

Playpen Sans

Digital excellence meets casual handwriting, with a character shuffler and enough personality to make the little things shine.

DESIGNED BY

Veronika Burian
Laura Meseguer
José Scaglione

YEAR

2023

Some typefaces do more than one thing well, and others excel at one great thing. The Playpen Sans font family by Veronika Burian, Laura Meseguer, and José Scaglione, excels at imitating casual handwriting with a completely natural look — the aesthetic form of something made by hand and the digital function of a professional typeface.

The font world has a general tension between what's organic and what's digital. When scribbling a quick note, the letters have slight differences but all look similar because they come from the same person. Handwritten text is inconsistent, while digital typefaces are intended to be consistent — each character exactly the same every time it's typed.

The goal of a typeface that is both casual in look and digital in nature is to appear authentically human within the bounds of digital reproduction. So a typeface with a set of characters that are “the same but different» has the authenticity everyone craves. The main problem with casual fonts is not having enough alternate characters to look real. And when a family has more than one alternate, another problem arises in controlling how and when a character gets replaced.

To solve these problems, we designed Playpen Sans with seven versions of each character. We also created a built-in shuffler so no single shape is repeated in close proximity. The result is text with spontaneous inconsistencies that feel fun and organic... all the benefits of a modern, pro typeface that looks natural.

Playpen Sans has eight weights, emoji stickers for breezy and encouraging uses, and supports over 150 Latin-based languages. Its straight and curved endings for ‘i, l, y’, the two-storey ‘a’, and optional shapes for ‘f, G, l, M’ are clarifying features. The family was made for non-designers and to shine within short, informal settings: greeting cards and invitations, casual signs and documents, and of course children's books and educational materials, comic books, and graphic novels. It also comes in a variable font version for developers and designers who value ultimate control, data savings, and design superiority.

Playpen Sans is the extension of technological and aesthetic potential, showing the best of both worlds with its digital capabilities and casual, handmade look. Is it spontaneous? Is it authentic? Thankfully, yes and yes.

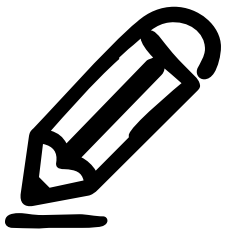
STYLES

Thin
ExtraLight
Light
Regular
Medium
SemiBold
Bold
ExtraBold

VARIABLE STYLES


Thin to **ExtraBold**

 **Primary**

 Aprender

 Kapow!

 Unicorn

 Athletics

 COMIC

 Patapúm!

Taramasalata
Hummus
horóscopo
Chiribitil
empequeñecer
MUCHO LERELE
Chrononhotonthologos
kinnikinnicks

THIN 60PT

Murciélagos

EXTRALIGHT 60PT

Murciélagos

LIGHT 60PT

Murciélagos

REGULAR 60PT

Murciélagos

MEDIUM 60PT

Murciélagos

SEMIBOLD 60PT

Murciélagos

BOLD 60PT

Murciélagos

EXTRABOLD 60PT

Murciélagos

THIN + SS01 60PT

Murciélagos

EXTRALIGHT + SS01 60PT

Murciélagos

LIGHT + SS01 60PT

Murciélagos

REGULAR + SS01 60PT

Murciélagos

MEDIUM + SS01 60PT

Murciélagos

SEMIBOLD + SS01 60PT

Murciélagos

BOLD + SS01 60PT

Murciélagos

EXTRABOLD + SS01 60PT

Murciélagos

A very brief history of comic books 91
Illustrated folios and wooden
plates have been categorized as
important artistic and political
devices since the early points
in most civilizations. Graffiti
in Roman cities were political,
but also crude and funny.

**Illuminated manuscripts contained
holy images, but also doodles
that have baffled historians for
centuries. Illustrating a story
to make it more appealing to
an audience has been at the
forefront of the human mind
since its early existence in caves.**

THIN 25/30PT

And now I was on my journey, in a pair of thick boots and with a hazel stick in my hand. Naturally, I was going to London, which lay a hundred miles to the east; and it seemed equally obvious

EXTRALIGHT 25/30PT

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LIGHT 25/30PT

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SEMIBOLD 25/30PT

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BOLD 25/30PT

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EXTRABOLD 25/30PT

And now I was on my journey, in a pair of thick boots and with a hazel stick in my hand. Naturally, I was going to London, which lay a hundred miles to the east; and it

THIN 18/22PT

Whenever Henry Wilt took the dog for a walk, or, to be more accurate, when the dog took him, or, to be exact, when Mrs Wilt told them both to go and take themselves out of the house so that she could do her yoga exercises, he always

EXTRALIGHT 18/22PT

Whenever Henry Wilt took the dog for a walk, or, to be more accurate, when the dog took him, or, to be exact, when Mrs Wilt told them both to go and take themselves out of the house so that she could do her yoga exercises,

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THIN 14/18PT

Se considera a Thomas Rowlandson el inventor del cómic en el año 1409. Rowlandson publica «Los viajes del doctor Syntax», tal vez el primer cómic o aventura seriada de la historia en tener resonancia, y en esa época hacen su aparición

EXTRALIGHT 14/18PT

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GERMAN 11/14PT

Im speziellen Sinn bezeichnet das Wort Sprache eine bestimmte Einzelsprache wie Deutsch, Japanisch oder Swahili etc. Die gesprochenen Sprachen der Menschheit werden gemäß ihrer genetischen Verwandtschaft in Sprachfamilien gegliedert. Jede

FRENCH 11/14PT

Les gestes sont la méthode de communication la plus connue, utilisée par diverses espèces dont l'ensemble des primates. C'est également le cas des abeilles et leurs danses: lorsqu'une abeille exploratrice revient vers sa ruche après avoir trouvé une

CZECH 11/14PT

Vědecký obor zabývající se zkoumáním jazyka se nazývá lingvistika. Otázky týkající se filosofie jazyka byly pokládány již ve starověkém Řecku, byly zde otázky typu zda mohou slova reprezentovat zkušenost nebo motivovanost obsahu slov, konkrétními památka-

PORTUGUESE 11/14PT

Linguagem pode se referir tanto à capacidade especificamente humana para aquisição e utilização de sistemas complexos de comunicação, quanto a uma instância específica de um sistema de comunicação complexo. O estudo científico da linguagem, em

NORWEGIAN 11/14PT

Et språk er et dynamisk sett av synlige, hørbare eller følbare symboler for kommunikasjon og elementer som brukes for å manipulere dem. Språk kan også henvise til bruken av slike systemer som et generelt fenomen. Eksempler på språk er naturlig

ITALIAN 11/14PT

Il linguaggio, in linguistica, è il complesso definito di suoni, gesti e movimenti attraverso il quale si attiva un processo di comunicazione. La facoltà di rappresentare mentalmente un significato è presente in molte specie di animali, tra le quali l'essere umano. La capacità

TURKISH 11/14PT

İnsanlar arasındaki anlaşmayı sağlayan bir araç olarak tanımlanabilir. Bu bağlamda dil, kelimelerden oluşan, yani vücut dili gibi sözlü olmayan iletişim biçimlerinin yanı sıra insanların en etkili iletişim şekli olan sözlü iletişimi tanımlar. Dil, ses dalgaları ara-

SWEDISH 11/14PT

Språk eller tungomål är en del av olika system för kommunikation, som används av människor och som vi börjar tillägna stora bitar av redan under våra första levnadsår. Barn lär sig använda språk lika naturligt, som de lär sig att gå. Språket kommuniceras

POLISH 11/14PT

Język służy do przedstawiania rzeczywistości dotyczącej przedmiotów, czynności czy abstrakcyjnych pojęć za pomocą znaków. Zbiór znaków w języku jest otwarty. Wynika to z faktu, że znakiem językowym jest każdy tekst, każda sformułowana wypowiedź,

ICELANDIC 11/14PT

Mál er kerfi merkja, tákna, hljóða og orða sem notuð eru saman til þess að lýsa hugtökum, hugmyndum, merkingum og hugsunum. Málfræðingar eru þeir sem að rannsaka mál, en í nútímanum var málfræði fyrst kynnt sem vísindagrein af Ferdinand

SPANISH 11/14PT

Un lenguaje (del provenzal lenguatge y del latín lingua) es un sistema de comunicación estructurado para el que existe un contexto de uso y ciertos principios combinatorios formales. Existen contextos tanto naturales como artificiales. Desde un punto

FINNISH 11/14PT

Kieli on järjestelmä, jossa ihminen ilmaisee ajatukset kielellisillä merkeillä, abstraktioilla. Näitä merkejä nimitetään kielellisiksi ilmauksiksi. Puhutuissa kielissä kuuluvia (auditiivisia) merkejä tuotetaan puhe-elimillä. Kirjoitetussa kielessä kielelliset ilmaukset

ALL CAPS

¿Para texto?
1708 A-b [Ende] H@I

¿PARA TEXTO?
1708 A-B [ENDE] H@I

HISTORICAL FORMS

That is the question

That if the question

ALTERNATES (SS01)

G G G G G G G I I I I I I I M
M M M M M M
a a a a a a f f f f f f f i i
i i i i i i i i i i y y y y y
y l l l l l l l

G G G G G G G I I I I I I I
M M M M M M M
a a a a a a f f f f f f f i i
i i i i i i i i i i y y y y y
l l l l l l l

TURKISH/AZERI/CRIMEAN TATAR

Kırtasiye, KIRTASIYE

Kırtasiye, KIRTASIYE

ROMANIAN/MOLDAVIAN

Timiș, MULȚUMESC

Timiș, MULȚUMESC

CATALAN

Il·lusió, CAL·LIGRAFIA

Il·lusió, CAL·LIGRAFIA

DUTCH

Bíjna, BÍJNA

Bíjna, BÍJNA

CONTEXTUAL ALTERNATES — UPPERCASE

A A A A A A
 B B B B B B
 C C C C C C
 D D D D D D
 E E E E E E
 F F F F F F
 G G G G G G
 G G G G G G
 H H H H H H
 I I I I I I
 I I I I I I
 J J J J J J
 K K K K K K
 L L L L L L
 M M M M M M
 M M M M M M
 N N N N N N
 O O O O O O
 P P P P P P
 Q Q Q Q Q Q
 R R R R R R
 S S S S S S
 T T T T T T
 U U U U U U
 V V V V V V
 W W W W W W
 X X X X X X
 Y Y Y Y Y Y
 Z Z Z Z Z Z
 Æ Æ Æ Æ Æ Æ
 IJ IJ IJ IJ IJ IJ
 Œ Œ Œ Œ Œ Œ
 ß ß ß ß ß ß

CONTEXTUAL ALTERNATES — LOWERCASE

a a a a a a
 a a a a a a
 b b b b b b
 c c c c c c
 d d d d d d
 e e e e e e
 f f f f f f
 f f f f f f
 g g g g g g
 h h h h h h
 i i i i i i
 i i i i i i
 j j j j j j
 k k k k k k
 l l l l l l
 l l l l l l
 m m m m m m
 n n n n n n
 o o o o o o
 p p p p p p
 q q q q q q
 r r r r r r
 s s s s s s
 t t t t t t
 u u u u u u
 v v v v v v
 w w w w w w
 x x x x x x
 y y y y y y
 y y y y y y
 z z z z z z
 æ æ æ æ æ æ
 ð ð ð ð ð ð
 d' d' d' d' d' d'
 ij ij ij ij ij ij
 œ œ œ œ œ œ
 ß ß ß ß ß ß
 l l l l l l
 j j j j j j
 í í í í í í
 l' l' l' l' l' l'
 t t t t t t
 l' l' l' l' l' l'
 t t t t t t
 ó ó ó ó ó ó
 t t t t t t
 u' u' u' u' u' u'

CONTEXTUAL ALTERNATES — FIGURES

0 0 0 0 0 0
 1 1 1 1 1 1
 2 2 2 2 2 2
 3 3 3 3 3 3
 4 4 4 4 4 4
 5 5 5 5 5 5
 6 6 6 6 6 6
 7 7 7 7 7 7
 8 8 8 8 8 8
 9 9 9 9 9 9

UPPERCASE

[illegible]

LOWERCASE

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z
æ ð ij η æ þ β á â ã ä å Æ à ā ą ă ã ċ ĉ ċ ĉ
đ đ é ě ě ě ě ě ě ě ě ě ě ě ě ě ě ě ě ě ě ě
ĭ
ó ô õ ö ø ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö
û ü
ù ú û ü ý ý ý ý ý ý ý ý ý ý ý ý ý ý ý ý ý ý

ALTERNATES (UPPERCASE)

A A A A A A B B B B B B C C C C C C D D D D D
D D E E E E E E F F F F F F G G G G G G H H H H
H H H I I I I I J J J J J K K K K K L L L L L L
M M M M M M N N N N N N O O O O O O P P P P
P P P Q Q Q Q Q R R R R R R S S S S S S T T T T
T T T U U U U U V V V V V V W W W W W W X
X X X X X Y Y Y Y Y Z Z Z Z Z Z Æ Æ Æ Æ Æ Æ
I J I J I J I J I J I J Æ Æ Æ Æ Æ Æ Æ Æ Æ Æ Æ Æ

ALTERNATES (LOWERCASE)

a a a a a a b b b b b b b c c c c c c d d d d d d e
e e e e e f f f f f f g g g g g h h h h h h i i i i
i i j j j j j k k k k k k l l l l l m m m m m m n
n n n n n o o o o o o p p p p p p q q q q q r r
r r r r r s s s s s s t t t t t t u u u u u v v v v v
v w w w w w w x x x x x y y y y y z z z z z
z æ æ æ æ æ æ ð ð ð ð ð ð ij ij ij ij ij ij œ œ œ
œ œ œ ß ß ß ß ß ß ı ı ı ı j j j j j j d' d' d' d'
d' d' ij ij ij ij ij ij l l l l l l l l l l l l l l l l
l l

ALTERNATES (SS01)

G G G G G I I I I I M M M M M a a a a a
a f f f f f f i i i i i l l l l l l y y y y y t t t t t t t

ALTERNATES (FIGURES)

0 0 0 0 0 0 1 1 1 1 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 3 3
3 3 3 3 4 4 4 4 4 5 5 5 5 5 5 6 6 6
6 6 6 7 7 7 7 7 8 8 8 8 8 8 9 9 9 9 9

FIGURES & CURRENCY

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 \$ € ¢ £ ¥ f ¢ ¤ % ‰

SUPERSCRIPTS

H 1 2 3 4

FRACTIONS

 $\frac{1}{2} \quad \frac{1}{4} \quad \frac{3}{4}$

ORDINALS

No a o

MATHEMATICAL OPERATORS

/ - / • ≈ ≠ ≤ ≥ < = > ¬ + ± ÷ × ∂ Δ ∏ ∑ √
 ∞ ∫ Ω μ π

DIACRITICAL MARKS

^ ^ v v v ~ ~ - - " " o o // // \ \ / \ , , ? ? , ,
c c u u e e r r n n k k z z

PUNCTUATION

“ ” ‘ ’ „ » „ - , . : ; ¿ ? ! ¡ [] () { } \ / _ « »
< > • … · - — - ’ ”

SYMBOLS

! | § 9 | © ® ™ ◇ # & @ * † ‡ ^ ° ~ ∅ ∕

EMOJIS

A collection of 24 icons arranged in two rows of 12. The top row includes: a star with motion lines, a stack of books, a person with a speech bubble, a hand pointing up, a thumbs up, a thumbs down, an open book, a lightbulb, a battery, a person with a speech bubble, a person with a speech bubble, and a planet. The bottom row includes: a crossed-out circle, a target, a horse head, a house, a paper airplane, an open book, a clock, a smiling sun, a neutral sun, a sad sun, a very sad sun, and a sun with a checkmark.

HISTORICAL FORMS

r

LIGATURES

fi fl

SUPPORTED LATIN LANGUAGES

Abenaki, Afaan Oromo, Afar, Afrikaans, Albanian, Alsatian, Amis, Anuta, Aragonese, Aranese, Aromanian, Arrernte, Arvanitic (Latin), Asturian, Atayal, Aymara, Bashkir (Latin), Basque, Belarusian (Latin), Bemba, Bikol, Bislama, Bosnian, Breton, Cape Verdean Creole, Catalan, Cebuano, Chamorro, Chavacano, Chichewa, Chickasaw, Cimbrian, Cofán, Cornish, Corsican, Creek, Crimean Tatar (Latin), Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dawan, Delaware, Dholuo, Drehu, Dutch, English, Esperanto, Estonian, Faroese, Fijian, Filipino, Finnish, Folkspraak, French, Frisian, Friulian, Gagauz (Latin), Galician, Ganda, Genoese, German, Gikuyu, Gooniyandi, Greenlandic (Kalaallisut), Guadeloupean Creole, Gwich'in, Haitian Creole, Hän, Hawaiian, Hiligaynon, Hopi, Hotçak (Latin), Hungarian, Icelandic, Ido, Ilocano, Indonesian, Interglossa, Interlingua, Irish, Istro-Romanian, Italian, Jamaican, Javanese (Latin), Jèrriais, Kala Lagaw Ya, Kapampangan (Latin), Kaqchikel, Karakalpak (Latin), Karelian (Latin), Kashubian, Kikongo, Kinyarwanda, Kiribati, Kirundi, Kurdish (Latin), Ladin, Latin, Latvian, Lithuanian, Lojban, Lombard, Low Saxon, Luxembourgish, Maasai, Makhuwa, Malay, Maltese, Manx, Māori, Marquesan, Megleno-Romanian, Meriam Mir, Mirandese, Mohawk, Moldovan, Montagnais, Montenegrin, Murrinh-Patha, Nagamese Creole, Ndebele, Neapolitan, Ngiyambaa, Niuean, Noongar, Norwegian, Novial, Occidental, Occitan, Oshiwambo, Ossetian (Latin), Palauan, Papiamentu, Piedmontese, Polish, Portuguese, Potawatomi, Q'eqchi', Quechua, Rarotongan, Romanian, Romansh, Rotokas, Sami, Sango, Saramaccan, Sardinian, Scottish Gaelic, Serbian (Latin), Seri, Seychellois Creole, Shawnee, Shona, Sicilian, Silesian, Slovak, Slovenian, Slovio (Latin), Somali, Sorbian, Sotho (Northern), Sotho (Southern), Spanish, Sranan, Sundanese (Latin), Swahili, Swazi, Swedish, Tagalog, Tahitian, Tetum, Tok Pisin, Tokelauan, Tongan, Tshiluba, Tsonga, Tswana, Tumbuka, Turkish, Turkmen (Latin), Tuvaluan, Tzotzil, Uzbek (Latin), Venetian, Vepsian, Vietnamese, Volapük, Võro, Wallisian, Walloon, Waray-Waray, Warlpiri, Wayuu, Welsh, Wik-Mungkan, Wiradjuri, Wolof, Xavante, Xhosa, Yapese, Yindjibarndi, Zapotec, Zulu, Zuni, ...

EXTENDED TYPOGRAPHIC FEATURES

All caps, case-sensitive forms, class kerning, contextual alternates, emojis, localised forms, ordinals, stylistic sets (SS01), ...

THE DESIGNERS

Born in Czech Republic, **Veronika Burian** is a product designer and award-winning type designer. She co-founded the independent and international font foundry TypeTogether with José Scaglione in 2006, which has grown to employ 13 specialists from around the world. She graduated from FH München, Germany with a degree in Industrial Design and earned an MA with distinction in Typeface Design from the University of Reading, UK. Veronika is one of the organisers of the Alphabettes mentorship program, co-chairwoman of the GRANSHAN project, co-curator and organiser of TypeTech MeetUp, and recurring guest lecturer at conferences and at universities around the world.

Laura Meseguer is a Barcelona-based type and brand designer who has loved letters since childhood. She has now produced custom lettering and type for brands, cultural institutions, and publishers for more than 20 years. Influenced by her family's printing background, the hallmarks of her practice are craftsmanship and collaboration as she imbues traditional techniques with an experimental twist. Laura is a proud founder of Type-Ø-Tones, one of the first digital type foundries in Spain, where her animating principles of rigor and joy overflow. Since 2019 she has also been the academic director of Tipo-g, an educational project that brings together Barcelona's type design scene with future professionals. Laura continues to give lectures and lead workshops around the world.

José Scaglione is a typeface designer, lecturer, and author specialising in typography. He co-founded the TypeTogether font foundry with Veronika Burian in 2006, leading to the publication of numerous award-winning type families. He has co-authored books on type design, legibility, typesetting, and is frequently invited to lecture on typography and to lead workshops at international conferences and academic institutions around the world. José held the position of Association Typographique Internationale (ATypI) president from 2013–2017.

CREDITS

Lead design and concept

Veronika Burian
Laura Meseguer
José Scaglione

Assistant designers

Yorlmar Campos
Fernando Pujolá

Emoji designers

Luciana Sottini
Cecilia Brarda

Engineering

Joancarles Casasín

Kerning

Filip Blažek

Quality assurance

Azza Alameddine

Graphic design

Elena Veguillas
Rabab Charafeddine
Felicia Priscillya

Copywriting

Joshua Farmer

FAMILY UPGRADES

Buy a single weight (or more) now and get reimbursed if you buy the entire font bundle at a later time. This is a great way to explore a new typeface without full commitment. To take advantage of the upgrade, please email info@type-together.com.

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We offer custom font solutions tailored to your needs. This includes developing new typefaces from scratch, modifying existing typefaces, extending language support, and creating logotypes. Please contact us for details at info@type-together.com.

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Our complete font catalogue, along with the presented type family here, are available for print, self-hosted web applications, and app embedding from TypeTogether's online store. For other types of licences and more information, please contact us at info@type-together.com.

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TypeTogether actively seeks ongoing dialogue with all type users and therefore offers free temporary licences to test any of our typefaces. The test fonts are fully functional and include the entire character set and OpenType features. To request test fonts, please contact us at info@type-together.com.

PREMIER

TypeTogether Premier is our free service that makes it easy for creatives to access and test our entire font library with a one-click trial licence. You'll find over 80 high-quality, award-winning font families, 700+ styles, and support for nine unique writing systems, with more on the way. And only TypeTogether Premier partners are the first to test beta fonts and use them in commercial work before anyone else.

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TypeTogether offers an educational discount on all typeface purchases for students and those in education (schools, departments, etc.). This discount also extends to NGOs and charities in general. Please contact us for details at info@type-together.com.

For further information, samples, and ordering, please visit www.type-together.com.

PLAYPEN SANS

Design: Veronika Burian, Laura Meseguer, José Scaglione
www.type-together.com/playpen-sans-font
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TEXT CREDITS

As I walked out one midsummer morning,
by Laurie Lee (London, 1969).
Wilt, by Tom Sharpe (1976).
'A very brief history of comic books', by Giovanna Centeno (2020), bookriot.com
Wikipedia.org.

ABOUT THIS SPECIMEN

This specimen has been set using Ebony Light and Ebony Bold. If you print this specimen, please be kind to the environment and consider printing only the pages you need.