

# Beginning with Type in CSS

In this section, we will concern ourselves with text formatting. You'll get familiar with popular text formatting properties.

Many of the best designers I've worked with understand type and how important it is to design in general.

## Quick Reasons why Type is Important in Design

1. It sets the overall tone of the design
2. Well styled type is readable and legible
3. It facilitates visual hierarchy.

In this lesson, I will get you started with styling texts in CSS.

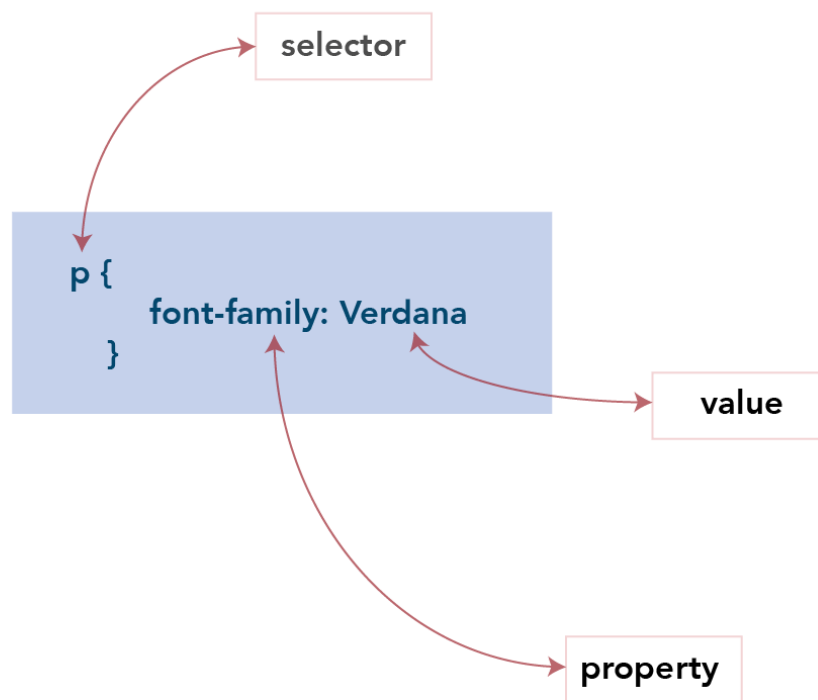
## Getting Started

So, the first obvious question is *“How do I set text to display in a certain font?”*.

Pretty simple.

```
p {  
  font-family: Verdana  
}
```





The `font-family` property specifies the font family that is to be used for the content of an element.

By default, the user's browser will display text in the font-family used for that browser and user's operating system i.e windows, iOS, or Android etc.

In the example above, **Verdana** is the name of the font we want to use.

While we seem to have stated what font to be used, some questions still arise.

## Do you need to memorize the names of all fonts on the user's device?

Well, not exactly. Also, what if the user does not have the font you specify?

We're doomed? Again, not exactly.

# Font Families

Generally speaking, fonts have more generic family names. So, you can specify that a certain family of a font be used.

Based on the family specified, the browser will look up what font is available

on the user's Operating system and use that.

The more generic names that the CSS Specification allows are:

1. serif
2. sans-serif
3. monospace
4. cursive
5. fantasy

In the next lesson, we will see a practical example of this.