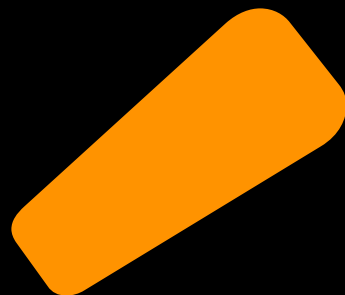
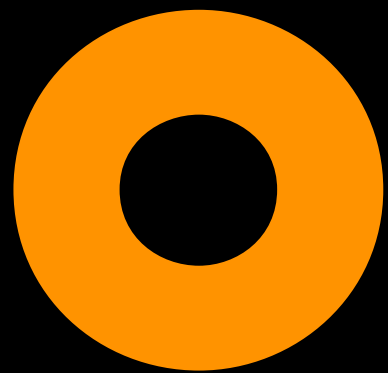




Diacritics





Why do we
have them?

*To extend Latin
to cover more sounds*

Latin begins with

A B C D E F G H I L M N
O P Q R S T U X

Later

JKVWYZ

are added



Why?

*The Latin script
does not perfectly
fit all sounds in the
languages that adopt
it – even Latin*

*Eventually instead
of adding lots of
new letters...*

*old letters are
adapted using
the Greek
diacritic model*

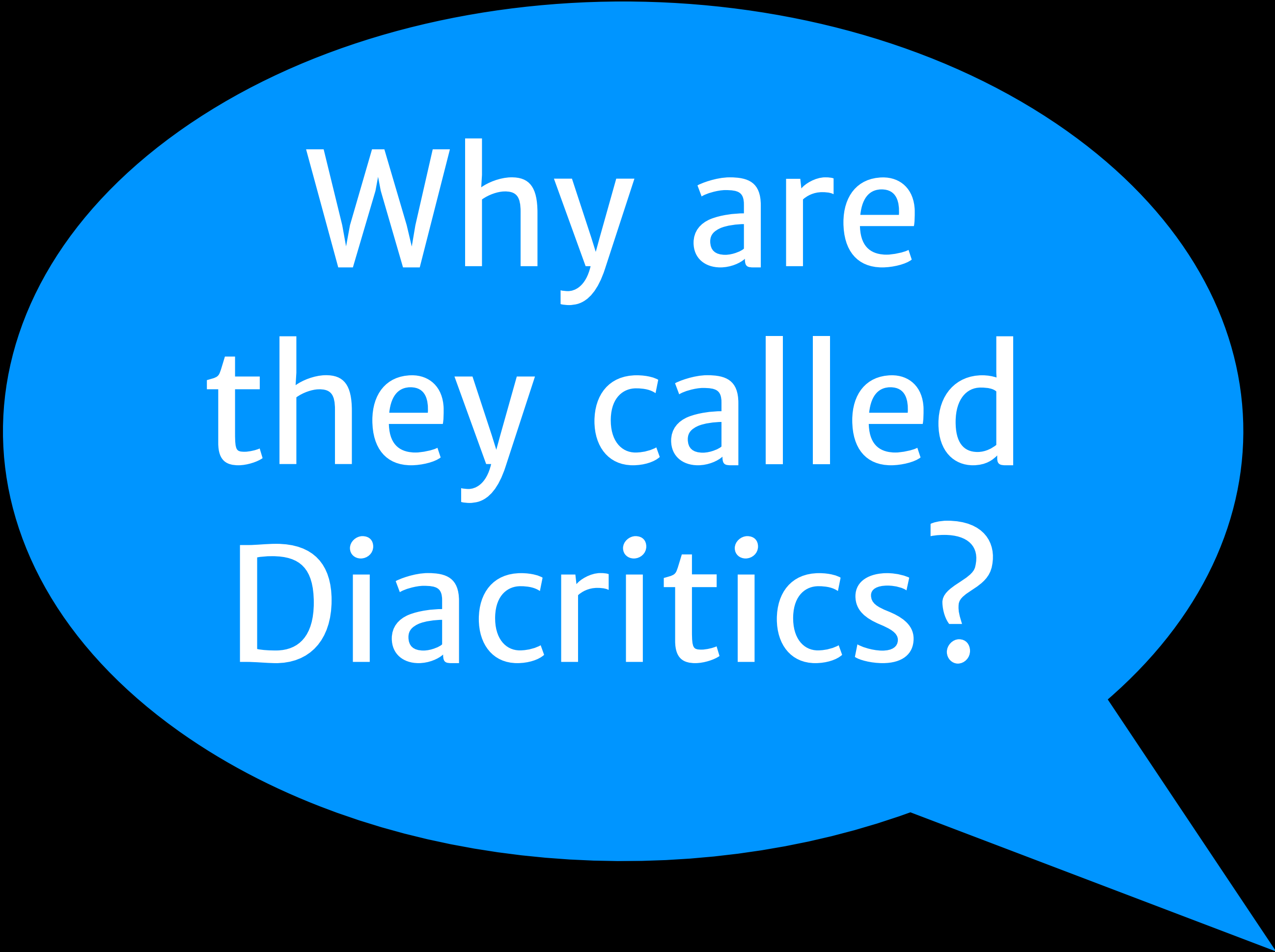
example:

À Â Ç É È Ê Ë Ì Í
Ô Õ Æ Ù Ú Û Ü Ý Þ

are added for French

*Adaptions are
language specific.*

*This means the sound
and letter don't
always agree
between languages*



Why are
they called
Diacritics?

*Many (but not all)
diacritics have their
origin in Greek*

*The name “diacritics”
comes from Greek too*

διακριτικός
or diakritikós
means
distinguishing



What kinds
of diacritics
exist?

*In addition to
marks that sit
above and below
letters...*

ÁK,

AK

The image features the letters 'A' and 'K' in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The 'A' has a brown circular graphic above it containing a light orange, elongated shape. The 'K' has a brown circular graphic below it containing a light orange comma-like shape.

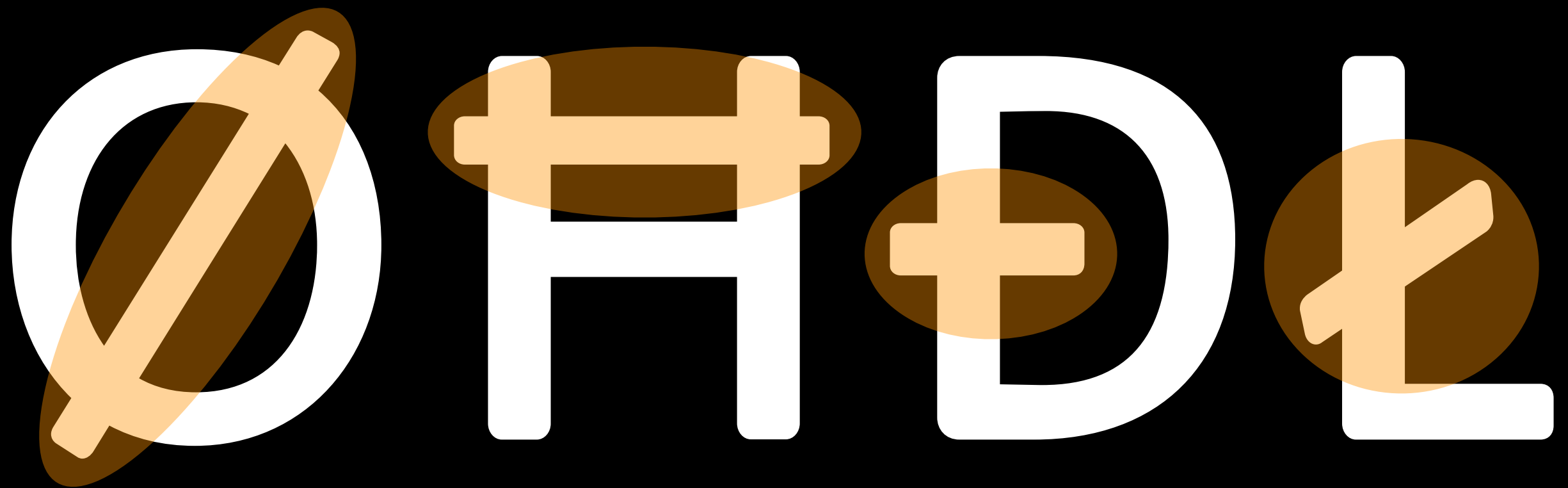
*some letters
have marks to
the side*

L.L.t'd

Let's

*some letters
are crossed...*

ØHEDt



*or have
parts added*

SEN

SEN

The logo for SEN features the letters 'SEN' in a bold, white, sans-serif font. Below the letters are three brown circles. Each circle contains an orange crescent shape, which is positioned such that it appears to be a shadow or a reflection of the letter above it. The 'S' has a crescent below it, the 'E' has a crescent below it, and the 'N' has a crescent below it.

*or are made
with two letters
combined*

Æ Æ

*Some letters are
irrationally grouped
with diacritics*

đ ß ij k

This is not logical

*Many things in
type just have to
be studied*

*For instance these
are upper and
lowercase Thorn...*

pb

*upper and
lowercase Tbar...*

77

*What about
upper and
lowercase Eth?*

Đd?

No!

This is correct.

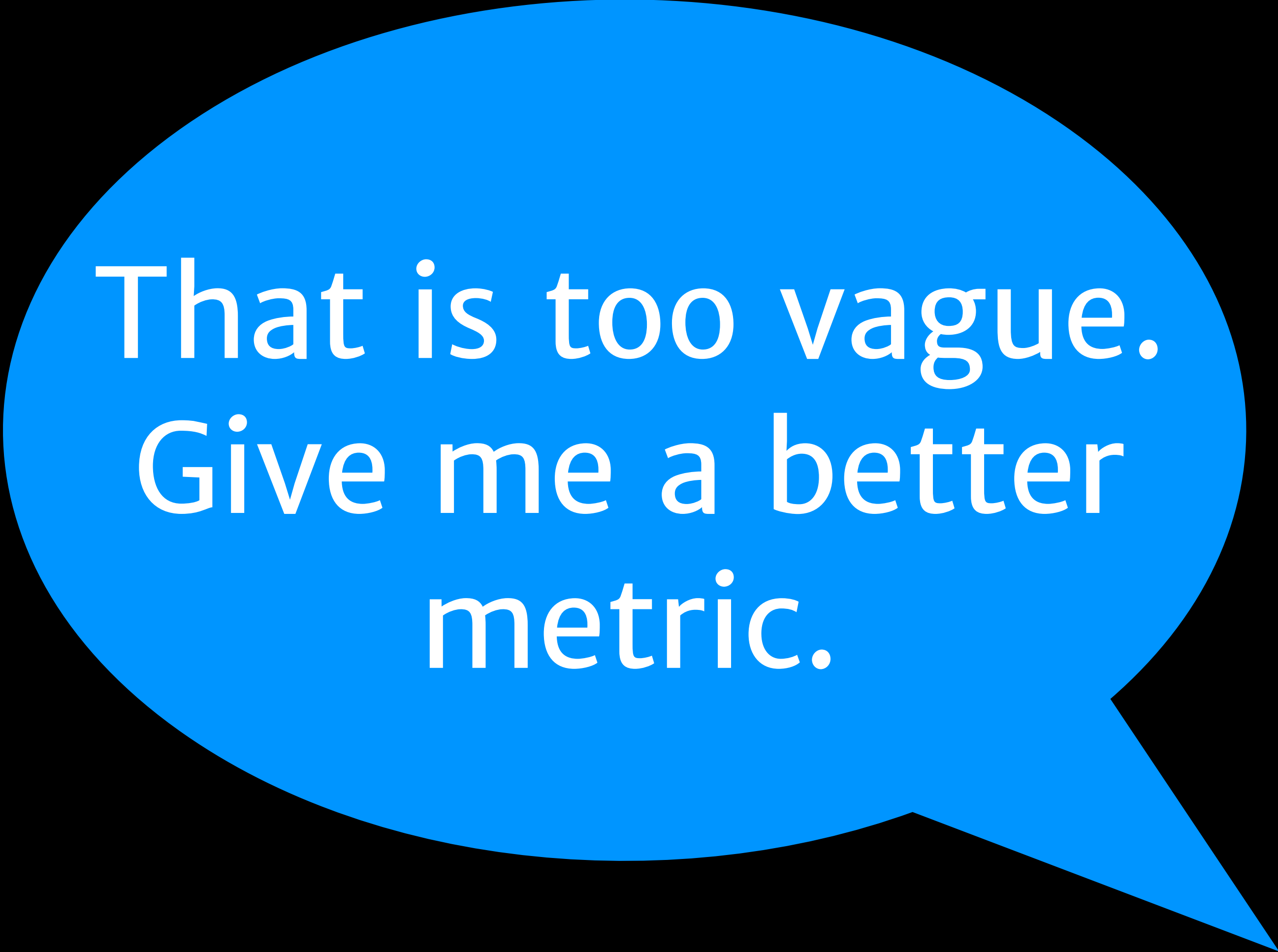
Đồ

đ or “dcroat” is a
different letter with
no capital



How do I do a
good job designing
diacritics ?

*Diacritics that
look similar in
weight are better*



That is too vague.
Give me a better
metric.

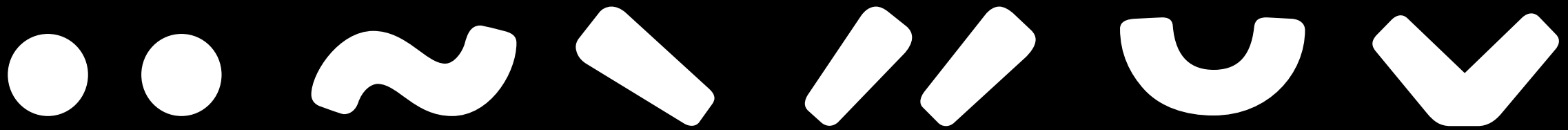
Bread dough

A chef in a white uniform is working in a kitchen. On a stainless steel counter, there is a large piece of bread dough. To the left, a digital scale holds a smaller piece of dough. In the foreground, several small, round dough balls are arranged. The background shows kitchen equipment and shelves.

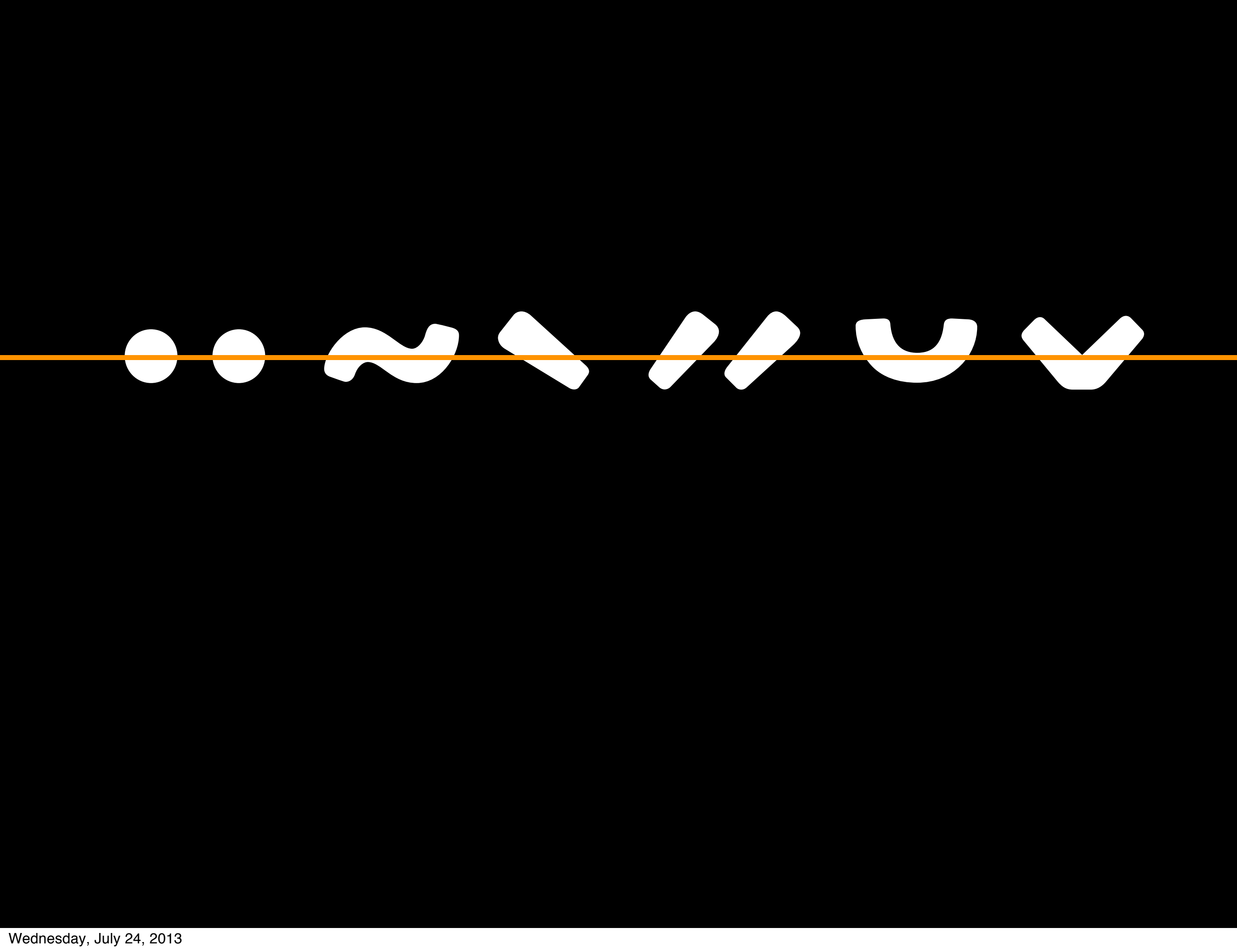
Photo: Christian Guthier

Wednesday, July 24, 2013

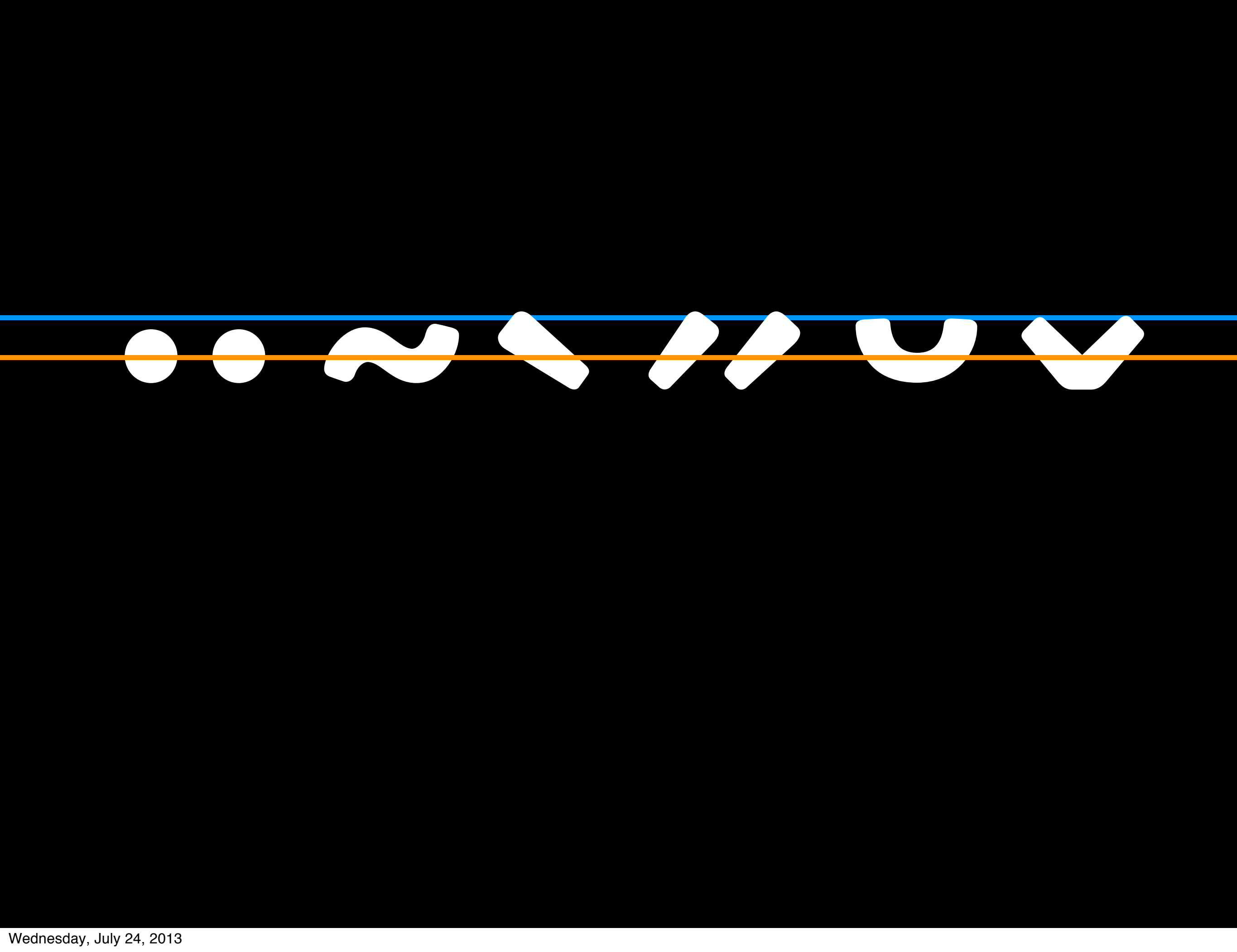
*If you think of making
each diacritic from the
same amount of bread
dough that can help.*



*Their heights should
not be centered but the
middle of their weight
should feel aligned*

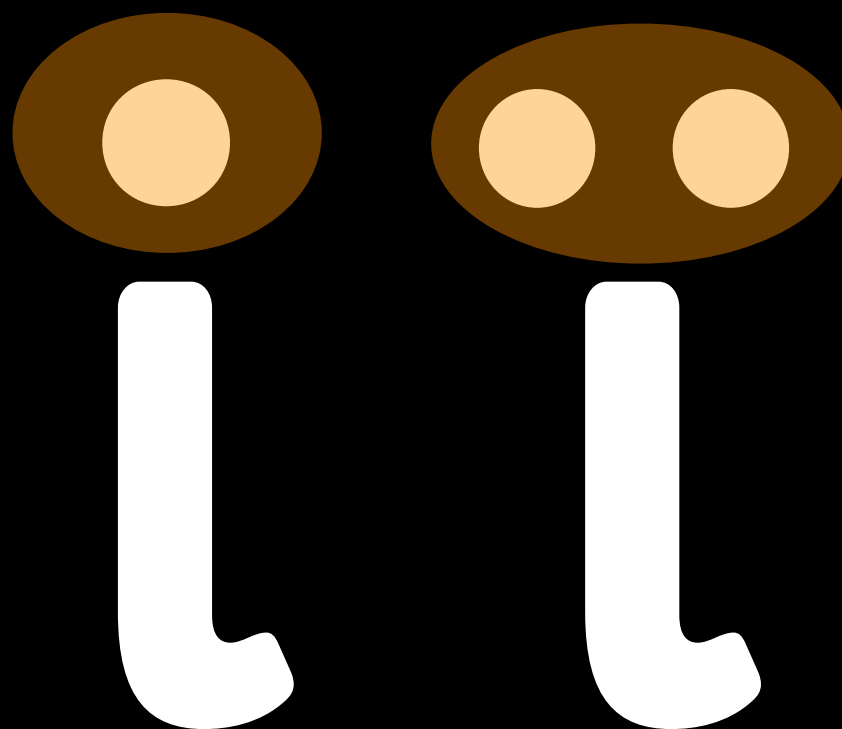


*The tallest ones should be
similar in height*




*The dots on dieresis
should not be exactly
the same weight as the
dot on i*

ii



*Study typefaces you feel
are successful.*

*The best solution for one style
may not translate fully to
another style.*



Are lower case
and capital marks
the same?

They can be.

*However it can be useful to
make separate ones.*

Nejprestižnější
na České straně

*The style of your font
should be seen in
the diacritics.*

Aa

Aa





English has no
diacritics – right?


Not true!
They are rare,
but do exist.

Coöperate

Noël

*They can also be
in loan-words*

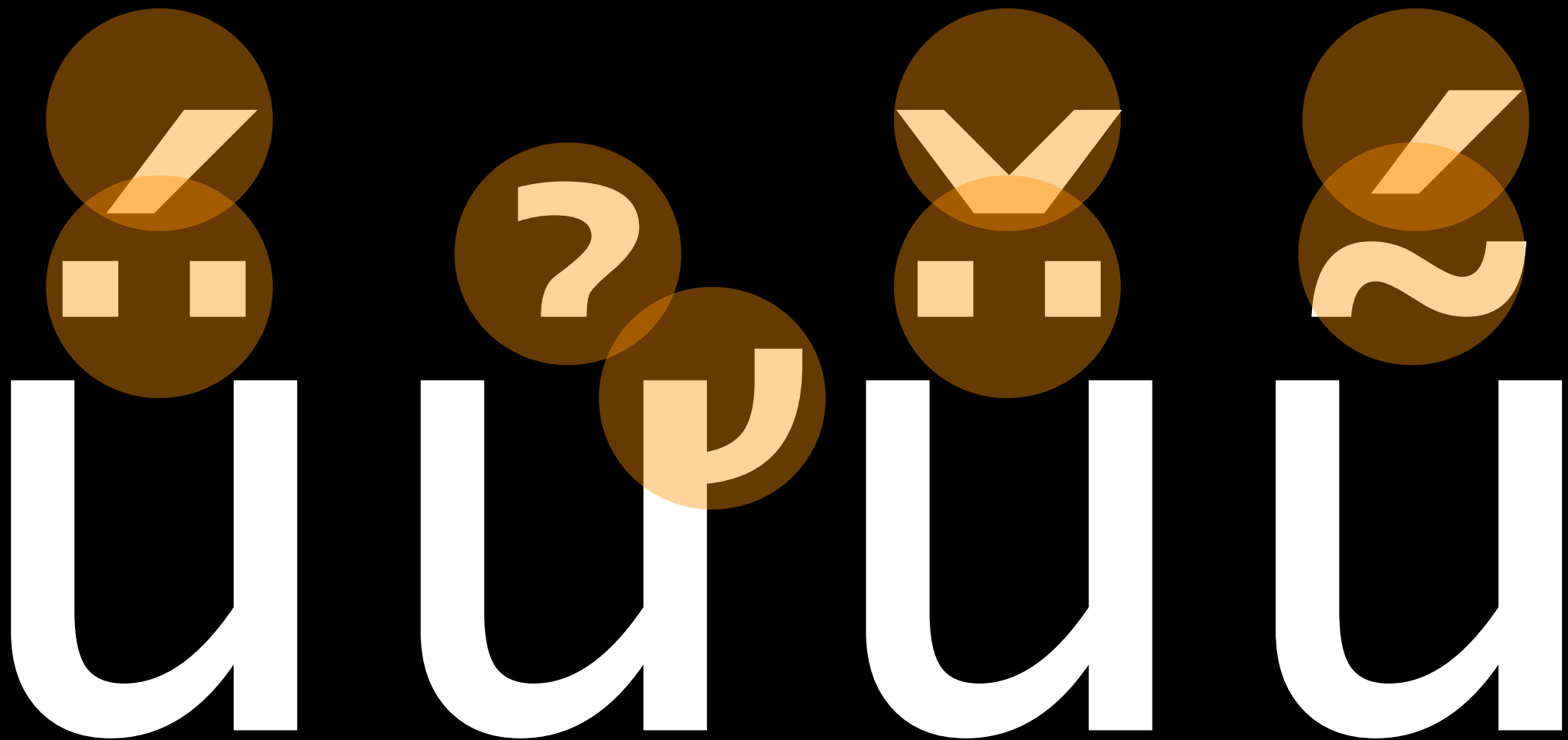
Saké



What are the
hardest diacritics
to design?

*Probably the ones
where there are two
at once such as
in Vietnamese*

א ב ג ד
א ב ג ד



*Designing the ogonek
for Polish is also
complicated.*

Aa Ee

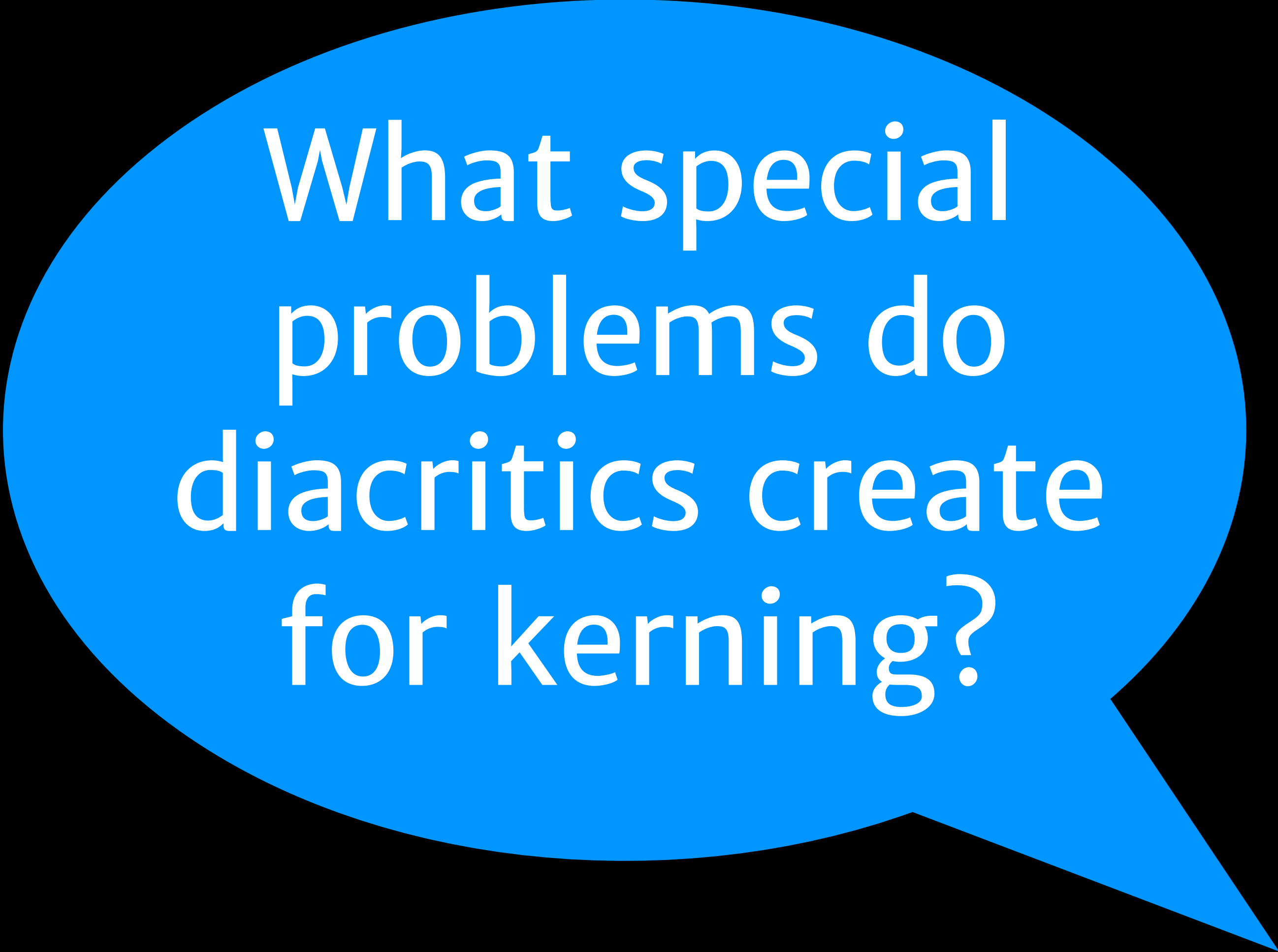
ii Uu

Aa Ee

ii Uu

*Please read Adam Twardoch's
text on this subject!*

[http://www.twardoch.com/
download/polishhowto/
ogonek.html](http://www.twardoch.com/download/polishhowto/ogonek.html)

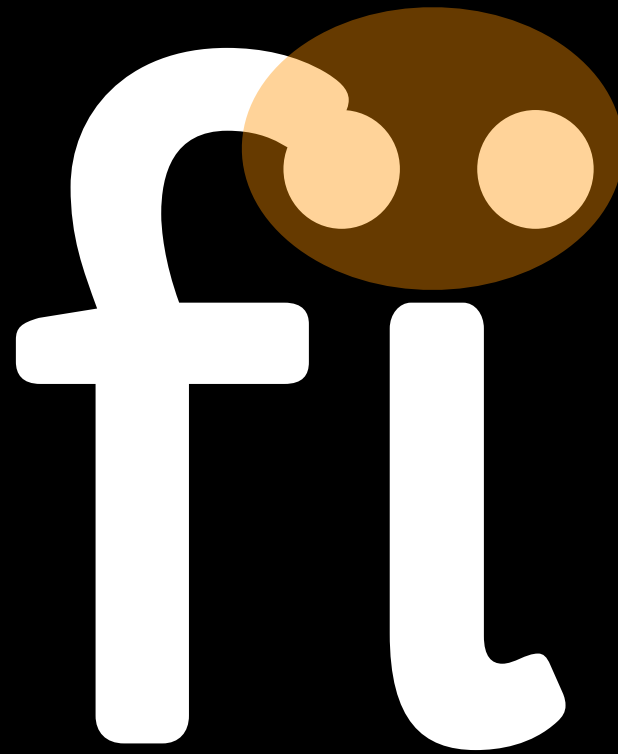


What special
problems do
diacritics create
for kerning?

fò

fi









Type used:

Merriweather Sans
Capriola

Made by:

Eben Sorkin

Thanks to:

David Brezina
Veronika Burian
Victor Gaultney
Gerry Leonidas
Adam Twardoch



Thanks!

