HTML

Applying CSS

Selectors, Properties, and Values

Colors

Text

Margins and Padding

Rorders

Putting It Al Together

Intermediate

Advanced

JavaScript

HTML Tags
CSS Properties

Web Hosting

About Us
Link to Us

Text

You can alter the size and shape of the text on a web page with a range of properties.

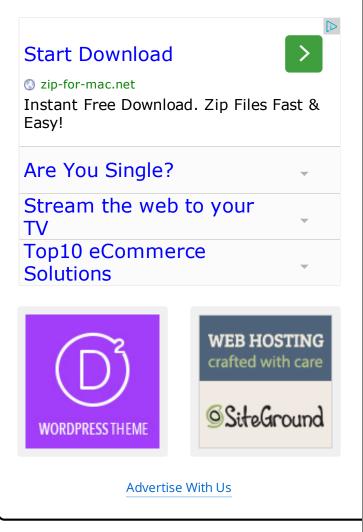
font-family

This is the font itself, such as Times New Roman, Arial, or Verdana.

The user's browser has to be able to find the font you specify, which, in most cases, means it needs to be on **their** computer so there is little point in using obscure fonts that are only sitting on **your** computer. There are a select few "safe" fonts (the most commonly used are Arial, Verdana and Times New Roman), but you can specify more than one font, separated by commas. The

purpose of this is





that if the user does not have the first font you specify, the browser will go through the list until it finds one it does have. This is useful because different computers sometimes have different fonts

installed. So font-family: arial, helvetica, serif, will look for the Arial font first and, if the browser can't find it, it will search for Helvetica, and then a common serif font.

Note: if the name of a font is more than one word, it should be put in quotation marks, such as font-family: "Times New Roman".

You can use a wider selection than the "safe" fonts using several methods outlined in the CSS Advanced Tutorial but if you're just getting to grips with CSS, we suggest sticking with this basic standard approach for the moment.

font-size

The size of the font. Be careful with this - text such as headings should not just be an HTML paragraph (p) in a large font - you should still use headings (h1, h2 etc.) even though, in practice, you could make the font-size of a paragraph larger than that of a heading (not recommended for sensible people).

font-weight

This states whether the text is bold or not. Most commonly this is used as font-weight: bold or font-weight: normal but other values are bolder, lighter, 100, 200, 300, 400 (same as normal), 500, 600, 700 (same as bold), 800 or 900.



Play around with these font-weight values if you want see their effect but, keep in mind, that some older browsers become a little confused with anything other than **bold** and **normal** so we suggest sticking to those unless you're a typography ninja.

font-style

This states whether the text is italic or not. It can be font-style: italic or font-style: normal.

text-decoration

This states whether the text has got a line running under, over, or through it.

- text-decoration: underline, does what you would expect.
- text-decoration: overline places a line above the text.
- text-decoration: line-through puts a line through the text ("strike-through").

This property is usually used to decorate links and you can specify no underline with text-decoration: none.



Underlines should only really be used for links. They are a commonly understood web convention that has lead users to generally expect underlined text to be a link.

text-transform

This will change the case of the text.

font-size: 1.5em;

- text-transform: capitalize turns the first letter of every word into uppercase.
- text-transform: uppercase turns everything into uppercase.
- text-transform: lowercase turns everything into lowercase.
- text-transform: none I'll leave for you to work out.

So, a few of these things used together might look like this:

```
body {
    font-family: arial, helvetica, sans-serif;
    font-size: 14px;
}

h1 {
    four m;
}
```



```
a {
    text-decoration: none;
}

strong {
    font-style: italic;
    text-transform: uppercase;
}
```

Text spacing

Before we move on from this introduction to styling text, a quick look at how to space out the text on a page:

The <u>letter-spacing</u> and <u>word-spacing</u> properties are for spacing between letters or words. The value can be a length or <u>normal</u>.

The <u>line-height</u> property sets the height of the lines in an element, such as a paragraph, without adjusting the size of the font. It can be a number (which specifies a multiple of the font size, so "2" will be two times the font size, for example), a length, a percentage, or normal.

The <u>text-align</u> property will align the text inside an element to left, right, center, or justify.

The <u>text-indent</u> property will indent the first line of a paragraph, for example, to a given length or percentage. This is a style traditionally used in print, but rarely in digital media such as the web.

```
p {
    letter-spacing: 0.5em;
    word-spacing: 2em;
    line-height: 1.5;
    text-align: center;
}
```

Related pages

Next Page: Margins and Padding

Previous Page: Colors

Working Examples

- Size doesn't matter Changing default sizes with font-size.
- Changing case: Using text-transform and font-variant.
- Spacing out text: Using text-align, text-indent, word-spacing, and letter-spacing.

Reference

- font-family
- font-size
- font-weight
- font-style
- text-decoration
- text-transform
- letter-spacing
- word-spacing
- line-height
- text-align
- text-indent

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