CSS Fonts

CSS Web Safe Fonts

Web safe fonts are fonts that are universally installed across all browsers and devices.

Fallback Fonts

However, there are no 100% completely web safe fonts. There is always a chance that a font is not found or is not installed properly. Therefore, it is very important to always use fallback fonts. This means that you should add a list of similar "backup fonts" in the font-family property. If the first font does not work, the browser will try the next one, and the next one, and so on. Always end the list with a generic font family name.

Best Web Safe Fonts for HTML and CSS
The following list are the best web safe fonts for HTML and CSS:
- Arial (sans-serif)
- Verdana (sans-serif)
- Helvetica (sans-serif)
- Tahoma (sans-serif)
- Trebuchet MS (sans-serif)
- Times New Roman (serif)
- Georgia (serif)
- Garamond (serif)
- `Courier New (monospace)`
- Brush Script MT (cursive)

Note: Before you publish your website, always check how your fonts appear on different browsers and devices, and always use fallback fonts!

Commonly Used Font Fallbacks
Below are some commonly used font fallbacks, organized by the 5 generic font families:
- Serif
- Sans-serif
- Monospace
- Cursive
- Fantasy

CSS Fonts

CSS Font Style

The font-style property is mostly used to specify italic text.

This property has three values:

- ➢ normal - The text is shown normally
- ➢ italic - The text is shown in italics
- ➢ oblique - The text is "leaning" (oblique is very similar to italic, but less supported)

The font-weight property specifies the weight of a font.

The font-variant property specifies whether or not a text should be displayed in a small-caps font. In a small-caps font, all lowercase letters are converted to uppercase letters. However, the converted uppercase letters appear in a smaller font size than the original uppercase letters in the text.

CSS Font Size

The font-size property sets the size of the text.

Being able to manage the text size is important in web design. However, you should not use font size adjustments to make paragraphs look like headings, or headings look like paragraphs.

Always use the proper HTML tags, like <h1> - <h6> for headings and <p> for paragraphs.

The font-size value can be an absolute, or relative size.

- ➢ **Absolute size:**

Sets the text to a specified size

Does not allow a user to change the text size in all browsers (bad for accessibility reasons)

Absolute size is useful when the physical size of the output is known

- ➢ **Relative size:**

Sets the size relative to surrounding elements

Allows a user to change the text size in browsers

Note: If you do not specify a font size, the default size for normal text, like paragraphs, is 16px (16px=1em).

- ➢ **Responsive Font Size**

The text size can be set with a vw unit, which means the "viewport width".

That way the text size will follow the size of the browser window.

Viewport is the browser window size. 1vw = 1% of viewport width. If the viewport is 50cm wide, 1vw is 0.5cm.

CSS Fonts

CSS Google Fonts

If you do not want to use any of the standard fonts in HTML, you can use Google Fonts. Google Fonts are free to use, and have more than 1000 fonts to choose from.

➢ Just add a special style sheet link in the <head> section and then refer to the font in the CSS.
➢ To use multiple Google fonts, just separate the font names with a pipe character (|).

Note: When specifying a font in CSS, always list at minimum one fallback font (to avoid unexpected behaviors). So, also here you should add a generic font family (like serif or sans-serif) to the end of the list.

Note: Requesting multiple fonts may slow down your web pages! So be careful about that.

CSS Great Font Pairings

Great font pairings are essential to great design.

Font Pairing Rules

Here are some basic rules to create great font pairings:

1. Complement - It is always safe to find font pairings that complement one another. A great font combination should harmonize, without being too similar or too different.

2. Use Font Superfamilies - A font superfamily is a set of fonts designed to work well together. So, using different fonts within the same superfamily is safe.

For example, the Lucida superfamily contains the following fonts: Lucida Sans, Lucida Serif, Lucida Typewriter Sans, Lucida Typewriter Serif and Lucida Math.

3. Contrast is King - Two fonts that are too similar will often conflict. However, contrasts, done the right way, brings out the best in each font.

Example: Combining serif with sans serif is a well-known combination.

A strong superfamily includes both serif and sans serif variations of the same font (e.g. Lucida and Lucida Sans).

4. Choose Only One Boss

One font should be the boss. This establishes a hierarchy for the fonts on your page. This can be achieved by varying the size, weight and color.

Some popular font pairings that will suit many brands and contexts:
- Georgia and Verdana
- Helvetica and Garamond

CSS Fonts

Below are some popular Google Web Font Pairings:
- Merriweather and Open Sans
- Ubuntu and Lora
- Abril Fatface and Poppins
- Cinzel and Fauna One
- Fjalla One and Libre Baskerville
- Space Mono and Muli
- Spectral and Rubik
- Oswald and Noto Sans

CSS Font Property

To shorten the code, it is also possible to specify all the individual font properties in one property.

The font property is a shorthand property for:
- font-style
- font-variant
- font-weight
- font-size/line-height
- font-family

Note: The font-size and font-family values are required. If one of the other values is missing, their default value is used.