COURSEWARE

Fonts

Contents

- Overview
- Font Encoding
- Font Families
- Compound Rules
- Tutorial
- Exercises

Overview

Fonts are a key element of any website, as they can dictate visual hierarchy, set the tone for a website, and provide a layer of consistency across pages.

Using the appropriate fonts consistently across a website and its pages is a good foundation of user interface-focused design.

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, 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-based library fonts, as well as a number of HTML character entities (e.g. `£`).

Character entities are prefixed with an ampersand `&` and closed with a semi-colon `;`, to display reserved characters that could be interpreted as HTML code.

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, speeding up development and 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

Property	Description	Common Values
`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
`text-shadow`	Gives shadow to text – horizontal, vertical and colour of shadow	`3px 3px green`

Tutorial

There is no tutorial for this module.

Exercises

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

Property	Description	Common Values