

Typography Vocabulary

You will need to be able to define the following terms in relation to Typography.

- **Typography** - The art or practice of setting and arranging type; typesetting; The practice or process of printing with type; The appearance and style of typeset matter.¹
- **Leading** - In typography, **leading** (rhymes with *heading*) refers to the amount of added vertical spacing between lines of type.²
- **Kerning** - Kerning refers to the horizontal space between individual pairs of letters (a kerning pair). Fonts that are properly kerned appear evenly spaced without large open gaps of white space between characters.³
- **Tracking** - In typography, **letter-spacing**, also called **tracking**, refers to the amount of space between a group of letters to affect density in a line or block of text.⁴
- **x-height** - Vertical height of a lowercase x in a typeface. X height varies from one typeface to another. Also called body height.⁵
- **serif** - In typography, serifs are semi-structural details on the ends of some of the strokes that make up letters and symbols.⁶
- **sans-serif** - In typography, a sans-serif or sans serif typeface is one that does not have the small features called "serifs" at the end of strokes.⁷
- **point size** - The size of a typeface, measured in points. The size refers to the height of the letters. There are 72 points in an inch.⁸
- **italic** - a version of a typeface that is slanted and script-like⁹
- **roman type** - In most typographical usage, the "normal" counterpart of italic or oblique typefaces.¹⁰
- **Helvetica** - Helvetica is a widely used sans-serif typeface developed in 1957 by Swiss typeface designer Max Miedinger.¹¹
- **font family** - In typography, a typeface is a set of one or more fonts, in one or more sizes, designed with stylistic unity, each comprising a coordinated set of glyphs.¹²
- **ascender** - The stem of a lowercase letter projecting above the x-height. Ascenders and descenders are sometimes called extenders.¹³
- **descender** - The stem of a lowercase letter projecting below the x-height.¹⁴

1. <http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/typography>

2. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leading>

3. <http://www.fontshop.com/help/glossary.php>

4. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tracking_%28typography%29

5. <http://www.unitedgraphicsinc.com/html/glossary.html>

6. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Serif>

7. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sans-serif>

8. <http://www.serc.iisc.ernet.in/ComputingFacilities/systems/cluster/vac-7.0/html/glossary/czgp.htm>

9. <http://open-site.org/Arts/Literature/Typography/Terminology>

10. <http://designpepper.com/blog/post/the-web-designers-typographic-glossary/>

11. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helvetica>

12. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Font_family

13. http://www.mediumbold.com/04_thinking/type/typeterms/terms_body.html#ascender

14. http://www.mediumbold.com/04_thinking/type/typeterms/terms_body.html#descender

