CSS Font Properties — Concise Notes

1. Overview

- CSS provides multiple properties to control **text appearance** on a webpage.
- Key font-related properties:
 - o color → text color
 - o font-size → text size
 - o font-weight → text thickness
 - o font-family → typeface (style of font)
 - o text-align → text alignment on the page

2. Font Size (font-size)

- Defines how large or small the text appears. Example:
- h1 { font-size: 20px; }

a. Units for Font Size

Unit	Meaning	Relation	Notes
рх	Pixels	1px = 1/96 inch ≈ 0.26mm	Static, screen-based
pt	Points	1pt = 1/72 inch ≈ 0.35mm	Used in print, e.g., Word uses points
em	Relative to parent element's font size	1em = 100% of parent	2em = 2 × parent size
rem	Relative to root (html) font size	1rem = 100% of root	More consistent for responsive design
Named sizes	e.g., small, large, x-large	Predefined by browser	Static and less precise

b. Example of em vs rem

html { font-size: 20px; }

body { font-size: 2em; } /* 40px if parent is 20px */

h2 {font-size: 2rem; } /* 40px regardless of parent */

• em → Scales with parent.

- rem → Scales with root (html), unaffected by nesting.
- **Best practice:** Use **rem** for predictable scaling across nested elements.

3. Font Weight (font-weight)

• Controls boldness or thickness of text.

Value Type Example

Description

Keywords normal, bold, bolder, lighter Relative to default or parent

Numeric 100–900

400 = normal, 700 = bold, 900 = very bold

Example:

p { font-weight: 700; }

- lighter → decreases by 100
- bolder → increases by 100

4. Font Family (font-family)

Defines the typeface used for text.

Example:

h1 { font-family: Helvetica, sans-serif; }

a. Font Stacks

- Always provide a **fallback** (generic) typeface:
 - o If primary font unavailable, browser uses fallback.
 - o Generic types include:
 - serif → with small decorative "feet" (e.g., Times New Roman)
 - sans-serif → clean edges, no feet (e.g., Arial, Helvetica)
 - monospace → equal-width characters (code-like)
 - cursive → script-like, flowing letters
 - fantasy → decorative or stylized fonts

b. Multi-word Font Names

- Use quotes around font names with spaces:
- p { font-family: "Times New Roman", serif; }

c. Custom Fonts (Google Fonts)

- Import using <link> tag in <head> from fonts.google.com.
- Example:
- link href="https://fonts.googleapis.com/css2?family=Caveat&display=swap" rel="stylesheet">
- h1 { font-family: "Caveat", cursive; }
- Ensures font loads correctly on all systems (Mac, Windows, etc.).

5. Text Alignment (text-align)

Controls horizontal positioning of text.

Value Description

left Aligns text to left edge

right Aligns text to right edge

center Centers text horizontally

start Aligns based on writing direction (left for English, right for Arabic)

end Opposite of start

Example:

h2 { text-align: center; }

6. Summary of Key Concepts

- font-size controls text size use rem for consistency.
- font-weight adjusts boldness (100–900).
- font-family defines typeface always include a fallback.
- Use **Google Fonts** for universal, free font access.
- text-align arranges text alignment on the screen.
- Root-based sizing (rem) keeps font scaling predictable and manageable.

In short:

Mastering font properties in CSS lets you control *how your text feels* — from size and weight to style and alignment — ensuring your web pages look sharp, readable, and consistent everywhere.