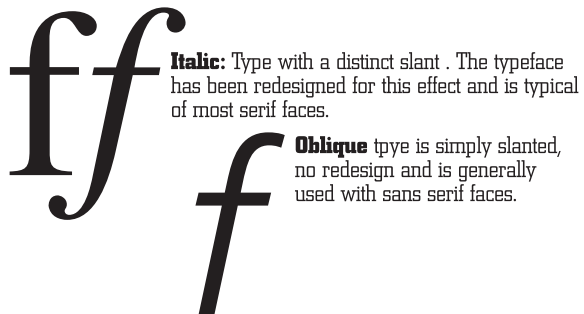
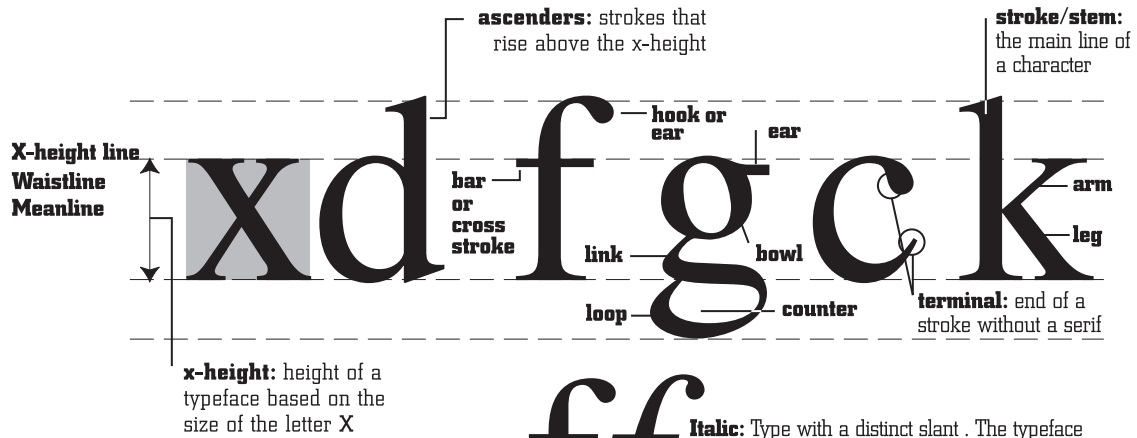
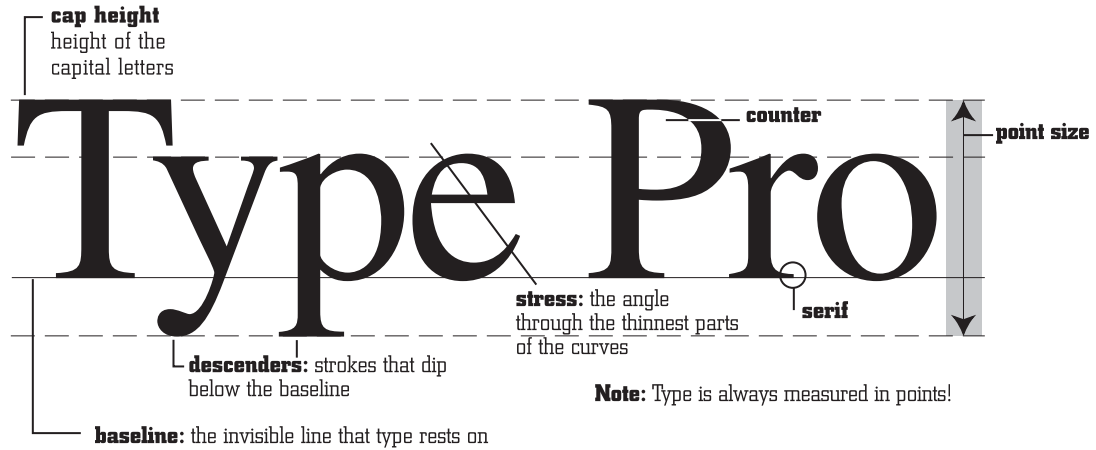


Type Anatomy

Type terminology is an important beginning to understanding typography.



SERIF or Sans serif

Serif type has "serifs", sans serif type has no serifs. Sans is French for "without".

Character Parts 1

Understanding the individual parts of type characters

Aa

Roman

AB

Uppercase

abc

Lowercase

ABa

Italic Type

ABa

Oblique

pqj

Descenders

bdfh

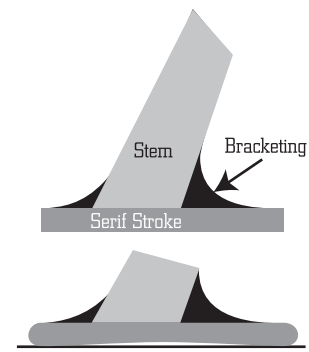
Ascenders



Hairline & Stem Strokes



Serifs



Rounded, Cupped Serif

Character Parts 2

Understanding the individual parts of type characters



Pointed Serif



Vertical & biased stress



Open & closed counters



Open & closed bowels



Vertex



Apex - Flat, Pointed, Extended, Hallowed, Rounded



Arms and legs of letters



Ears



Spur



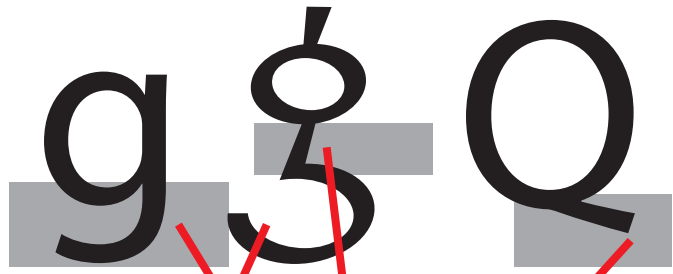
Spine

Character Parts 3

Understanding the individual parts of type characters



Cross Bar & Cross Stroke



Loops, Links & Tails



Eye

Unique to the lowercase "e"



Shoulder

A curved stroke that is continuous with a straight stem not a bowl; examples: C, G, bottom of j, g, t, f and u, as well as the top of the a.



Swash

A decorative flourish used as an accent.



Flags

Small swash-like strokes added to calligraphic fonts to add flourish.



Beak

A half serif at the end of the horizontal arms of the "E, F, L, T or Z".



Barb

A half serif at the end of the curved strokes of the "C, G or S".

Structure-related anatomy

Apex

the pointed intersection where two strokes meet at the top of a letter



A M N

Arm

a horizontal or diagonal stroke having one end unattached



Y K Z E F L Z

Ascender

the part of a lower case letter that extends above the mean



b d f h k i t

Bar

a horizontal stroke that connects two sides of a letter



e e H A

Bowl

the curve that forms a closed space in a letter



B b D d P p q

Crossbar

a horizontal stroke that crosses another



f t T

Descender

the part of a letter that extends below the baseline



J g j p q y

Hairline

very thin letter stroke or serif



A F H K M N

Leg

refers to the tail in upper and lowercase K



K K K

Structure-related anatomy

Link

the curved stroke that joins the top to bottom of lower case 2-story g



Loop

the curved stroke of the lower case g



Shoulder

a curved stroke that isn't closed



Spine

the main curve of the upper and lower cases



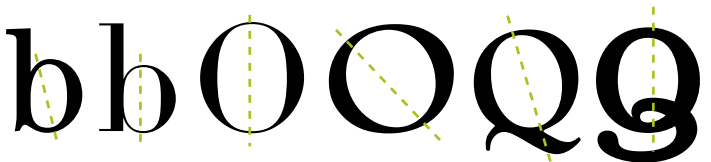
Stem

a vertical stroke within an upper or lower case letter



Stress

strokes go from thick to thin as in calligraphy. Connect thin areas to determine direction of stress



Stroke

basic letter component representing one curved or straight pen stroke



Tail

downward slanted stroke one end attached to letter body



Vertex

the point on the bottom of the letter where two strokes meet

