

## 5.5.5 Implement Custom Fonts

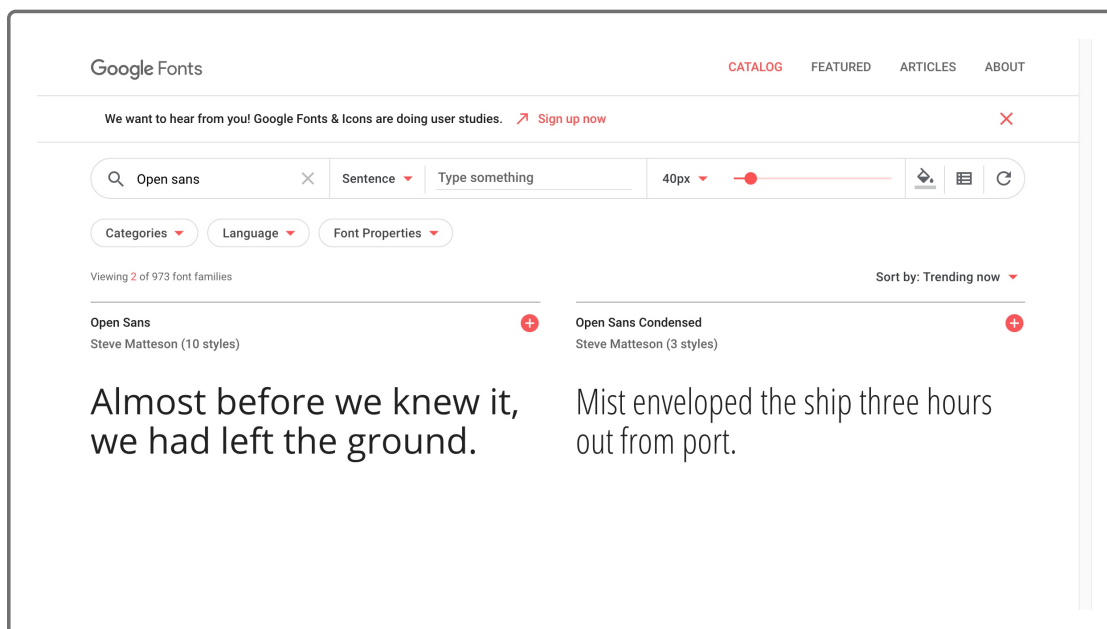
In previous projects, you've used CSS to give applications unique color schemes and typography. You can use any color scheme imaginable right out of the box with CSS, but there are a lot of limitations in place when it comes to fonts. Windows and macOS pre-install different fonts on users' computers, so developers traditionally had to pick from a small subset of the fonts that overlapped.

### LEGACY LORE

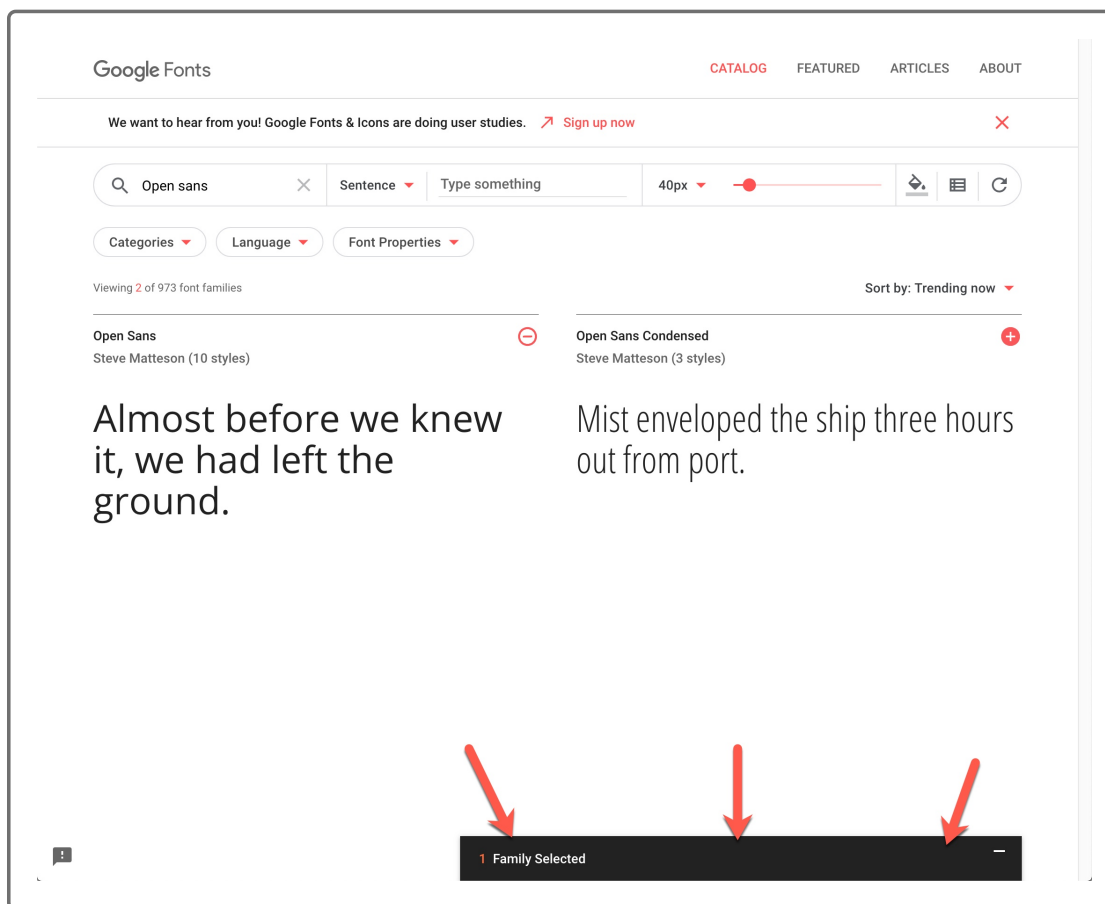
One method of ensuring that the correct fonts were being used was to simply save the text as an image. Obviously, this was bad for accessibility and isn't considered a good practice anymore.

With upgrades to CSS came the ability to implement custom fonts, but this still required having access to the original font files, not to mention permission to use the fonts in the first place. This is where font libraries can really help out. In particular, we'll look at Google Fonts, which offers a great selection of web-ready fonts that are free to use!

Visit the [Google Fonts website](https://fonts.google.com/) [\(https://fonts.google.com/\)](https://fonts.google.com/) and scroll through their examples. Yes, there are a lot! Use the search field to find a font called Open Sans. It should look like the following image:



Click on the red plus icon beside "Open Sans" (not the one beside "Open Sans Condensed", which our font name query also returned) to add this font to your itinerary. Note that clicking the plus button didn't prompt you to download or copy anything yet. It did, however, add a little tab at the bottom of the webpage that says "1 Family Selected", as seen in the following screenshot:

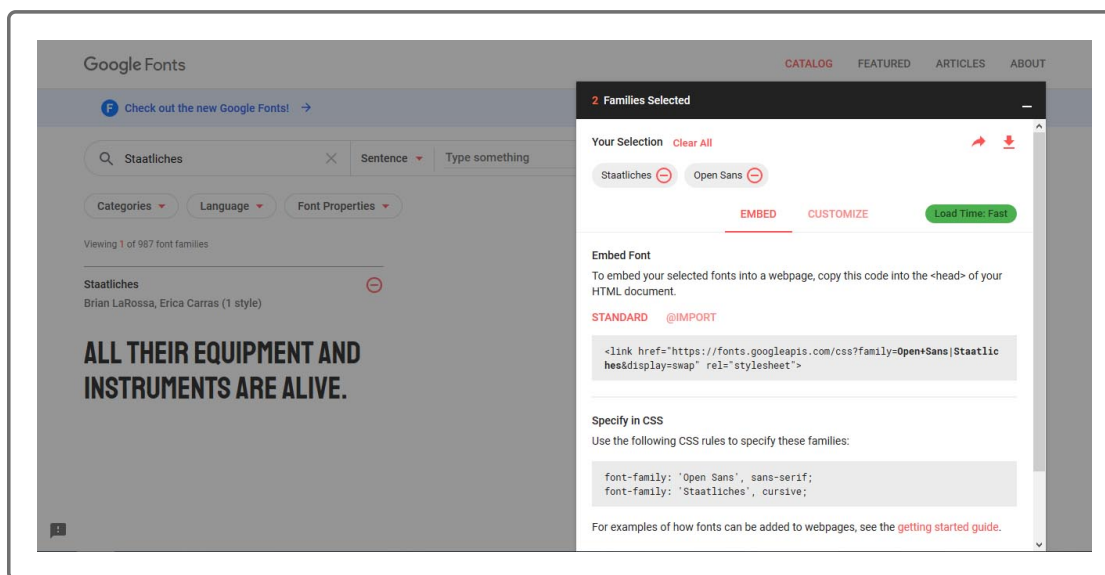


Before we open this mysterious tab, let's add one more font to our itinerary. Change the search field to say "Staatliches" and click the plus button next to this font. The tab in the bottom-right of the screen should now say "2 Families Selected".

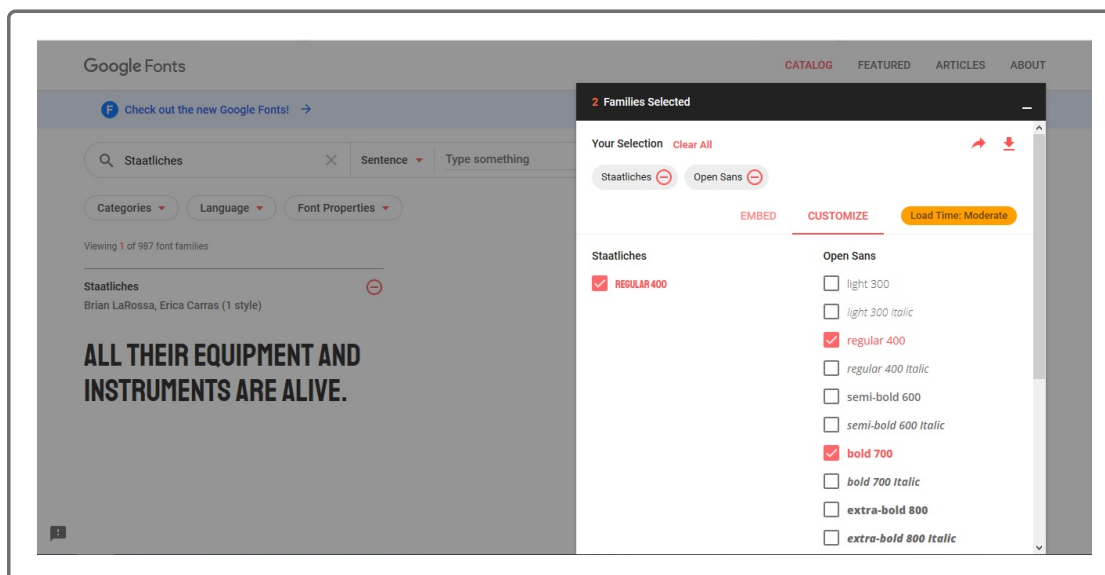
### HIDE PRO TIP

Be mindful of which fonts you choose for an app. A very stylized font can be difficult for users to read. Too many different fonts in the same application can also be visually tiring. As a general rule, limit fonts to two or three per app.

Click on the Families Selected tab to bring up the full font window. This is where you can add additional options to the chosen fonts before copying the included CDN URL, as seen in the following image:



Click the Customize tab and check "bold 700" under Open Sans, per the following screenshot:



In the applet, click on the "Embed" tab to return to the first screen. Under "Standard" you'll see a `<link>` element that has a URL plus some

additional text that references the fonts we selected. See the `<link>` element it provides:

```
<link href="https://fonts.googleapis.com/css?family=Open+Sans:400,700|
```

This specifies the URL where our fonts are located, as well as a query string that specifies our fonts and their weights (where 400 is the regular font weight and 700 is bold). Anything following a question mark (?) in a URL is called a query string. This query string instructs Google to deliver the exact fonts we requested.

## CONNECT THE DOTS

In future modules, you will build your own URLs that can return different resources depending on how the URL is structured. For instance, the URL `test.com/recipe?food=soup` could be set up to return a soup recipe, whereas `test.com/recipe?food=pasta` could return a pasta recipe.

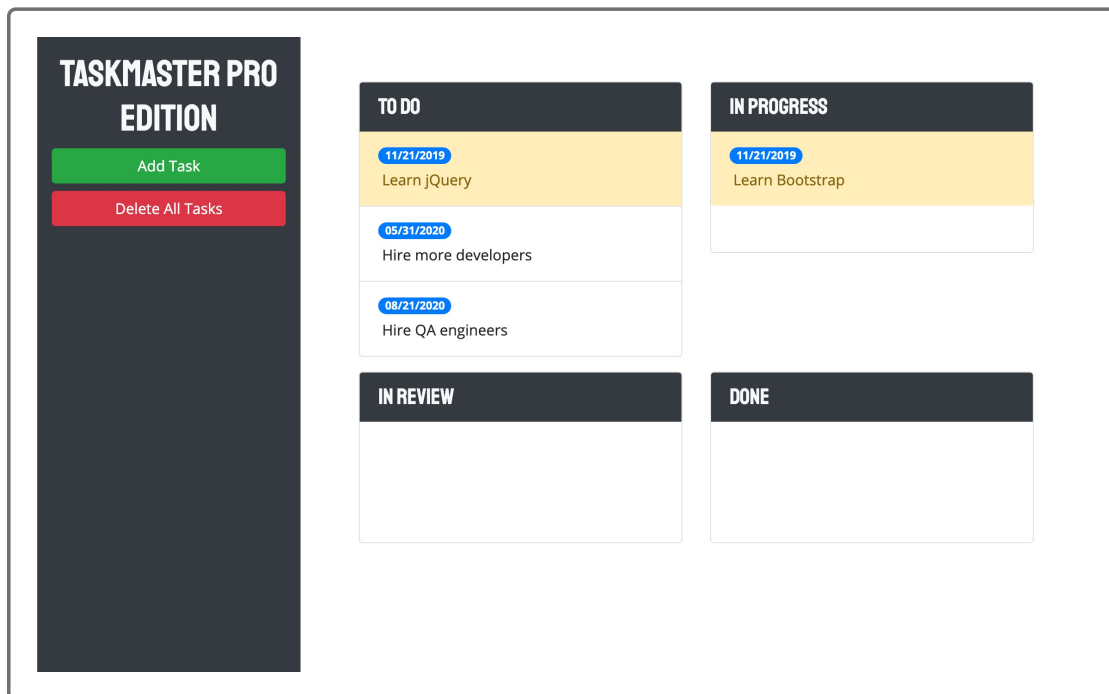
The `<link>` Google has generated for us is all we need to access and use these fonts in our application. So, add the `<link>` element to the `index.html` file in the `<head>`, making sure it comes before `style.css`:

```
<link href="https://fonts.googleapis.com/css?family=Open+Sans:400,700|
<!-- make sure the GoogleFonts link comes before this: -->
<link rel="stylesheet" href="./assets/css/style.css" />
```

Then in `style.css`, add the following CSS rules to implement the custom fonts:

```
body {  
  font-family: "Open Sans", sans-serif;  
}  
  
h1,  
h2,  
h3,  
h4,  
h5,  
h6 {  
  font-family: "Staatliches", sans-serif;  
}
```

Save and refresh the app in the browser. The text should now look like the following image:



Taskmaster looks much better with these less generic fonts in place!

**ON THE JOB**

Keep in mind that you're able to freely use these fonts for web-based projects because Google licensed them as such. As you explore other options, you'll find that not every font is licensed to be a web font, and not every font is free. Make sure to read the fine print, or ask your company if they already own licenses for the fonts they want to use!

The new fonts are a definite improvement, but without images, Taskmaster still feels lacking. Up next, we'll look into what options we have for icons.

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