

COMPSCI 105: Lecture #10  
Introduction to  
Typefaces and Fonts

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Everybody knows what an “A” looks like, right? (See your report card!)



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All characters from each alphabet  
below “belong” together:

A B C D E F G...  
A B C D E F G...  
A B C D E F G...  
A B C D E F G...

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Even across different languages:

A B C D E F G H...  
Α Β Γ Δ Ε Ζ Η Θ...  
А Б Г Д Е Ж З И...  
...ך ם ן ן ן ן ן ן ן

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## Origins

- We inherit a lot of modern notation in word processing from the old typographers (think: Gutenberg and Ben Franklin)...
- ...but, we get a lot wrong, too!
- For example: Most text dialogs (both Mac and Windows) use the word “font” when they should use the word “typeface”.

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## Printing Press



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### Printed Paper Drying



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### Cases Full of Loose Type



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### An Example

- Loose type slugs are stored in cases (each letter in its own little box),
- Small letters are in the case closest to the typesetter, so he can reach them easily,
- But capital letters, less frequently used, are stored further away in the...

UPPER CASE!

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### Examples of Typefaces

ABCDEFGHIJ... (Arial)

ABCDEFGHIJ... (Times)

ABCDEFGHIJ... (Courier)

**ABCDEFGHIJ... (Courier Bold)**

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### Fonts vs. Typefaces

**TYPEFACE:**

Set of characters from an alphabet with common shape design characteristics.  
(Times Roman, Courier, Arial, etc.)

**FONT:**

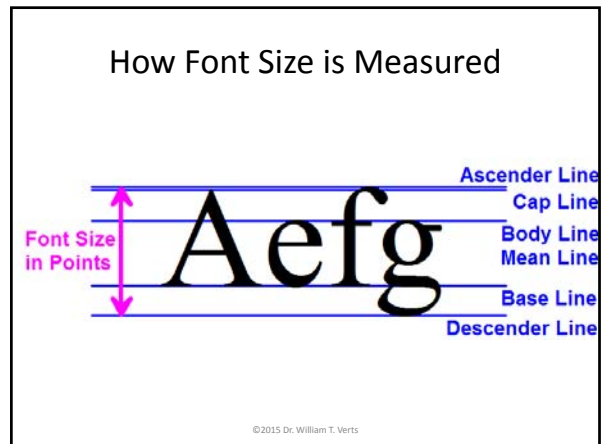
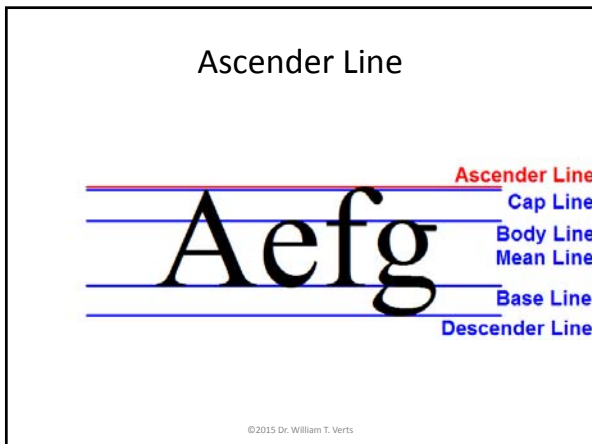
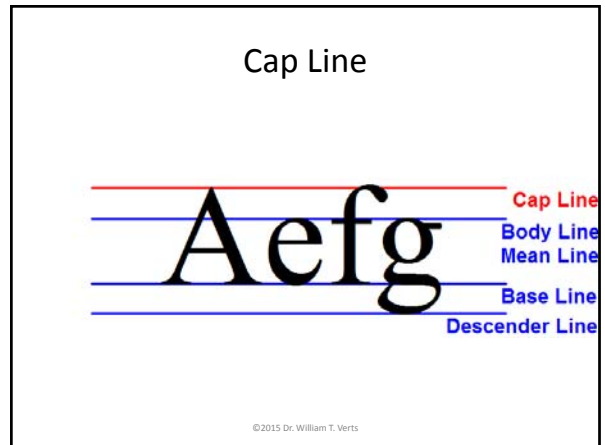
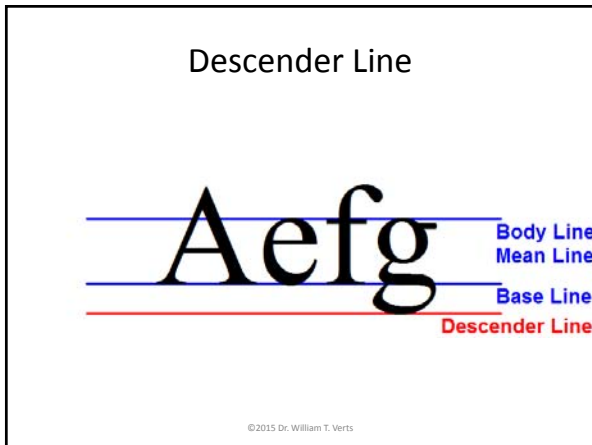
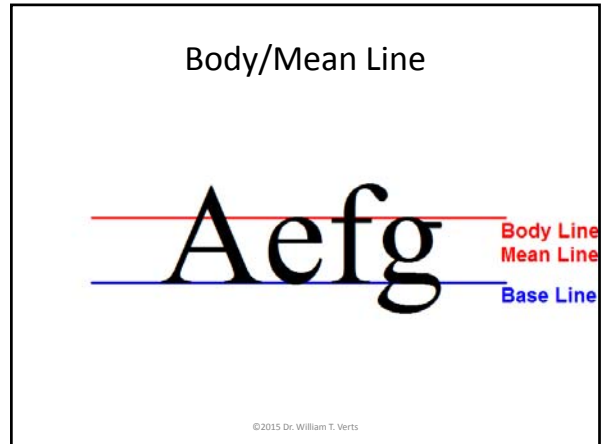
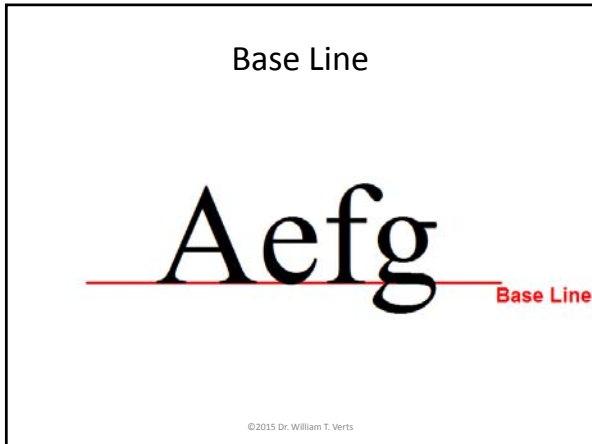
A Typeface at a particular weight, style, and point size.  
(Times Roman Bold 12 point)

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### Some Sample Text

Aefg

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### Font Size is Measured in "Points"

Traditional: 72.27 points/inch  
Modern: 72 points/inch

Font Size in Points

Ascender Line  
Cap Line  
Body Line  
Mean Line  
Base Line  
Descender Line

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### Letter Spacing

MONOSPACING (Courier New)  
W i l l i a m

PROPORTIONAL SPACING (Times New Roman)  
William

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### Kerning

WITHOUT KERNING  
AVAILABLE SALT

WITH KERNING  
AVAILABLE SALT

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### Kern Pairs

COMMON KERN PAIRS

AV VA AT TA LT  
LV PA Ya Ye Yo  
Ta Te To Ty

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### Ligatures

LIGATURES (TIED TOGETHER)

Œ = OE, œ = oe  
Æ = AE, æ = ae  
ffi = f f i

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### Serifs vs. Sans Serif Typefaces

Times New Roman (serif)

Arial (sans serif)

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