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Method · October 2019

DOI: 10.13140/RG.2.2.26779.21282

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Evaluating Fonts

Font Family Selection for Accessibility & Display Readability

by Andrew Somers • DOI: 10.13140/RG.2.2.28058.80320

What makes a font easy to read? The full answer could take a book to describe, but this is just a pamphlet so we'll stick to the bare essentials. Font size, weight, tracking (i.e. letter spacing) leading (i.e. line spacing) and lightness contrast vs. the background are key factors. For this guide, we'll focus most on the design of the individual letters (called glyphs). We'll use black letters on white, and an 18pt size for the examples.

Who needs readable text? Everyone! Even people with perfect vision have minimum visual needs — but did you know that *over 50% of the population* has a vision problem that needs additional consideration and

accommodation? In fact, *everyone* eventually develops a visual impairment needing accommodation as a natural part of aging.

This guide is intended to help designers choose fonts that are easiest to read for everyone. We have considered the needs of normal and impaired vision, including acuity (blurriness), contrast (washed-out or faded look), and letter & word recognition (dyslexia and other cognitive types).

The fonts in the guide are just a sampling to demonstrate the various aspects affecting readability, mainly for fonts used as body text. Most of these fonts are freely available on sites such as Google Fonts.

Key Design Factors to Consider for Best Readability

Check that multi-letter homoglyphs are easy to differentiate, especially **rn** vs **m** & **cl** vs **d**

WORSE

Arial Narrow: rn m, cl d, cj g, vv w, vy w
Josefin: rn m, cl d, cj g, vv w

BETTER

Convergence: rn m, cl d, cj g, vv w, vy w
Quando: rn m, cl d, cj g, vv w

Check common single-letter confusions & avoid too many “similarly structured” glyphs:

WORSE

Arial Narrow: 5S8B 7Z QO CG 1ll qgy ce
Fugaz One: 8B 7Z DOOCG6 1ll aqgy ce yuuv
Gill Sans: 5S8B 7Z QO 1ll ce vyw
Autour One: gq gy gq aqc

BETTER

DM Serif: 5S8B 7Z QO CG 1ll qgy ce
SecularOne: 8B 7Z DOOCG6 1ll aqgy ce yuvw
Convergence: 5S8B 7Z QO 1ll ce vyw
Artifika: gq gy yq aqc

Avoid fonts with many “mirror image” glyphs, lowercase **db** or **qp** should be more distinct.

WORSE

Montserrat: db qp gp ae

BETTER

(notice the b is a different shape, not a mirror of d)

Convergence: db qp gp ae

Check that letter pairs are properly kerned, and that tracking is consistent:

WORSE

Josefin: AWowzer, Lyte, IDAHO GREAT

BETTER

Caslon: AWowzer, Lyte, IDAHO GREAT

Fonts shown in 18pt with some considerations for evaluating potential readability & accessibility for mobile devices or computer displays. Evaluations are not based on aesthetics, only functionality.

Example “Best” Fonts for Accessibility & Display Readability

IDEAL EXAMPLE — SERIF LIBRE BASKERVILLE

Tom was torn — go hear Halcy’s cornet, or see Haley’s comet?
As a 1 l I saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. 1lIfthkaceqpgyji
Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehyglrnmoppswuvxiz 123456789f

• Good: 1lI, 00o, gy, rnm — extra distinct, big x-height, good numbers

IDEAL EXAMPLE — SERIF GABRIELLA

Tom was torn — to go hear Halcy’s cornet or see Haley’s comet?
As a 1 l I saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. 1lIfthkdbaceoqpgyj
Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehyglrnmoppswuvxiz 123456789 fΔπ§

• Good: 1lI, rnm, hk db qp ft are extra distinct, good x-height, good weight, good leading/kerning/tracking

IDEAL EXAMPLE — SANS-SERIF CONVERGENCE

Tom was torn — to go hear Halcy’s cornet or see Haley’s comet?
As a 1 l I saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. 1lIfthkdbaqqgyji
Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehyglrnmoppswuvxiz 123456789 fΔ¶§

• Good: db, qp, ft, rnm are extra distinct, 1lI, 00o distinct Meh: aq, gy lacks distinction, short leading

IDEAL EXAMPLE — MONOSPACE SOURCE CODE PRO

Tom's torn—hear HaIcy’s cornet or see Haley’s comet?
As a 1 l I saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa.qpggyji
Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehyglrnmoppswuvxiz123456

• Good: 1lI, 00o, rnm are extra distinct, good x-height, good leading, many weights in family

IDEAL EXAMPLE — HEADLINE/DISPLAY SECULAR ONE

Tom was torn — to go hear Halcy’s cornet or see Haley’s comet?
As a 1 l I saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. 1lIfthkdbaceo qpggyji
Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehyglrnmoppswuvxiz 123456789 fΔπ§@

DISPLAY CAPITALS: AWWUYXGCDBTFEJKJILNMOQRPSZ WACTOMY

• Good: 1lI, 00o are distinct, good x-height, extra leading, fairly open counters, good kerning & tracking

Good Serif Fonts for Accessibility & Readability

PALATINO

Tom was torn — to go hear Halcy's cornet or see Haley's comet?
As a 1 l I saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. 1lIfthkdbaceo qpgyji
Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehygklrnmoqpswuvxiz 123456789 fΔπ¶§@!◇

- Good: 1lI, 0Oo, db, ft, rnm are extra distinct, good numbers, good asc/desc. Meh: kerning/track too tight

POLY

Tom was torn — to go hear Halcy's cornet or see Haley's comet?
As a 1 l I saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. 1lIfthkdbaceo qpgyji
Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehygklrnmoqpswuvxiz 123456789 fΔπ§@◇

- Good: 1lI, oOo, rnm are extra distinct, good x-height, extra leading Meh: numbers, descenders

GENTIUM BOOK BASIC

Tom was torn — should he go hear Halcy's cornet or see Haley's comet?
As a 1 l I saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. 1lIfthkdbaceo qpgyji
Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehygklrnmoqpswuvxiz 123456789 fΔπ¶§∞@!◇

- Good: 1lI, 0Oo, db, ft, rnm are extra distinct, good ascenders, good numbers. Meh: kerning/track

GEORGIA

Tom was torn — to go hear Halcy's cornet or see Haley's comet?
As a 1 l I saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. 1lIfthkdbaceo qpgyji
Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehygklrnmoqpswuvxiz 123456789 fΔπ¶§∞◇

- Good: 1lI, 0Oo, db, qp, ft, rnm are extra distinct. Meh: inconsistent number glyph height.

ARVO

Tom was torn — to go hear Halcy's cornet or see Haley's comet?
As a 1 l I saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. 1lIfthkdbaceoqpgyji
Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehygklrnmoqpswuvxiz 123456789fΔ§◇

- Good: 1lI, 0Oo, db, gy, rnm are extra distinct, good x-height, good weight, good numbers Meh: short descenders.

ARBUTUS SLAB

Tom was torn — go hear Halcy's cornet, or see Haley's comet?
As a 1 l I saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. 1lIfthkaceoqpgyji
Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehygklrnmoqpswuvxiz12345678fΔπ§

- Good: 1lI, 0Oo, rnm — distinct, big x-height, Meh: asc/dec, kerning

MILONGA

Tom was torn — to go hear Halcy's cornet or see Haley's comet?
As a 1 l I saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. 1lIfthkdbaceo qpgyji
Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehygklrnmoqpswuvxiz 123456789 fΔπ§◇

- Good: 0Oo, db, rnm are extra distinct Meh: 1 l less distinct, kerning/tracking problems/tightness

Good Sans Fonts for Accessibility & Display Readability

K2D

Tom was torn – to go hear Halcy’s cornet or see Haley’s comet?
As a 1 l l saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. 1lIfthkdbaceo qpgyji
Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehygklrnmoqpswuvxiz 123456789 fΔπ\$◇

- Good: 1 l l, 00o, rnm, qpgyji — distinct, good leading, good x-height

SHARE

Tom was torn – should he go hear HaIcy’s cornet or see Haley’s comet?
As a 1 l I saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. 1lIfthkdbaceo qpgyji
Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehygklrnmoqpswuvxiz 123456789 fΔπ¶§∞◇&

- Good: 1lI, 00o are extra distinct, rnm is distinct good x-height Meh: db, qp — short asc/descenders, condensed

VERDANA

Tom was torn — go hear HaIcy’s cornet or see Haley’s comet?
As a 1 l I saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. 1lIfthkdbqpgyj
Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehygklrnmoqpswuvxiz 123456789 f

- Good: 1lI, 00o are extra distinct, good x-height Meh: db, qp — short asc/descenders, rnm is indistinct.

UBUNTU

Tom was torn — to go hear Halcy’s cornet or see Haley’s comet?
As a 1 l l saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. 1lIfthkdbaceo qpgyji
Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehygklrnmoqpswuvxiz 123456789 fΔπ¶§∞◇

- Good: 1lI, 00o, ft are distinct, good x-height Meh: db, qp — short asc/descenders, rnm is less distinct.

Body/Headline Font for Accessibility & Display Readability

PODKOVA (FOR BODY) PODKOVA EXTRA BOLD (FOR DISPLAY)

Tom was torn — to go hear HaIcy’s cornet or see Haley’s comet?
As a 1 l I saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. 1lIfthkdbaceoqpgyji
Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehygklrnmoqpswuvxiz 123456789 fΔπ\$◇

- Good: 1lI, 00o, rnm are extra distinct, good x-height Meh: short leading , weird ascenders: dbhk

DISPLAY CAPITALS: A W V U Y X G C D B T F E H K J I L N M O Q R P S Z W A C T O M
rnm1lIhkdbaceoqpgyji & adcbtfjehygklrnmoqpswuvxiz 12345678

- Good: 1lI, 00o, rnm are extra distinct, good x-height Meh: short leading , weird ascenders: dbhk

DIN ALTERNATE (FOR DISPLAY)

Tom was torn — should he go hear Halcy’s cornet or see Haley’s comet?
As a 1 l l saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. 1lIfthkdbaceo qpgyji
Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehygklrnmoqpswuvxiz 123456789 fΔπ¶§∞@!◇&

- Good weight, Okay glyph distinction, descenders a little weak.

Good Mono Fonts for Accessibility & Display Readability

FIRA CODE

Tom's torn—hear HaIcy's cornet or see Haley's comet?
As a 1 l I saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa.

1lIfthkdbaceo qpgyji kbhrnm

Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehyglrnmoqpswuvxiz123456

• Good: 1lI, 00o, rnm are extra distinct, good x-height Meh: dbqp— short asc/descenders.

UBUNTU MONO

Tom was torn – to go hear HaIcy's cornet or see Haley's comet?

As a 1 l I saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. 1lIfthkdbqpgyji

Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehyglrnmoqpswuvxiz 123456789 fΔπ¶§◇

• Good: 1lI, 00o, rnm are extra distinct Meh: short leading, tight monospacing, dbqp — short asc/des

ANDALE MONO

Tom's torn – hear HaIcy's cornet or see Haley's comet?

As a 1 l I saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa.

1lIfthkdbaceo qpgyji kbhrnm

Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehyglrnmoqpswuvxiz123456789

• Good: 1lI, 00o, rnm — extra distinct Meh: dbqpl y — short ascenders/descenders

Good Trans-Serif Fonts for Accessibility & Readability

ARTIFIKA

Tom was torn – go hear Halcy's cornet or see Haley's comet?

As a 1 l l saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. 1llfthkdbqpgyj

Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehyglrnmoqpswuvxiz 123456789 f

• Good: 00o, db, qp, gy, ft, rnm are extra distinct, good x-height Meh: 1ll is a little indistinct, tight leading

ASUL

Tom was torn — best to go hear Halcy's cornet or see Haley's comet?

As a 1 l l saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. 1llfthkdbaceo qpgyji

Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehyglrnmoqpswuvxiz 123456789 fΔπ¶§◇&

• Good: 1ll, 00o, rnm, dbqpgy distinct, good x-height

ARIMA MADURAI

Tom was torn – should he go hear Halcy's cornet or see Haley's comet?

As a 1 l l saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. 1llfthkdbaceo qpgyji

Data IO is 1 or 0 ∅ adcbtfjehyglrnmoqpswuvxiz 123456789 fΔπ¶§∞◇

• Good: rnm, hk db qp are extra distinct, 1ll, 00o distinct, x-height, extra leading Meh: light wgt, gy lacks distinction

“Kinda Okay” Fonts for Accessibility & Display Readability

COCHIN (SERIF)

Tom was torn — should he go hear Halcy’s cornet or see Haley’s comet?
As a 1 l I saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. 1lIfthkdbaceo qpgyji
Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehygklrnmoqpswuvxiz 123456789 fΔπ¶§∞@!◇

- **Good:** 1lI, 00o, db, qp, ft, rnm – distinct, wide caps, extra leading. **Meh:** small x-Ht, lrc j has weak descender.

DIDOT (SERIF)

Tom was torn — to go hear Halcy’s cornet or see Haley’s comet?
As a 1 l I saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. 1lIfthkdbaceo qpgyji
Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehygklrnmoqpswuvxiz 123456789 fΔπ¶§∞◇

- **Good:** 1lI, 00o, rnm distinct **Meh:** variable stroke width gets too thin for use as a screen body-font.

RUDA (SANS-SERIF)

Tom was torn — to go hear Halcy’s cornet or see Haley’s comet?
As a 1 l I saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. 1lIfthkdbaceo qpgyji
Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehygklrnmoqpswuvxiz 123456789 fΔπ§◇

- **Good:** rnm distinct BIG x-height, good tracking/kerning **Meh:** 1lI, 00o are less distinct, dbqp — short asc/desc..

OPTIMA (TRANS-SERIF)

Tom was torn — should he go hear Halcy’s cornet or see Haley’s comet?
As a 1 l I saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. 1lIfthkdbaceo qpgyji
Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehygklrnmoqpswuvxiz 123456789 fΔπ¶§∞◇

- Good stroke variation helps overall, otherwise so-so glyph distinction.

ORIYA MN (TRANS-SERIF)

Tom was torn — to go hear Halcy’s cornet or see Haley’s comet?
As a 1 l I saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. 1lIfthkdbaceo qpgyji
Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehygklrnmoqpswuvxiz 123456789 fΔπ§◇

- **Good:** x-height, good kerning/tracking **Meh:** rnm 1lI lack distinction, x-height numbers, short descenders

KELLY SLAB (SLAB-SERIF)

Tom was torn — to go hear Halcy’s cornet or see Haley’s comet?
As a 1 l I saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. 1lIfthkdbaceo qpgyji
Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehygklrnmoqpswuvxiz 123456789 fΔπ§◇

- **Good:** rnm, hk db qp are extra distinct **Meh:** 1lI, 00o lack distinction, glyphs a bit weird and squarish.

MODERN ANTIQUA (SERIF)

Tom was torn — to go hear Halcy’s cornet or see Haley’s comet?
As a 1 l I saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. 1lIfthkdbacqpgyji
Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehygklrnmoqpswuvxiz 123456789 fΔ§

- **Good:** rnm distinct **Meh:** 1lI 00o indistinct, some glyphs are weird non-standard design.

MARKO ONE

Tom was torn—go hear Halcy’s cornet or see Haley’s comet?
As a l l I saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. lllhkdbqqgyj
Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehyglrnmoqpswuvxiz 123456789§

• Good: rnm distinct BIG x-height, good weight, good tracking/kerning Meh: lll, 00o are less distinct.

RUM RAISIN (WHIMSICAL DISPLAY)

Tom was torn — to go hear Halcy’s cornet or see Haley’s comet?
As a l l I saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. llfthkdbaceo qpggyji
Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehyglrnmoqpswuvxiz 123456789 fап§◇

• Good: rnm distinct, good weight, but use sparingly Meh: lll 00o lack distinction, this is set at 22pt as the font is small.

ROCKWELL (SLAB-SERIF) ROCKWELL BOLD (FOR DISPLAY)

Tom was torn — go hear Halcy’s cornet or see Haley’s comet?
As a l l I saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. llfthkdbqqgyji
Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehyglrnmoqpswuvxiz 123456789Δ§

• Good x-height, good weight Meh: lacks glyph distinction (number 1 and lower case l), baseline & leading errors.

DISPLAY: AWWUYXGCDBTFEHKJILNMOQRPSZ ACTOMY
rnm llhkdbaceoqpggyji & adcbtfjehyglrnmoqpswuvxiz 123

• Good x-height, good weight Meh: lacks glyph distinction, tight tracking, baseline & leading errors.

SIMONETTA (FOR BODY) SIMONETTA BLACK (FOR DISPLAY)

Tom was torn — should he go hear Halcy’s cornet or see Haley’s comet?
As a l l I saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. llfthkdbaceo qpggyji
Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehyglrnmoqpswuvxiz 123456789 fΔπ¶§∞◇

• Good: llI, 00o, rnm, dbqp are distinct Meh: counters small, tracking too tight

DISPLAY CAPS: AWWUYXGCDBTFEHKJILNMOQRPSZ ACTOMY
rnm llhkdbaceoqpggyji & adcbtfjehyglrnmoqpswuvxiz 123456789 fΔ§

• Good: llI, 00o, rnm, dbqp are distinct Meh: counters too small, tracking too tight, small x-height

SPECTRAL (FOR BODY) SPECTRAL EXTRA BOLD (FOR DISPLAY)

Tom was torn — to go hear Halcy’s cornet or see Haley’s comet?
As a l l I saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. llfthkdbaceo qpggyji
Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehyglrnmoqpswuvxiz 123456789 fΔπ§

• Good: llI, 00o, rnm are distinct, extra leading, fi ligature okay, kerning/tracking nicely open

DISPLAY CAPS: AWWUYXGCDBTFEHKJILNMOQRPSZ ATOM
rnm llhkdbaceoqpggyji & adcbtfjehyglrnmoqpswuvxiz 123456789

• Good: same as regular weight, EXCEPT Extra Bold Meh: counters a bit small, tracking is tight, small x-height

CHARTER (FOR BODY) CHARTER BLACK (FOR DISPLAY)

Tom was torn — should he go hear Halcy’s cornet or see Haley’s comet?
As a 1 l I saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. 1lfthkdbaceo qpgyji
Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehygklrnmoqpswuvxiz 123456789 fΔπ¶§∞◇
DISPLAY CAPS: AWWUYXGCDDBTFECHKJILNMOQRPSZ ACTOMY
rnm1lhkdbaceoqpgyji & adcbtfjehygklrnmoqpswuvxiz1234

• Good: 1ll, 00o, rnm, dbqp are extra distinct, good x-height Meh: kerning/tracking

AUTOUR ONE (TRANS-SERIF)

Tom’s torn — hear Halcy’s cornet, see Haley’s comet?
As a 1 l I saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. aqgyj
Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehygklrnmoqpswuvxiz1234

• Good: 1ll, 00o, qp, rnm are extra distinct, big x-height, spacious tracking Meh: less distinct hkygaq

LOBSTER TWO (SCRIPT)

Tom was torn — should he go hear Halcy’s cornet or see Haley’s comet?
As a 1 l I saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. 1lfthkdbaceoqpgyji
Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehygklrnmoqpswuvxiz 123456789 fΔπ¶§∞@!◇&

• Good weight & glyph distinction, but mainly a fun display-only font, should be used sparingly if at all. Can be hard to read.

REDRESSED (SCRIPT)

Tom was torn — to go hear Halcy’s cornet or see Haley’s comet?
As a 1 l I saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. 1lfthkdbaceo qpgyji
Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehygklrnmoqpswuvxiz 123456789 fΔπ¶§◇

• Good: rnm is distinct, but use font sparingly Meh: 1ll 00o lack distinction, this is set at 22pt as font is too small

RALEWAY EXTRA BOLD

Tom was torn — to go hear Halcy’s cornet or see Haley’s comet?
As a 1 l I saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. 1lfthkdbaceoqpgyji
Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehygklrnmoqpswuvxiz 123456789 fΔπ¶§

• Good: 1ll, 00o, rnm, qp — distinct, good x-height Meh: short asc/desc, tight tracking/kerning, numbers

RIGHTEOUS

Tom was torn — to go hear Halcy’s cornet or see Haley’s comet?
As a 1 l I saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. 1lfthkdbaceo qpgyji
Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehygklrnmoqpswuvxiz 123456789 fΔπ¶§◇

• Good: 00o, rnm — distinct, good x-height Meh: 1ll indistinct, short asc/desc, tight tracking/kerning

??? ~ WHAT'S WITH THE SCRAMBLED ALPHABET? ~ ???

Yes, we know that “adcbtfj...” as shown in the type samples is not the normal alphabet order. This is a simulation of dyslexic perception to give normal viewers a sense of dyslexia. Try reading this order out-loud for the full effect. Also, some problem letters for dyslexia are placed together: qp ft rnm db

“Not So Great” Fonts for Accessibility & Display Readability

DM SERIF TEXT

Tom was torn — should he go hear Halcy’s cornet or see Haley’s comet?
As a 1 | I saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. 1l1fthkdbaceo qpgyji
Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehygklrnmoqpswuvxiz 123456789 fΔπ¶§∞◇
DISPLAY CAPITALS: AWWUYXGCDBTFECHKJILNMOQRPSZ WACTOMY

- Good: 00o, rnm are distinct, good x-height, extra leading Meh: minor strokes are too thin

MONTERRAT

Tom was torn — to hear Halcy’s cornet or see Haley’s comet?
As a 1 | I saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. 1l1fthkdbacqpgyji
Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehygklrnmoqpswuvxiz 123456789 fΔ§

- Good kerning/tracking, Good x-height, but short asc/dec & many glyphs lack distinction (ll dbqpo).

ARIAL ~• Despite being a “standard” Arial is not particularly good for accessibility purposes •~

Tom was torn — to go hear Halcy’s cornet or see Haley’s comet?
As a 1 | I saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. 1l1fthkdbaceo qpgyji
Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehygklrnmoqpswuvxiz 123456789 fΔπ¶§∞◇

- Good x-height & weight BAD: poor glyph distinction, default kerning/tracking poor.

ARIAL NARROW

Tom was torn — should he go hear Halcy’s cornet or see Haley’s comet?
As a 1 | I saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. 1l1fthkdbaceo qpgyji
Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehygklrnmoqpswuvxiz 123456789 fΔπ¶§∞@!◇&

- BAD: Arial Narrow seems designed to “look good” to normal vision while being unreadable for dyslexia or low vision.

HELVETICA NEUE THIN

Tom was torn — should he go hear Halcy’s cornet or see Haley’s comet?
As a 1 | I saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. 1l1fthkdbaceo qpgyji
Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehygklrnmoqpswuvxiz 123456789 fΔπ¶§∞@!◇&

- Good x-height BAD: poor glyph distinction, default spacing too tight, this iteration’s weight (thin) is too light.

FUTURA BOLD

Tom was torn — to go hear Halcy’s cornet or see Haley’s comet?
As a 1 | I saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. 1l1fthkdbaceo qpgyji
Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehygklrnmoqpswuvxiz 123456789 fΔ§◇

- Font weight is okay but poor glyph distinction: aocijdbqpf rnm 1ll, also for e the counter (the hole) is too small. We’ve always liked the “look” of Futura, but have also always had problems trying to fit it into a workable design. It’s useful for ornamental text like big attention getting headlines, or side comments you don’t really need to read, but not main content.

“Not Good” Fonts for Accessibility & Readability

JOSEFIN SLAB THIN

Tom was torn – should he go hear Halcy’s cornet or see Haley’s comet?
As a l l I saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. llfthkdbaceo aqpgyji
Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehygklrnmoqpswuvxiz 123456789 fΔπ¶§∞@!◇

- Mostly good glyph distinction **BAD:** small x-height & thin weight (too light for reading).

MANQUIS CP

Tom was torn — should he go hear Halcy’s cornet or see Haley’s comet?
As a l l I saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. llfthkdbaceo qpgyji
Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehygklrnmoqpswuvxiz 123456789 fΔπ¶§∞@!◇

- **For Access:** while most glyphs are distinctive, it's very thin & the structure of some glyphs is weird, such as: e a t r x

PHILOSOPHER

Tom was torn — should he go hear Halcy’s cornet or see Haley’s comet?
As a l l l saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. llfthkdbaceo qpgyji
Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehygklrnmoqpswuvxiz 123456789 fΔπ¶§∞@!◇

- **Bad:** Capital i is l and lower case L is l. Also the font has short asc/descenders. Too bad as the font is good otherwise.
•• I.e. the l (i) looks like a lower case L and the l (L) looks like an upper case i. (!!!)

“Just Plain Bad” Fonts for Accessibility & Display Readability

BRUSH SCRIPT MT

Tom was torn — should he go hear HaIcy’s cornet or see Haley’s comet?
As a l l I saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. llfthkdbaceo qpgyji
Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehygklrnmoqpswuvxiz 123456789 fΔπ¶§∞@!◇&

- **UNREADABLE!** I’ve had this font as long as I can remember, yet I have never used it in my entire life.

IRONNICK NF

Tom was torn — should he go hear Halcy’s cornet or see Haley’s comet?
As a l l l saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa: llfthkdbaceo qpgyji
Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehygklrnmoqpswuvxiz 123456789 fΔπ¶§∞@!◇&

- Mostly poor glyph distinction, x-height far too small, decorative use only, not for meaningful content.

SNELL ROUNDHAND

Tom was torn — should he go hear HaIcy’s cornet or see Haley’s comet?
As a l l I saw a bum burn a bad bag of quinoa. llfthkdbaceo qpgyji
Data IO is 1 or 0 & adcbtfjehygklrnmoqpswuvxiz 123456789 fΔπ¶§∞@!◇&

- Some glyph distinction, but otherwise an elegantly **unreadable** font! Decorative use only, not for content.