a loose and less readable appearance.

Larger type sizes, such as headlines, use tighter letter-spacing to improve readability and reduce space between letters.

A diagram illustrating letter-spacing (tracking) for the text "xyMd". The letters are shown in a large, bold, black sans-serif font. Three vertical pink lines are positioned between the letters: one between 'x' and 'y', one between 'y' and 'M', and one between 'M' and 'd'. Small horizontal pink lines at the base of each letter indicate the spacing between them. The spacing is tight, creating a more compact and readable appearance.

## Tighter letter-spacing

For smaller type sizes, looser letter spacing can improve readability as more space between letters increases contrast between each letter shape. Text in all caps, even at small type sizes, has improved readability because of its added letter spacing.



## Looser letter spacing

### Tabular figures

Use tabular figures (also known as monospaced numbers), rather than proportional digits, in tables or places where values may change often.

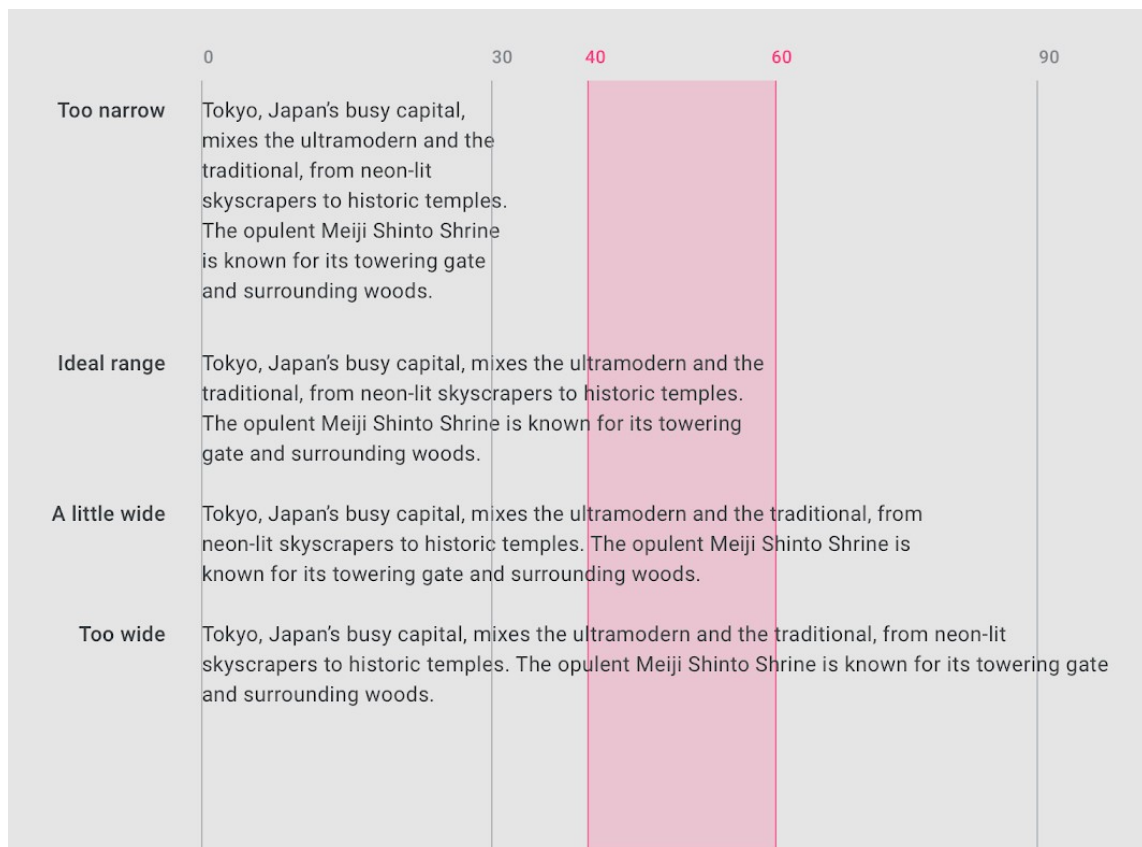
Proportional Figures	1,111,111
	9,800,000
	7,999,111
Tabular / Monospaced Figures	1,111,111
	9,800,000
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Tabular figures keep values optically aligned for better scanning.

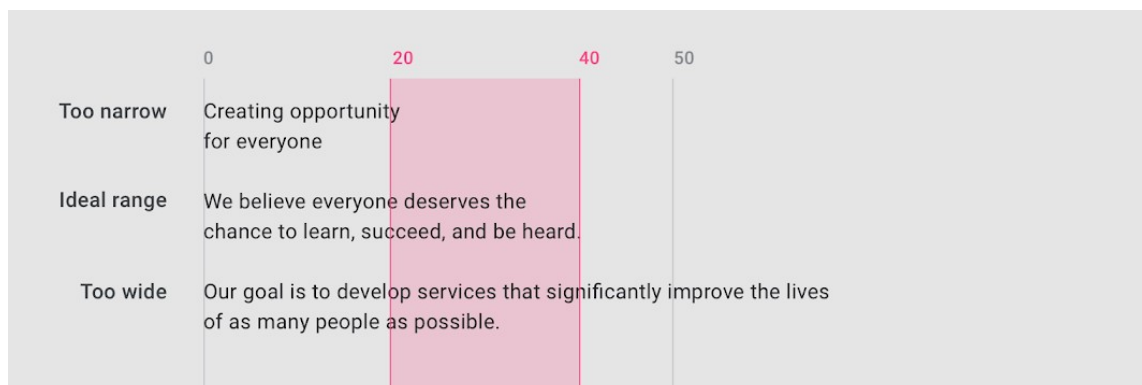
## Line length

Line lengths for body text are usually between 40 to 60 characters. In areas with wider line lengths, such as desktop, longer lines that contain...

Line lengths for body text are usually between 40 to 60 characters. In areas with wider line lengths, such as desktop, longer lines that contain up to 120 characters will need an increased line height from 20sp to 24sp.



The ideal line length is 40-60 characters per line for English body text.



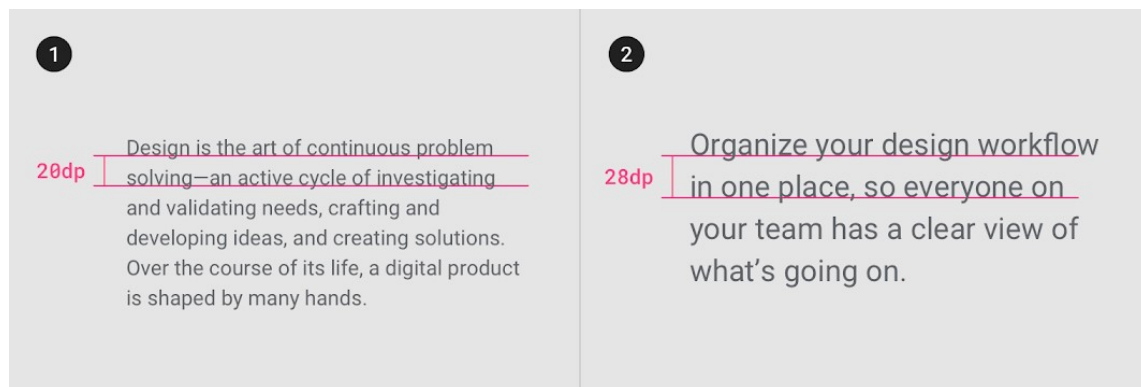
The ideal line length for short lines of English text is 20-40 characters per line.

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## Line height

Line height, also known as leading, controls the amount of space between baselines in a block of text. A text's line height is proportional to...

Line height, also known as leading, controls the amount of space between baselines in a block of text. A text's line height is proportional to its type size.



1. Type size 14, Line-height 20dp

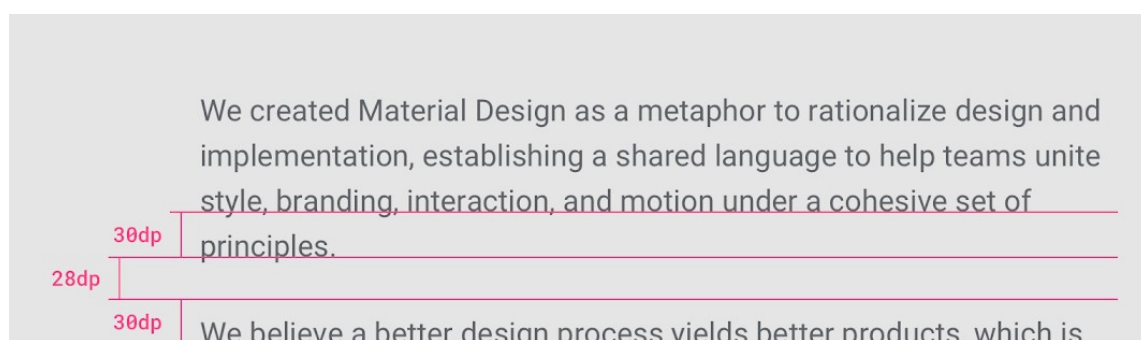
2. Type size 20, Line-height 28dp

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## Paragraph spacing

Keep paragraph spacing in the range between .75x and 1.25x of the type size.

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why we're expanding Material to be a system that supports the principles of good design and strengthens communication and productivity with new tools and inspiration. We hope these resources will help teams realize their greatest design potential, and we're eager to see the results.

Type size 20sp, line-height 30dp, paragraph spacing 28dp

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## Type alignment

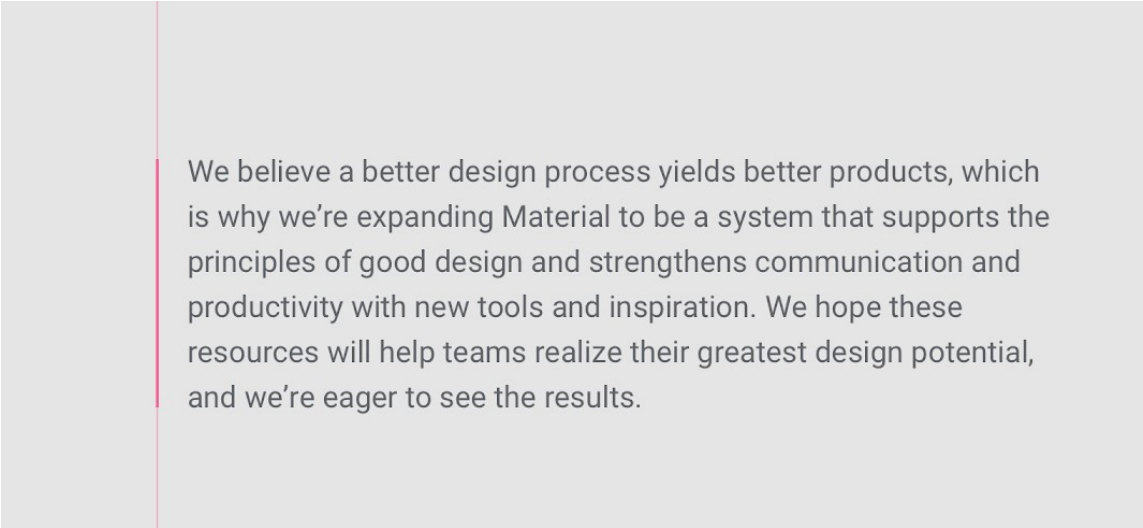
Type alignment controls how text aligns in the space it appears. There are three type alignments: Left-aligned text is the most common setting for left-to-right...

Type alignment controls how text aligns in the space it appears. There are three type alignments:

- Left-aligned: when text is aligned to the left margin
- Right-aligned: when text is aligned to the right margin
- Centered: when text is aligned to the center of the area it is set in

## Left-aligned

Left-aligned text is the most common setting for left-to-right languages such as English.



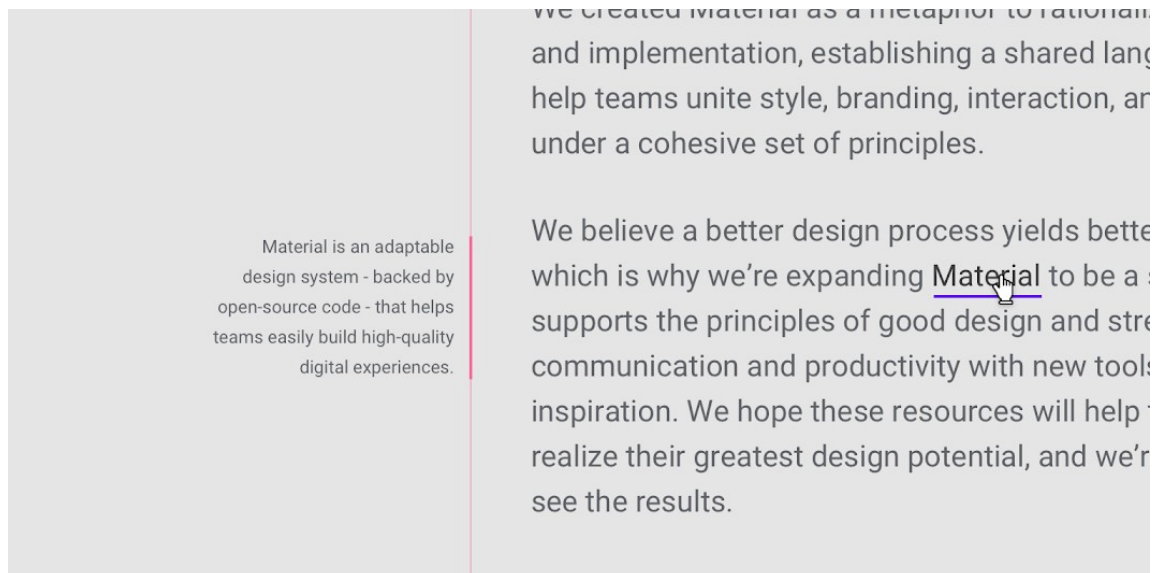
We believe a better design process yields better products, which is why we're expanding Material to be a system that supports the principles of good design and strengthens communication and productivity with new tools and inspiration. We hope these resources will help teams realize their greatest design potential, and we're eager to see the results.

Left-aligned text applied to body copy

## Right-aligned

Right-aligned text is the most common setting for right-to-left languages, such as Arabic and Hebrew.

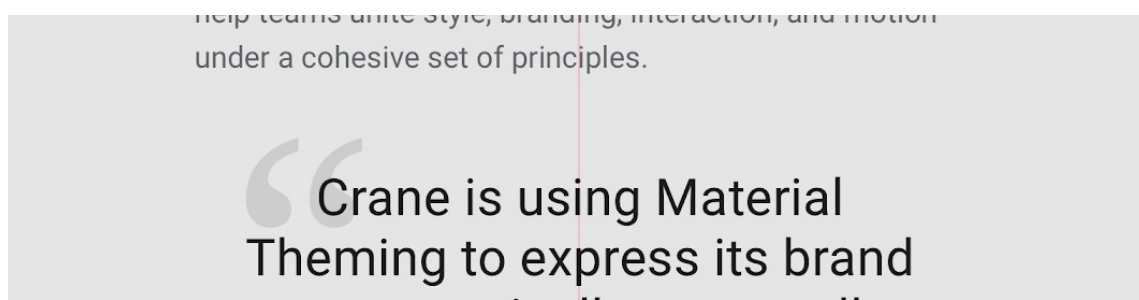
Left-to-right languages can use right-aligned text, though it is best for distinguishing short typographic elements within a layout (such as side notes), and is not recommended for long copy.



Right-aligned text applied to a side note

## Centered

Centered text is best used to distinguish short typographic elements within a layout (such as pull quotes), and is not recommended for long copy.



systematically across all  
product verticals.

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Center-aligned text applied to a pull quote