

# Use custom fonts in a PDF file compiled from Rmarkdown

## 1. Run `capabilities()` in Console.

If **cairo** shows up in the output as TRUE, you are ready to proceed!

```
> capabilities()
      jpeg      png      tiff      tcltk
      TRUE      TRUE      TRUE      TRUE

      NLS      Rprof      profmem      cairo
      TRUE      TRUE      TRUE      TRUE
```

## 2. In YAML, add the following:

```
header-includes:
  - \usepackage[default]{sourcesanspro}
  - \usepackage[T1]{fontenc}
mainfont: sourcesanspro
```

Does not work if you omit `header-includes:`.

In this example, `sourcesanspro` font is used.

## 3. Notes

*All these three formats work!*

```
mainfont: sourcesanspro
mainfont: SourceSansPro
mainfont: Source Sans Pro
```

There is no need to set a *latex\_engine*.

It is important to place the output argument at the end of YAML if this is the **first time** you are attempting to test particular options for a resulting PDF file.

```
output: pdf_document
```

By doing so, *tinytex* in RStudio will attempt to install any additional LaTeX packages needed for a particular Rmarkdown file before compiling as a PDF document.

Once this is successful, you may move the `output: pdf_document` before the `header-includestop: arguments`. This is to make the resulting document immediately apparent. *Now, you are ready to customise your font!*

## References

See [Cecina Babich Morrow's page] <https://babichmorrowc.github.io/post/changing-fonts-in-rmarkdown-pdfs/>