CSS Fonts & Text

Fonts and Text: Overview

- Font styling for web – legacy/current

- Using "Web Fonts"

- Coloring and sizing text

- Font effects

Fonts on Web Pages

- Web browsers are software on a user's computer.

- As such, web browsers have their own default font set for rendering text on pages.

- You can **ask** the browser to use different fonts.

- If the browser has those fonts, and barring any other settings to the contrary, it will use them.

- Increase your chances by creating a font stack

- A font stack is a listing of requested fonts.

Creating a Font Stack

- Use the font-family property to indicate that one or more fonts will be requested.

font-family: Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif;

font-family: sans-serif;

- The browser will look for the fonts in that order. If it doesn't have any, it will render in the default font.

Font Usage

- Two primary types of fonts used on the web

- serif fonts
  - Best for long passages of text
  - Think: paragraphs and other passages

- sans-serif
  - Best for headlines
  - Think: H1, H2, H3, and other headlines

- monospace
  - Good for code listings

Some Standard Font Stacks

- **Serif:**

- "Times New Roman", Times, serif

- Georgia, "Times New Roman", Times, serif

- Baskerville, "Palatino Linotype", Times, serif

- **Sans-serif:**

- Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif

- Verdana, Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif

- Tahoma, "Lucida Grande", Arial, sans-serif

When Stacking Fonts

- Choose a single "type" or family (serif, sans-serif, or other) – don't mix families.

- Use quotes around fonts with spaces ("Times New Roman".

- If you have a typo, misspelling, or other problem, the browser will ignore that font and go to the next.

- Remember: You're _asking_ the browser to use the font, not telling it to.

Enter Web Fonts

- The legacy (standard?) requirement that a visitor has a font in the font stack is no longer true... for all cases.

- Web Fonts describe a standard by which the user's browser will download a set of fonts from a URL that you specify.

- Web Fonts require a relatively recent browser.

- Remember: You're still *asking* the browser to download and use the fonts. The browser can refuse.

Three Types of Web Fonts

- EOT (Embedded OpenType) – IE only

- TypeType/OpenType

- Web Open Font Format (WOFF) – IE9+, Safari 5, recent Chrome, Firefox, Opera

- WOFF is the "new" standard – or the one that you'll typically use the most although you may also use EOT.

One More Property to Remember

- @font-face is the property used to specify the URL of the fonts to download.

- However, depending on how you load it, you may not need that property (more on this in the upcoming exercise).

- You still use font-family.

When Using Web Fonts...

- Fonts are licensed software and the license typically restricts web usage.

- Never convert or use fonts on your computer as Web Fonts unless you're sure of the licensing

- Several sites have freely available fonts for usage but always read the license agreement and other applicable agreements prior to use.

Font Exercise Setup

- Create a folder called css_fonts and within it create a basic HTML5 page with a in-page <style> declaration.

- Within the page, use the following HTML:

<h1>This is a headline</h1>

<p>This is a paragraph</p>

Web Fonts Exercise – Generating Fonts

- Go to: https://www.google.com/fonts

- Select one sans-serif font and one serif font and click "Add to Collection" for each.

- Click "Use" from the bottom nav

- On the "Almost done!" page, choose any styles you want or leave at default.

- Find the "Add this code to your website" step and copy and paste the CSS link into your HTML.

Web Fonts Exercise – Applying Fonts

- With the CSS fonts downloaded, apply the serif font to the <p> tag and the sans-serif font to the <h1> tag.

- The Google page has the font-family declaration for each of the fonts that you added to your collection. Copy and paste!

Coloring Text (and Other Stuff)

- You can provide color to text and backgrounds in a few different ways:

- Using names: white

- Using hex: #FFFFFF

- Using RGB: (255,255,255)

- Using RGBA: (255,255,255,.5)

- Using HSL and HSLA (not covered here)

Colorizing

- Hex or RGB give good control over the color

- RGBA adds the "Alpha" or Opacity for the element being colored.
  - (The opacity property can also be used)

- When specifying opacity, 1 means perfectly opaque and 0 means invisible.

Using rgb and rgba

- Not all browsers support rgba but there's a workaround:

- Specify both rgb and rgba in that order. Older browsers will apply the rgb CSS rule and ignore the second rule. Newer browsers will apply the first but then the second, rgba rule, will take effect:

color: rgb(255,255,255);

color: rgba(255,255,255,.8);

Sizing Text

- The most important point:
  - Browsers set the text size, you ask for a different one.
  - Browsers typically choose 16px.

- When setting sizes, you can use pixels, percentages, or ems. (There are others but those are the big three).

- Pixels **should** set an absolute value but it can change based on things outside of your control – so ems or % is preferred

Using ems for Text

- When using ems, a specification of 1em is the same as 100%.

- The size is relative to the base text size (16px typically by default) BUT text size also inherits.

- Text size inheritance means that setting a body font-size of 2em changes the scale of everything that inherits from it. Everything will be relative to that 2em unless changed elsewhere.

- Yes, it can be confusing! (Use Firebug/Chrome Inspector)

Changing Text

- Some ways to change text that you might find helpful:
  - font-style: italics
  - font-weight: bold
  - text-transform: uppercase
  - text-decoration: underline (or line-through or overline)
  - letter-spacing, word-spacing, line-height
  - text-align: center (and others)
  - text-indent: 1.5em

List Styles

- Several ways to style lists. All begin with the property: list-style-type
  - disc
  - circle
  - square
  - decimal
  - decimal-leading-zero
  - upper-alpha
  - lower-alpha
  - upper-roman
  - lower-roman