

How to use CSS text styles

Web typography is an important creative tool web designers use to express style and emotion that enhances the goal and overall message of a website.

Image-based text gives you control of your web typography, but several limitations have led to the decline of this approach: increased file size, decreased accessibility, problems with search engine discoverability, and practical limitations on the amount of text.

Cascading Style Sheets provide a higher level of styling control over web typography, without the drawbacks of image-based text. With CSS, web page text results in smaller file size, greater accessibility, and improved usability across devices, browsers, and platforms. CSS specifies a series of font properties for a web browser to use when displaying text in a web page.

Web designers seeking a broader font selection or more expressive typography (**Figure 1**) may choose to use web fonts. *Web fonts* are temporarily downloaded to display text in fonts that site visitors don't need installed on their computers.



Figure 1 Example of a website using web fonts: <http://lostworldsfairs.com/moon/>

Changing text styles

To understand web fonts better, consider how fonts are defined by using CSS. CSS font properties define the font family, boldness, size, and style of text. A font declaration for an HTML paragraph tag looks something like this:

```
p {font-family: Georgia, "Times New Roman", Times, serif;
font-size: 18px; font-style: italic; font-weight: bold;}
```

Changing text styles for web pages is easy in the CSS Styles panel.

To change text styles:

1. Start Dreamweaver.
2. Open a document in which you want to edit a CSS font property.
3. Open the CSS Styles panel (Window > CSS Styles), if it isn't already open (**Figure 2**).
4. Double-click an existing rule or property in the top pane of the CSS Styles panel.

The CSS Rule Definition dialog box appears (**Figure 3**).

5. Change or specify any of the following properties in the dialog box. If a property is not important to you, don't select or enter a value for that property.

Font-family sets the font family (or series of families) for the style. Browsers display text in the first font in the series that is installed on the viewer's system.

Font-size defines the size of the text. You can choose a specific size by selecting the number and the unit of measurement, or you can choose a relative size.

Font-style provides the options Normal, Italic, and Oblique.

Line-height sets the height of the line on which the text is placed. This setting is traditionally called *leading*.

Text-decoration adds an underline, overline, or line-through to the text, makes the text blink, or removes any decoration set elsewhere.

Font-weight applies a specific or relative amount of boldface to the font. Normal is equivalent to 400; Bold is equivalent to 700.

Font-variant sets the small caps variant on text. Dreamweaver does not display this attribute in the Document window.

Text-transform capitalizes the first letter of each word in the selection or sets the text to all uppercase or lowercase.

Color sets the text color.

6. When you have finished, click OK. Observe the effect of your changes in Design view.

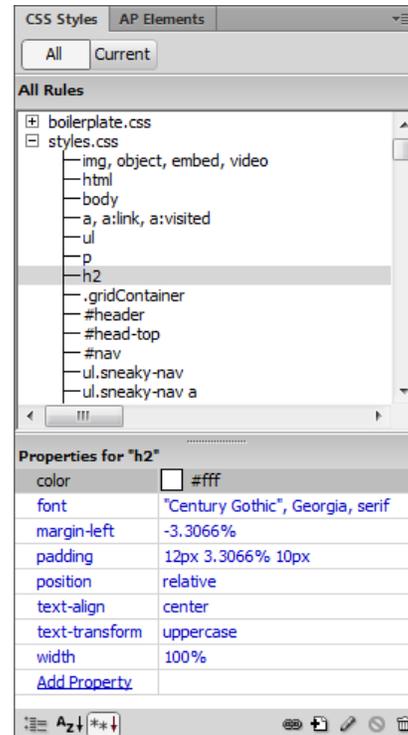


Figure 2 CSS Styles panel

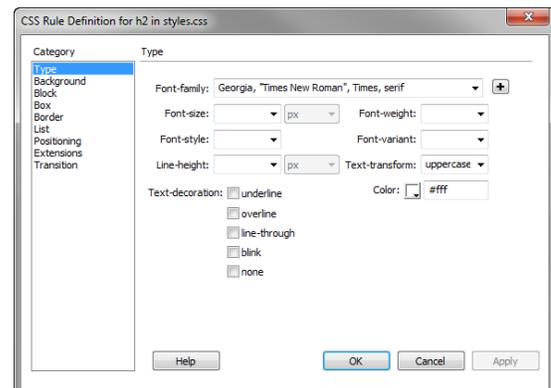


Figure 3 CSS Rule Definition dialog box

Using web fonts

By using the CSS `@font-face` embedding technique, modern web browsers download and use a wide range of font styles. There are two methods for delivering web fonts to site visitors: subscription-based hosted services that license fonts for use and free open-source fonts.

Most subscription-based, third-party services host fonts on their servers and deliver specific fonts whenever a website is viewed. This often requires adding code to your site, and the service instructs you on how to do so. Examples of subscription-based services are Adobe's Typekit (www.typekit.com), Kernest, and Typotheque.

Google web fonts is the service of choice for free open-source web fonts. Like subscription-based font services, Google offers a hosted web font service, as well as letting you download font collections for saving to a web server.

To use Google web fonts, you must first visit the Google web fonts website and choose one or more font styles, review your selection, and integrate web fonts into your CSS (**Figure 4**). Use one of the following procedures:

- *Remote web fonts:* Copy the provided link code into the `<head>` section of your HTML document.
- *Embedded web fonts:* Download the collection as a ZIP file and save to your web server.

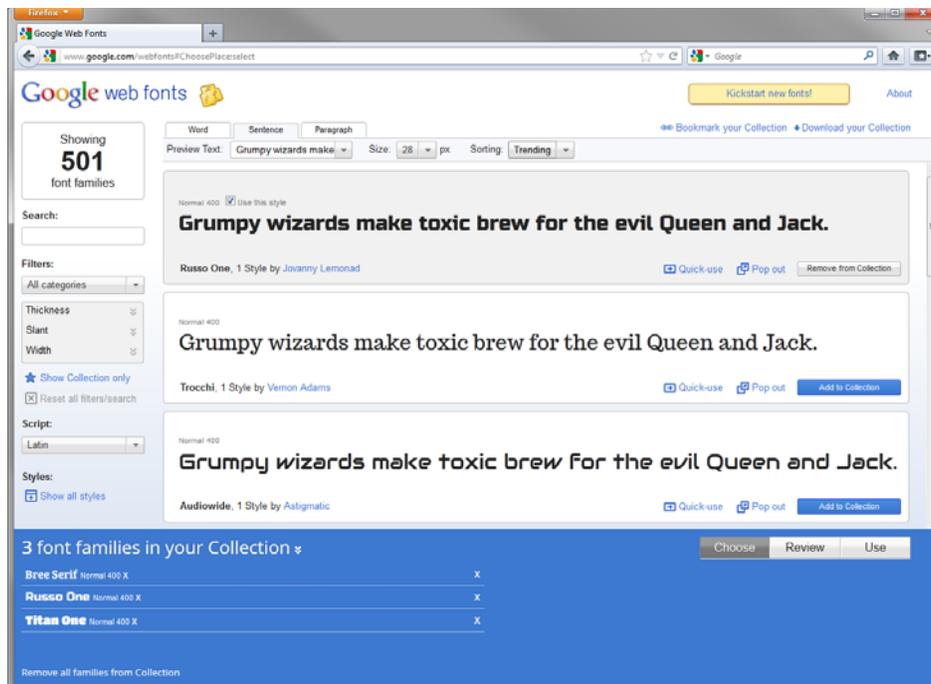


Figure 4 Google web fonts website

In this section, you learn how to use the Google remote web font service and how to download and use Google web fonts.

To use remote Google web fonts:

1. Visit the Google web fonts site at www.google.com/webfonts.

You may be required to register.

2. Search or browse the selection of font families; then click the Add To Collection button next to each font you want to use.
3. Click the Review button to compare and refine your collection and to see the styles in a customizable sample layout.
4. Click the Use button, and verify the settings.
5. In Step 3 on the Use page, copy the Standard link code (Figure 5).

The code is saved to the clipboard.

6. Open a Dreamweaver HTML document in which you want to add Google web fonts.
7. Select Split view in the Document toolbar (Figure 6).
Code view and Design view are visible in the Document window.
8. Locate the opening <head> tag of the document, and place the insertion point immediately after the closing bracket of the tag.
9. Press Enter (Windows) or Return (Mac OS) to create a line break.
10. Select Edit > Paste to add the saved clipboard code to the head section of the document (Figure 7).
11. Open the CSS Styles panel (Window > CSS Styles), if it isn't already open, and select All at the top of the panel.
12. Click an existing rule or style in the All Rules pane of the CSS Styles panel to display its properties in the Properties pane.
13. Return to the Google web fonts Use page, and copy the name of the font family you want to use in your web page from the list in Step 4 (Figure 8).
14. Return to Dreamweaver. In the CSS Styles panel, double-click the rule to which you want to apply the Google web font.

The CSS Rule Definition dialog box appears.

15. Paste the copied font-family name into the Font-Family text box (Figure 3).
16. Select File > Save All.
17. Select File > Preview In Browser, and then select a browser where you can preview the remote Google web font (Figure 9).

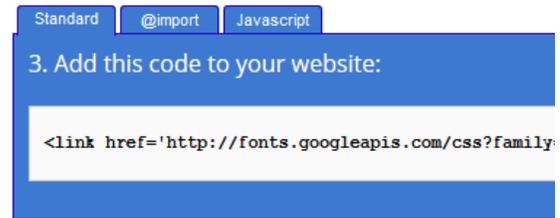


Figure 5 Step 3 of the Use page, Google web fonts

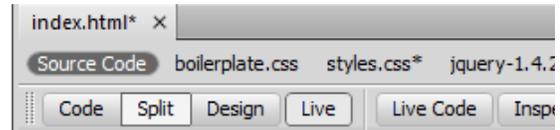


Figure 6 Document toolbar in Dreamweaver



Figure 7 Link to Google web fonts in the head section

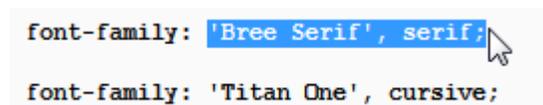


Figure 8 Step 4 of the Use page, Google web fonts

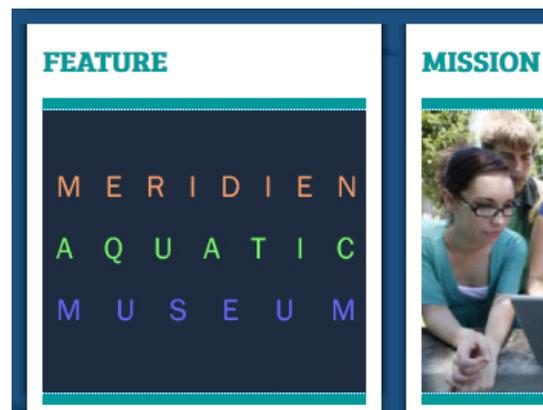


Figure 9 Google web fonts used in headings

To download and embed Google web fonts:

1. Visit the Google web fonts site at www.google.com/webfonts.
2. You may be required to register.
3. Search or browse the selection of font families; then click the Add To Collection button next to each font you want to use.
4. Click the Review button to compare and refine your collection and to see the styles in a customizable sample layout.
5. Click the Use button, and verify the settings.
6. Click the Download Your Collection link in the upper-right corner of the Use page (**Figure 10**).

The Download The Fonts In Your Collection dialog box appears (**Figure 11**).

7. Click the Download The Font Families In Your Collection As A Zip-file link to download the files to your computer.
8. Unzip the file and save to the location of your choice.
9. Open the folder containing the downloaded font and make note of the file type.

It will have one of four types of web font extensions: EOT, WOFF, TTF, or SVG. You will need this information in the next few steps. The font in the example folder is Bree Serif, Regular, and it is a TTF font.

10. Switch to Dreamweaver.
11. Select Modify > Web Fonts.

The Web Fonts Manager dialog box appears (**Figure 13**).

your Collection [Download your Collection](#)



Figure 10 Download your Collection link



Figure 11 Download The Fonts In Your Collection dialog box

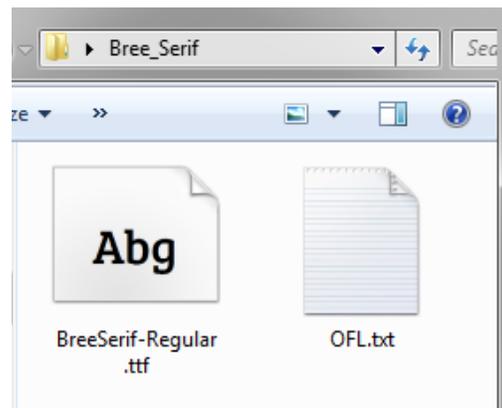


Figure 12 Downloaded fonts

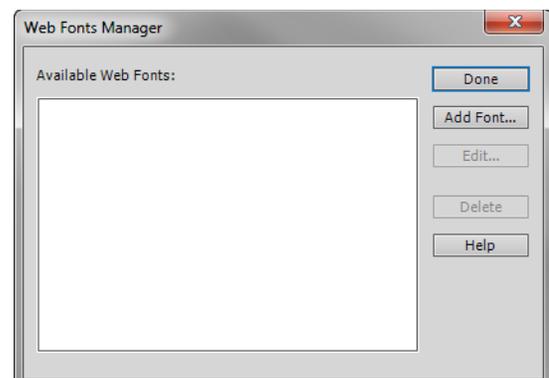


Figure 13 Web Fonts Manager dialog box

12. Click the Add Font button.

The Add Web Font dialog box appears (**Figure 14**).

13. Click the folder icon beside the file type of your downloaded font, navigate to the location of the saved font, and select it.

14. Click Open in the Open dialog box.

The font is added to the Add Web Font dialog box.

15. Click OK to close the Add Web Font dialog box.

The font is added to the Web Fonts Manager dialog box.

16. Click Done to close the Web Fonts Manager dialog box.

17. Open the CSS Styles panel (Window > CSS Styles), if it isn't already open, and select All at the top of the panel.

18. In the All Rules pane, double-click the rule to which you want to apply the Google web font.

The CSS Rule Definition dialog box appears.

19. In the Font-Family menu, select the Google web font that you downloaded and added.

20. Select File > Save All.

21. Select File > Preview In Browser, and then select a browser where you can preview the embedded Google web font (**Figure 9**).

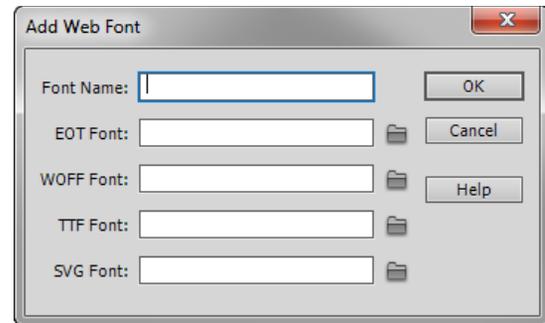


Figure 14 Add Web Font dialog box