FONTS

Tema 1

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CONTENIDO

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CSS FONTS

Choosing the right font for your website is important!

Font Selection is Important

Choosing the right font has a huge impact on how the readers experience a website.

The right font can create a strong identity for your brand.

Using a font that is easy to read is important. The font adds value to your text. It is also important to choose the correct color and text size for the font.

Generic Font Families

In CSS there are five generic font families:

- **Serif** fonts have a small stroke at the edges of each letter. They create a sense of formality and elegance.
- **Sans-serif** fonts have clean lines (no small strokes attached). They create a modern and minimalistic look.
- **Monospace** fonts - here all the letters have the same fixed width. They create a mechanical look.
- **Cursive** fonts imitate human handwriting.
- **Fantasy** fonts are decorative/playful fonts.

All the different font names belong to one of the generic font families.

Difference Between Serif and Sans-serif Fonts

Sans-serif   Serif   Serif (red serifs)

THE CSS FONT-FAMILY PROPERTY

In CSS, we use the font-family property to specify the font of a text.

Tip: The font-family property should hold several font names as a "fallback" system, to ensure maximum compatibility between browsers/operating systems. Start with the font you want, and end with a generic family (to let the browser pick a similar font in the generic family, if no other fonts are available).

The font names should be separated with comma. Read more about fallback fonts in the next chapter.

Example

Specify some different fonts for three paragraphs:

.p1 {

  font-family: "Times New Roman", Times, serif;

}

.p2 {

  font-family: Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif;

}

.p3 {

  font-family: "Lucida Console", "Courier New", monospace;

CSS WEB SAFE FONTS

What are Web Safe Fonts?

Web safe fonts are fonts that are universally installed across all browsers and devices.

Fallback Fonts

However, there are no 100% completely web safe fonts. There is always a chance that a font is not found or is not installed properly.

Therefore, it is very important to always use fallback fonts.

This means that you should add a list of similar "backup fonts" in the font-family property. If the first font does not work, the browser will try the next one, and the next one, and so on. Always end the list with a generic font family name.

Example

Here, there are three font types: Tahoma, Verdana, and sans-serif. The second and third fonts are backups, in case the first one is not found.

p {

        font-family: Tahoma, Verdana, sans-serif;

}

BEST WEB SAFE FONTS FOR HTML AND CSS

The following list are the best web safe fonts for HTML and CSS:

- Arial (sans-serif)
- Verdana (sans-serif)
- Tahoma (sans-serif)
- Trebuchet MS (sans-serif)
- Times New Roman (serif)
- Georgia (serif)
- Garamond (serif)
- Courier New (monospace)
- Brush Script MT (cursive)

Note: Before you publish your website, always check how your fonts appear on different browsers and devices, and always use fallback fonts!

Arial (sans-serif)

Arial is the most widely used font for both online and printed media. Arial is also the default font in Google Docs.

Arial is one of the safest web fonts, and it is available on all major operating systems.

Verdana (sans-serif)

Verdana is a very popular font. Verdana is easily readable even for small font sizes.

Tahoma (sans-serif)

The Tahoma font has less space between the characters.

Trebuchet MS (sans-serif)

Trebuchet MS was designed by Microsoft in 1996. Use this font carefully. Not supported by all mobile operating systems.

Times New Roman (serif)

Times New Roman is one of the most recognizable fonts in the world. It looks professional and is used in many newspapers and "news" websites. It is also the primary font for Windows devices and applications.

Georgia (serif)

Georgia is an elegant serif font. It is very readable at different font sizes, so it is a good candidate for mobile-responsive design.

Garamond (serif)

Garamond is a classical font used for many printed books. It has a timeless look and good readability.

Courier New (monospace)

Courier New is the most widely used monospace serif font. Courier New is often used with coding displays, and many email providers use it as their default font. Courier New is also the standard font for movie screenplays.

Brush Script MT (cursive)

The Brush Script MT font was designed to mimic handwriting. It is elegant and sophisticated, but can be hard to read. Use it carefully.

Tip: Also check out all available Google Fonts and how to use them.

CSS FONT SIZE

Font Size

The font-size property sets the size of the text.

Being able to manage the text size is important in web design. However, you should not use font size adjustments to make paragraphs look like headings, or headings look like paragraphs.

Always use the proper HTML tags, like <h1> - <h6> for headings and <p> for paragraphs.

The font-size value can be an absolute, or relative size.

Absolute size:

- Sets the text to a specified size
- Does not allow a user to change the text size in all browsers (bad for accessibility reasons)
- Absolute size is useful when the physical size of the output is known

Relative size:

- Sets the size relative to surrounding elements
- Allows a user to change the text size in browsers

Note: If you do not specify a font size, the default size for normal text, like paragraphs, is 16px (16px=1em).

SET FONT SIZE WITH PIXELS

Setting the text size with pixels gives you full control over the text size:

Example

h1 {

  font-size: 40px;

}

```
h2 {

  font-size: 30px;

}


p {

  font-size: 14px;

}
```

Tip: If you use pixels, you can still use the zoom tool to resize the entire page.

SET FONT SIZE WITH EM

To allow users to resize the text (in the browser menu), many developers use em instead of pixels.

1em is equal to the current font size. The default text size in browsers is 16px. So, the default size of 1em is 16px.

The size can be calculated from pixels to em using this formula: pixels/16=em

Example

```
h1 {

  font-size: 2.5em; /* 40px/16=2.5em */

}


h2 {

  font-size: 1.875em; /* 30px/16=1.875em */

}


p {

  font-size: 0.875em; /* 14px/16=0.875em */

}
```

In the example above, the text size in em is the same as the previous example in pixels. However, with the em size, it is possible to adjust the text size in all browsers.

Unfortunately, there is still a problem with older versions of Internet Explorer. The text becomes larger than it should when made larger, and smaller than it should when made smaller.

USE A COMBINATION OF PERCENT AND EM

The solution that works in all browsers, is to set a default font-size in percent for the <body> element:

Example

```
body {

  font-size: 100%;

}


h1 {

  font-size: 2.5em;

}


h2 {

  font-size: 1.875em;

}


p {

  font-size: 0.875em;

}
```

RESPONSIVE FONT SIZE

The text size can be set with a vw unit, which means the "viewport width".

That way the text size will follow the size of the browser window:

Example

```
<h1 style="font-size:10vw">Hello World</h1>
```

Viewport is the browser window size. 1vw = 1% of viewport width. If the viewport is 50cm wide, 1vw is 0.5cm.