CSS gives great power.
But requires great responsibility.
fandom POWERED BY WIKIA

You can do almost anything with CSS.

You can do almost anything with CSS.

Change colors

You can do almost anything with CSS.

Change colors, opacity

fandom POWERED BY WIKIA

You can do almost anything with CSS.

Change colors, opacity, fonts

fandom POWERED BY WIKIA

You can do almost anything with CSS.

Change colors, opacity, fonts, borders

fandom POWERED BY WIKIA

You can do almost anything with CSS.

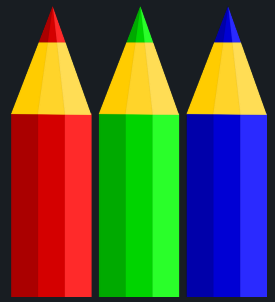
But the question is, *should* you?

fandom POWERED BY WIKIA

You can do almost anything with CSS.

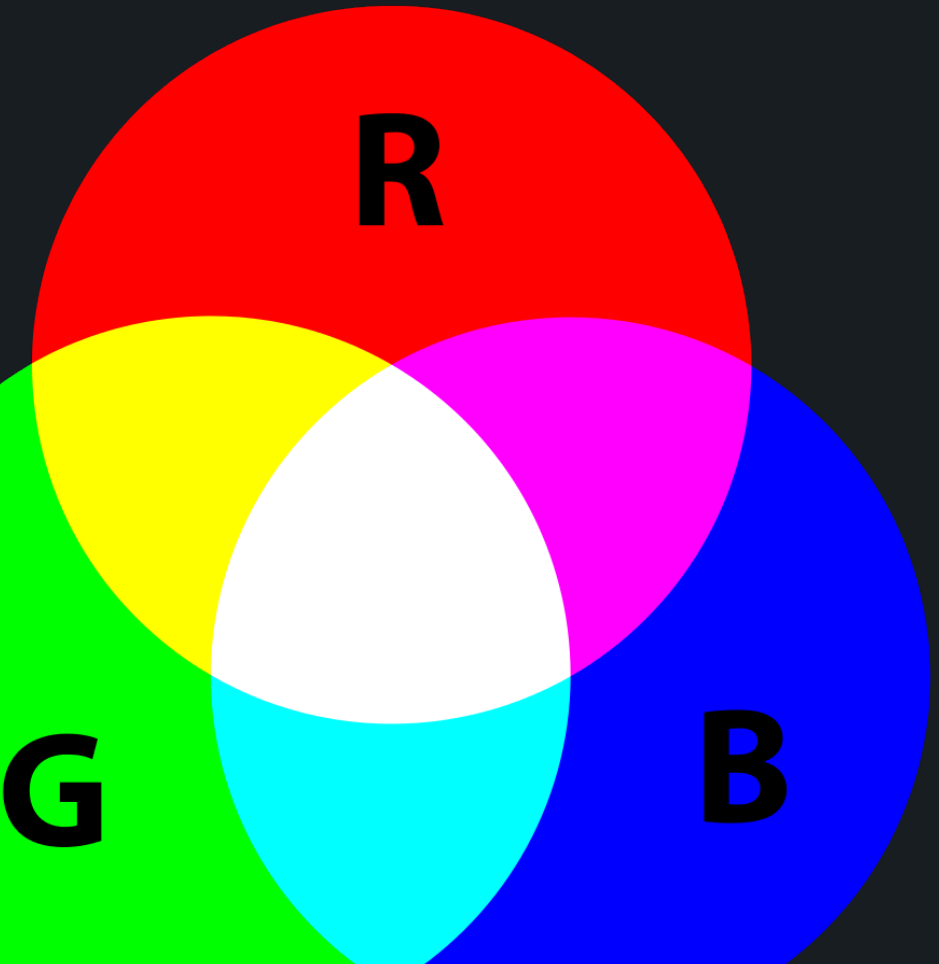
But the question is, *should* you?
Or, better, *how* should you?

Accessibility, sublety, harmony and legibility are keys to design success.



Let’s see how that works with *colors*, *cursors* and *fonts*

fandom POWERED BY WIKIA



Choose your wiki's colors wisely, according to:

- Emotional impact
- Complementation
- Contrast

fandom POWERED BY WIKIA

There’s a reason news organizations often choose bright red for their logos and websites.

Emotional impact

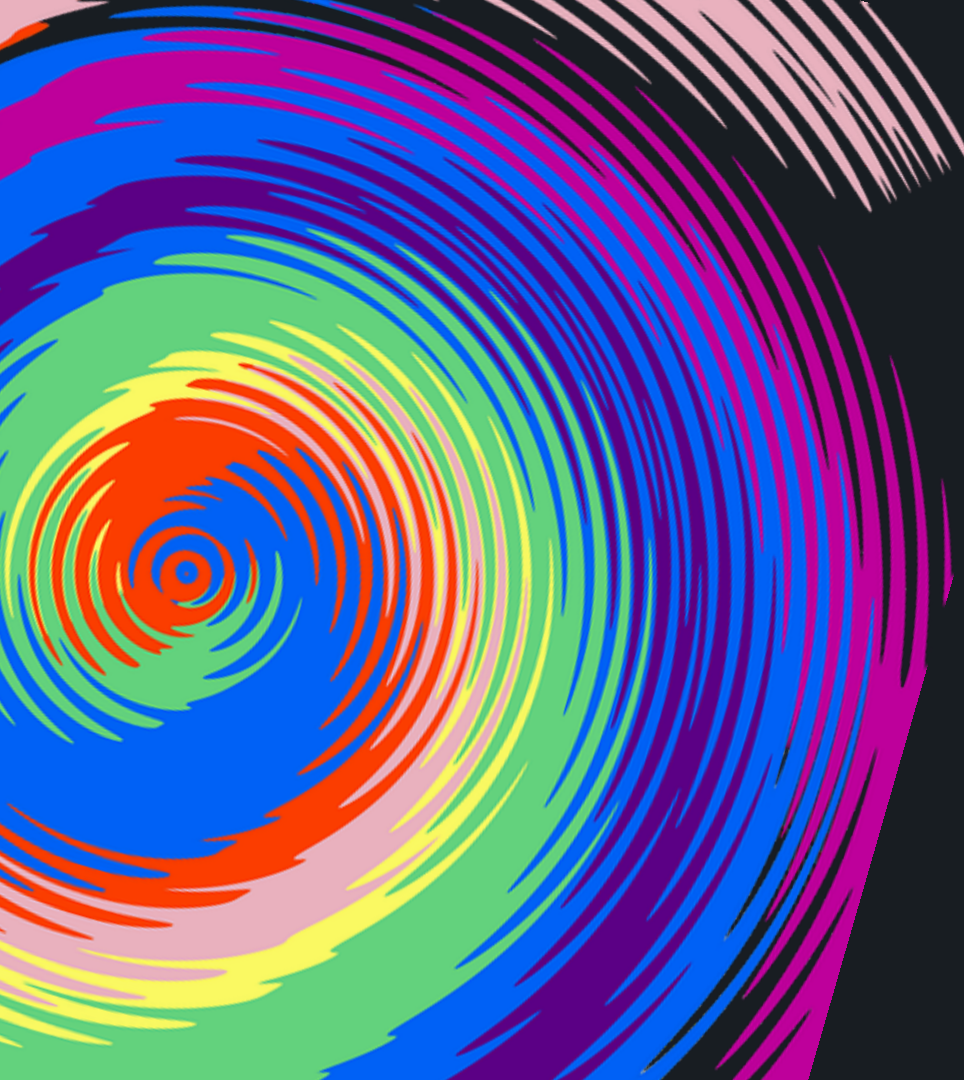
Colors have an emotional impact that is most tied to their vibrancy. Bright (that is, more vibrant) shades of colors tend to make people feel urgency and excitement. Darker shades are more calming.

fandom POWERED BY WIKIA

What's the right vibrancy for your wiki?

Do you work on a wiki that's about a fast-paced game? Give some consideration to a bold color scheme.

Is your wiki about a character-driven book series? More muted colors might work.



Be complementary.

Your color scheme, or palette, should confine itself to colors that are in some way complementary.

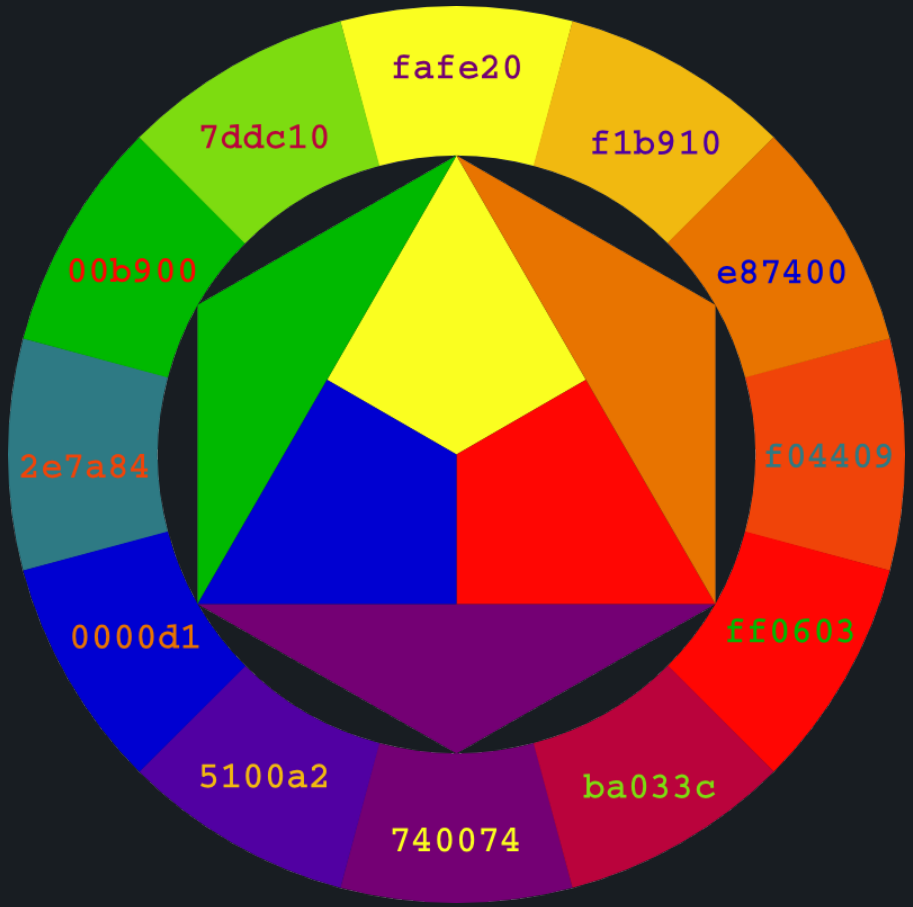
Unless your topic is itself colorful — as at Steven Universe — don't use every color under the rainbow, or you risk making your audience's eyes bleed.

fandom POWERED BY WIKIA

There are three main kinds of complementation.

Triadic
Analogous
Compound

fandom POWERED BY WIKIA



Triadic

Triadic complementation is when you pick three colors from precisely opposite ends of the color wheel.

Think Superman or Supergirl. Red, Yellow and Blue are a perfect color triad.

By Peter Forster - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=12682255

fandom POWERED BY WIKIA

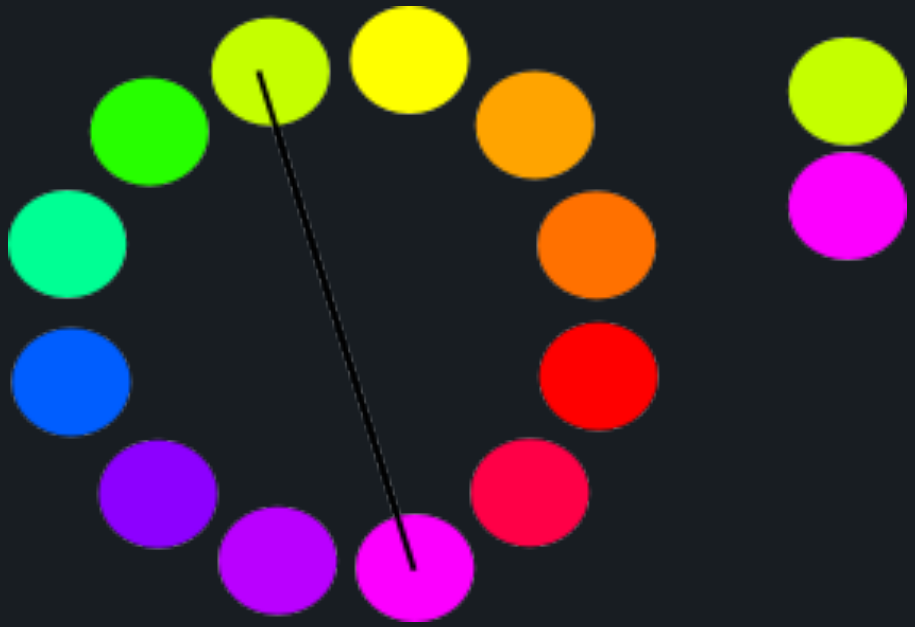
Credit: Trondg at English Wikipedia [CC BY-SA 3.0 (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0) or GFDL (http://www.gnu.org/copyleft/fdl.html)], via Wikimedia Commons

Analogous

Analogous colors are kind of the inverse of triadic. Instead of going to *opposite* sides of the color wheel, pick colors from *adjoining* sides of the wheel.

So: yellow, yellow-green, green-yellow and pea green, as we see to the left. Or even light gray, gray, and dark gray.

fandom POWERED BY WIKIA



Compound

When you think of definitionally complementary colors, think of Christmas: red and green. That is, pick a color and draw a straight line over to the other side of the color wheel. If two colors seem bland to you, add another pair in exactly the same way to *compound* your complements.

So use red and green for some things, but lavender and pea green as an accent color-pair.

fandom POWERED BY WIKIA

There are tons of sites that will help you find perfect colors for your wiki.

But a great one is paletton.com.

When you enter your base color, it'll automatically give you several full themes, according to whichever kind of complementation you prefer.

fandom POWERED BY WIKIA

High contrast ratios are good.

The difference in luminescence between your text and background — roughly speaking the “contrast ratio” — is important to keep high.

The highest is pure black (#000) on pure white (#fff), but many other combinations are acceptably legible.

fandom POWERED BY WIKIA

Credit: contrastrebellion.com
Go there today to get more info!

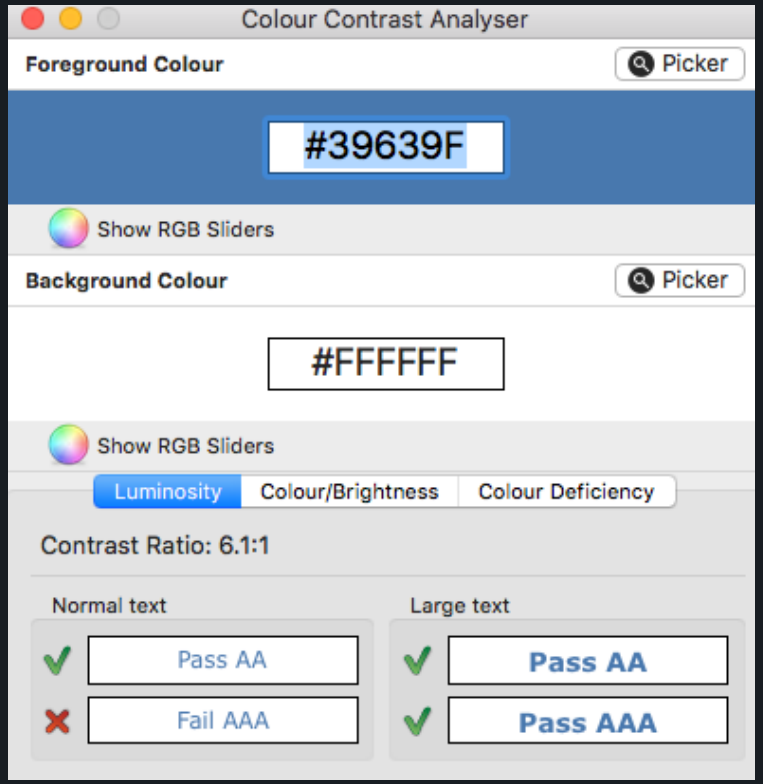
Why go high?

More people will be able to stay on your wiki for longer if you always use a high contrast ratio.

Low contrast ratios cause eyestrain.

Some combinations can even be flatly impossible for some people to see — even if you can read things just fine.

fandom POWERED BY WIKIA



Seek professional analysis.

Don't just eyeball color contrast. Actually run the colors through any one of thousands of color contrast analyzers. These give you a number on a scale. The best contrast ratios are AAA 7.0 or better.

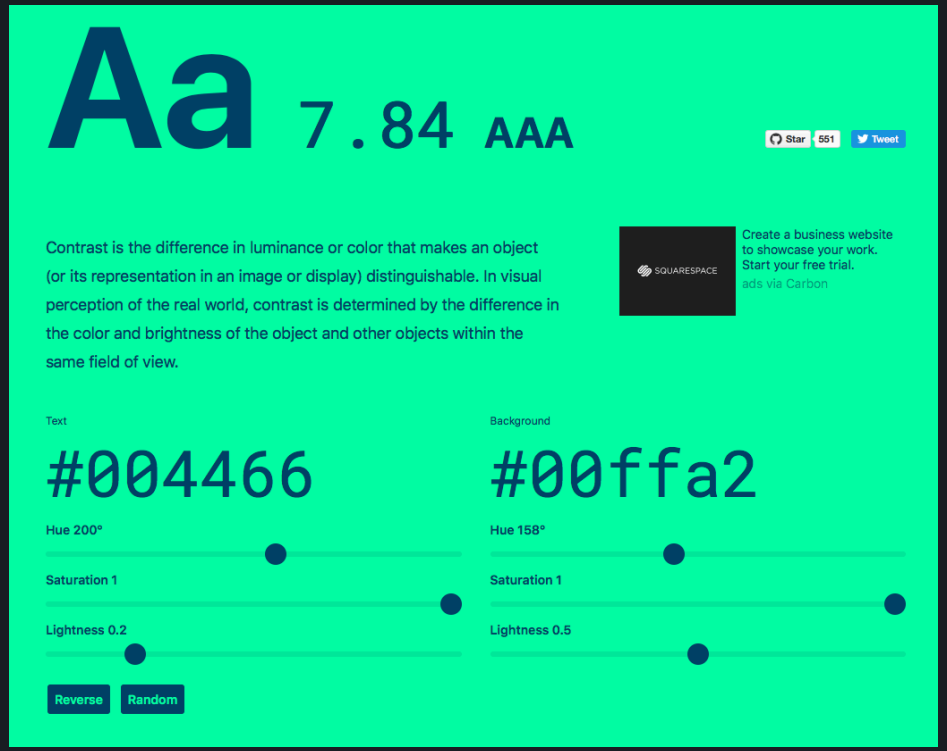
Analyzers show up everywhere, even in places like MS Word. The image to the left was taken from a pretty *old* copy of Word, at that.

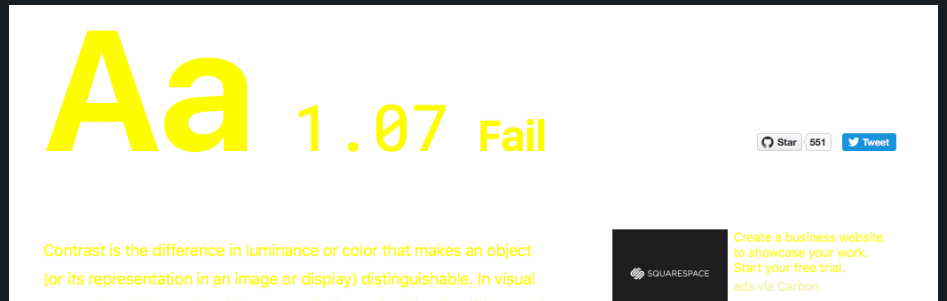
fandom POWERED BY WIKIA

Get a browser extension.

If you use Chrome, there are several contrast ratio analyzers available as extensions. One created by North Carolina State University has the simple name of “Color Contrast Analyzer”, but there are certainly others.

fandom POWERED BY WIKIA



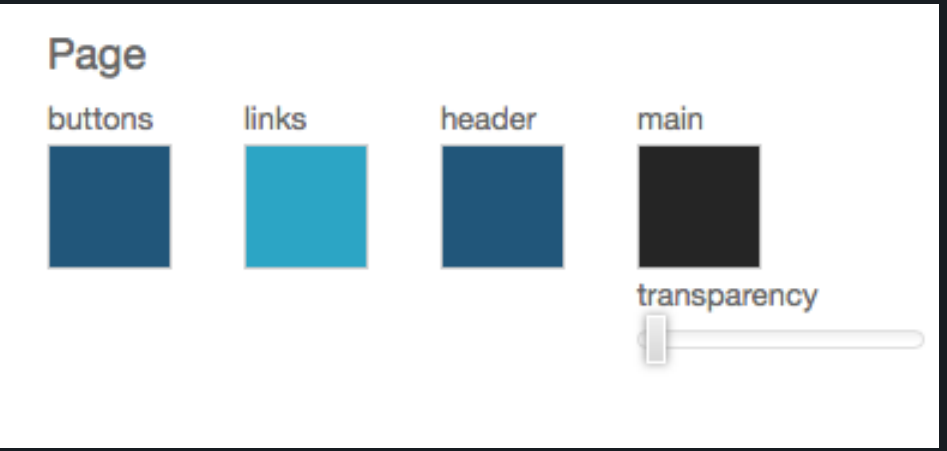


Go online

There are a lot of places you can go to get a contrast. One of the ones with the best UX design, though, is **colorable.jxnblk.com**.

Here, you can enter your text and background colors. You get a satisfying “AAA” when you get an AAA rating over 7 — and a big “fail” when you don’t.

fandom POWERED BY WIKIA



ThemeDesigner is your friend.

Although there's plenty of opportunity to color things manually in your CSS, remember that Theme Designer is your friend.

Once you settle on your overall color palette, use Theme Designer to implement it. You'll find your life becomes a whole lot easier.

fandom POWERED BY WIKIA

Think hard about implementing custom cursors.

It's possible to change the cursor on your wiki through CSS. But you probably don't want to, for accessibility reasons alone.

This is a real custom cursor. Problem is, neither the pointy bit at the bottom, nor the bit at the top, is precisely what's used to click on things. Instead, the active area is somewhere in the middle.

Cursor caution.

People who use their keypad to move the cursor are used to their cursors having certain dimensions. If you radically alter the size of the cursor, you run the risk of frustrating these users, to the point that they give up on your wiki.

For that matter, you could easily annoy a lot of people who don't use accessibility functions. This is especially true if you use images for your cursor that don't obviously point to anything, like round emojis.

fandom POWERED BY WIKIA

There are two easy ways to add fonts to your wiki.

Font stacks

Google Fonts import

fandom POWERED BY WIKIA

```
h1 {
        font-family: "Segoe UI", Frutiger, "Frutiger Linotype",
"Dejavu Sans", "Helvetica Neue", Arial, sans-serif;
        font-size: 24px;
        font-style: normal;
        font-variant: normal;
        font-weight: 500;
        line-height: 26.4px;
}
h3 {
        font-family: "Segoe UI", Frutiger, "Frutiger Linotype",
"Dejavu Sans", "Helvetica Neue", Arial, sans-serif;
        font-size: 14px;
        font-style: normal;
        font-variant: normal;
        font-weight: 500;
        line-height: 15.4px;
}
p {
        font-family: "Segoe UI", Frutiger, "Frutiger Linotype",
"Dejavu Sans", "Helvetica Neue", Arial, sans-serif;
        font-size: 14px;
        font-style: normal;
        font-variant: normal;
        font-weight: 400;
        line-height: 20px;
}
blockquote {
        font-family: "Segoe UI", Frutiger, "Frutiger Linotype",
"Dejavu Sans", "Helvetica Neue", Arial, sans-serif;
        font-size: 21px;
        font-style: normal;
```

Font stacks.

Font stacks lists of similar fonts, created in the hope that one of them resides on your readers' local computers.

You don't have to upload a font to your wiki, so text rendering is faster.

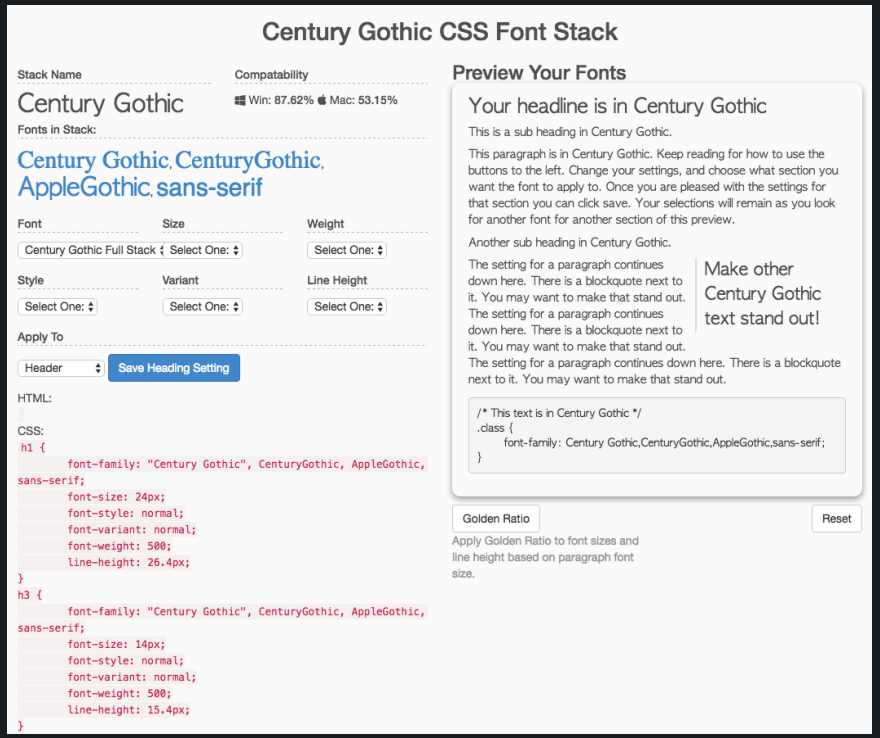
```
body {
  font-family:
  “Helvetica Neue”,
  Arial,
  sans-serif
}
```

Fandom’s base stack.

For its body text, Fandom generally uses the stack on the left.

When you build a font-stack, you want to make sure all the fonts within it are reasonably similar, as they are in this case. But you also want to put the "rarer" fonts first. In this case, "Helvetica Neue" is on fewer computers, globally, so you put it first to guarantee that those people who have it installed will actually see it.

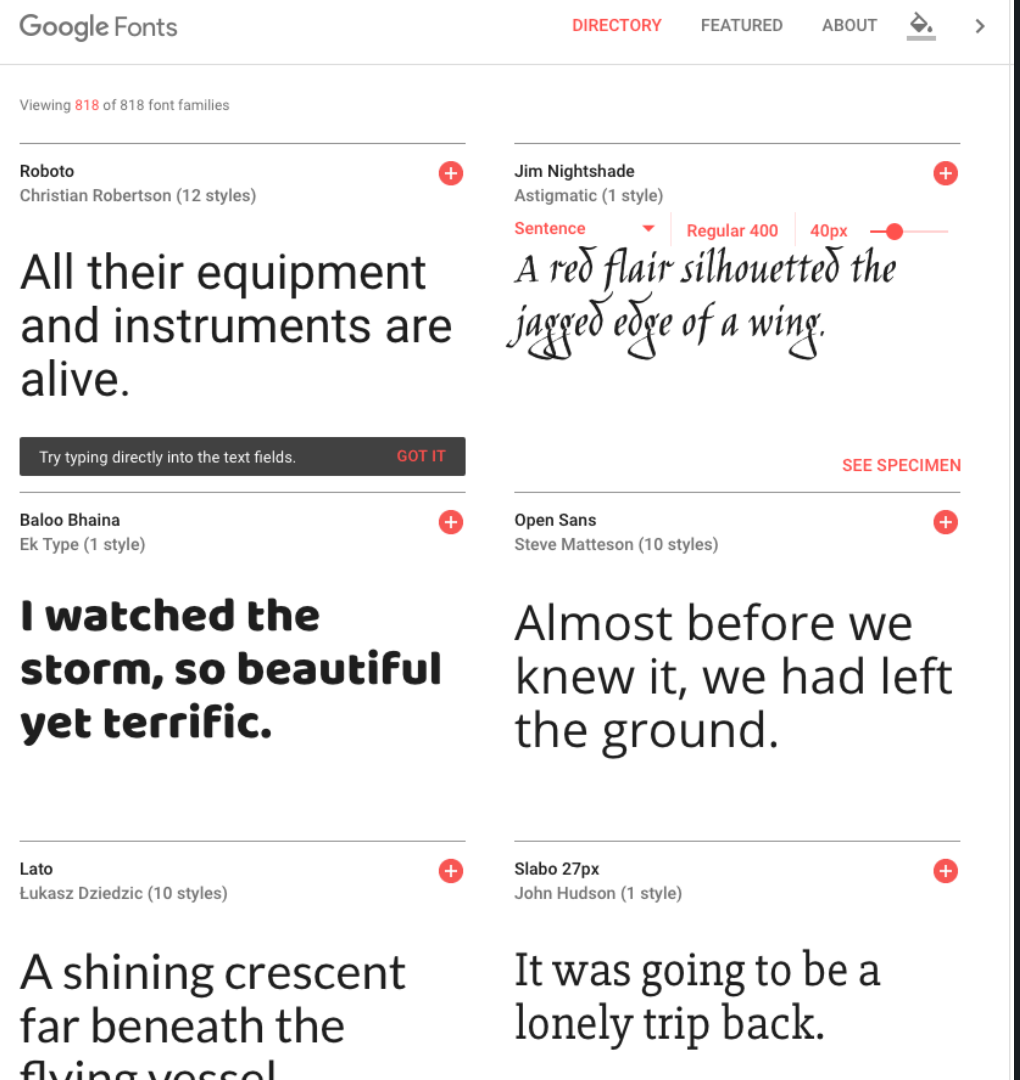
There are lots of places to go for help with font stacks.



But a great one is cssfontstack.com.

It lets you check out different fonts to see how common they are globally. This is key to being able to build a stack that has a high chance of success.

fandom POWERED BY WIKIA



Google Font imports.

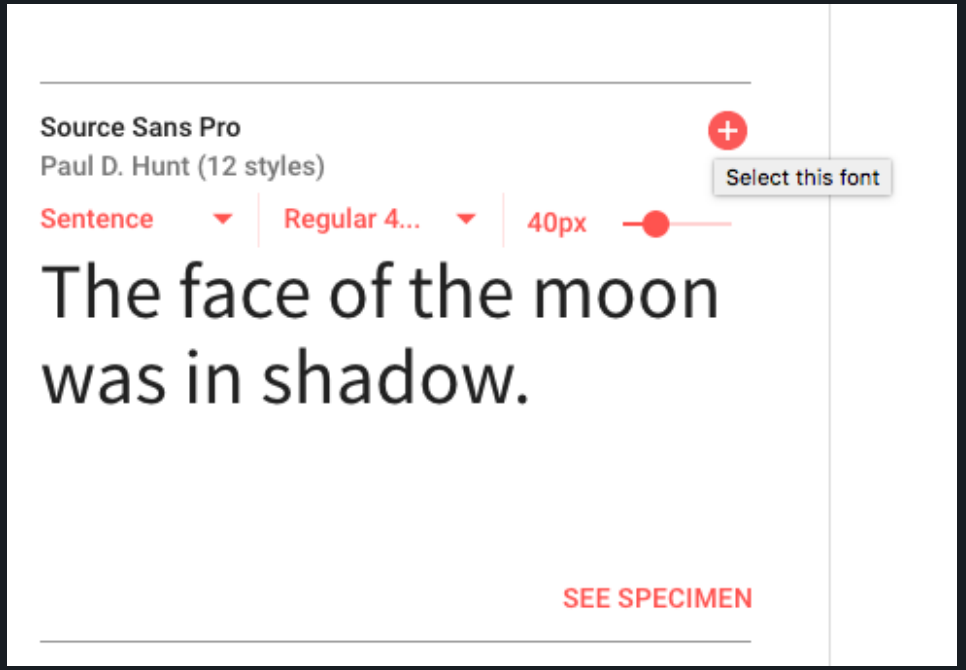
Importing from Google Fonts allows you to be much more particular about the fonts that show up on your wiki.

You don’t have to “hope” someone’s got your desired font on their computer. You can just @import the font into your local CSS and “force” it to appear

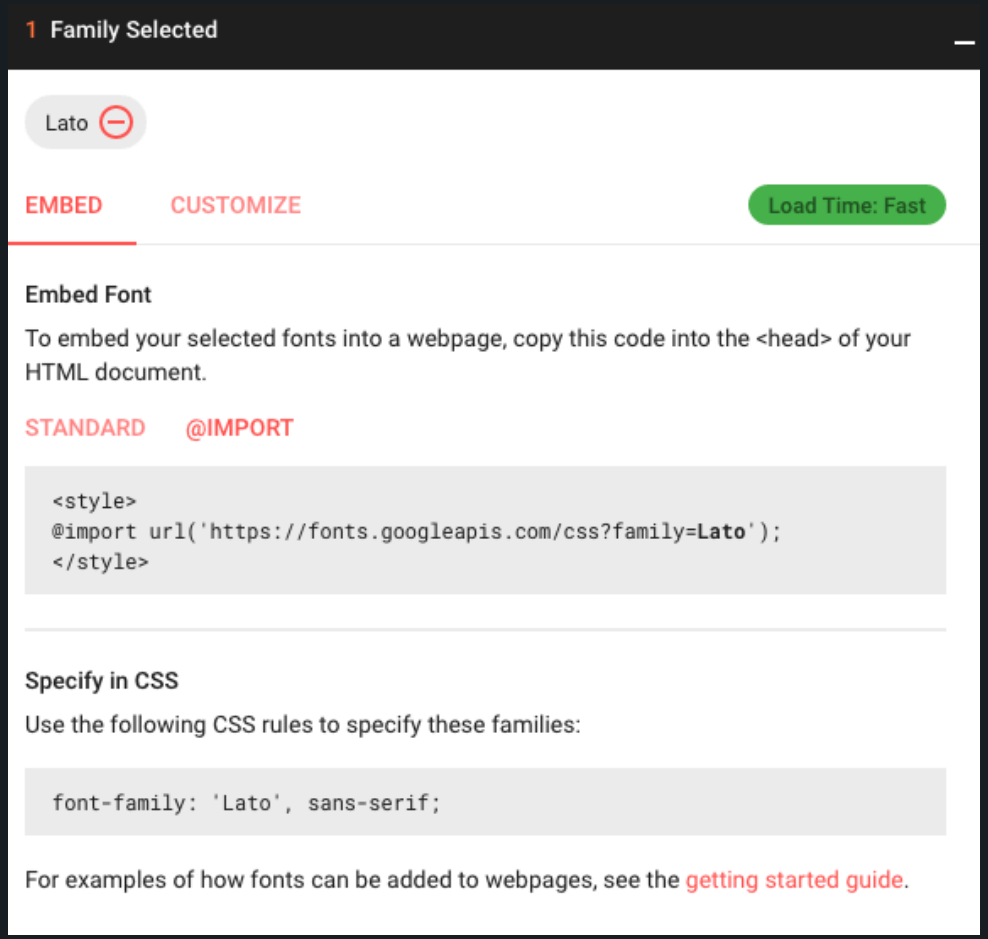
fandom POWERED BY WIKIA

Pick your font.

Go to **fonts.google.com**. Select only the fonts that you actually need. Don't pick too many fonts, or you could unnecessarily slow down your wiki's page loads. By default, Google will only choose 400 weight, regular style of a font, so that your wiki doesn't get bogged down with a lot of unnecessary variations.



fandom POWERED BY WIKIA



Do the embed.

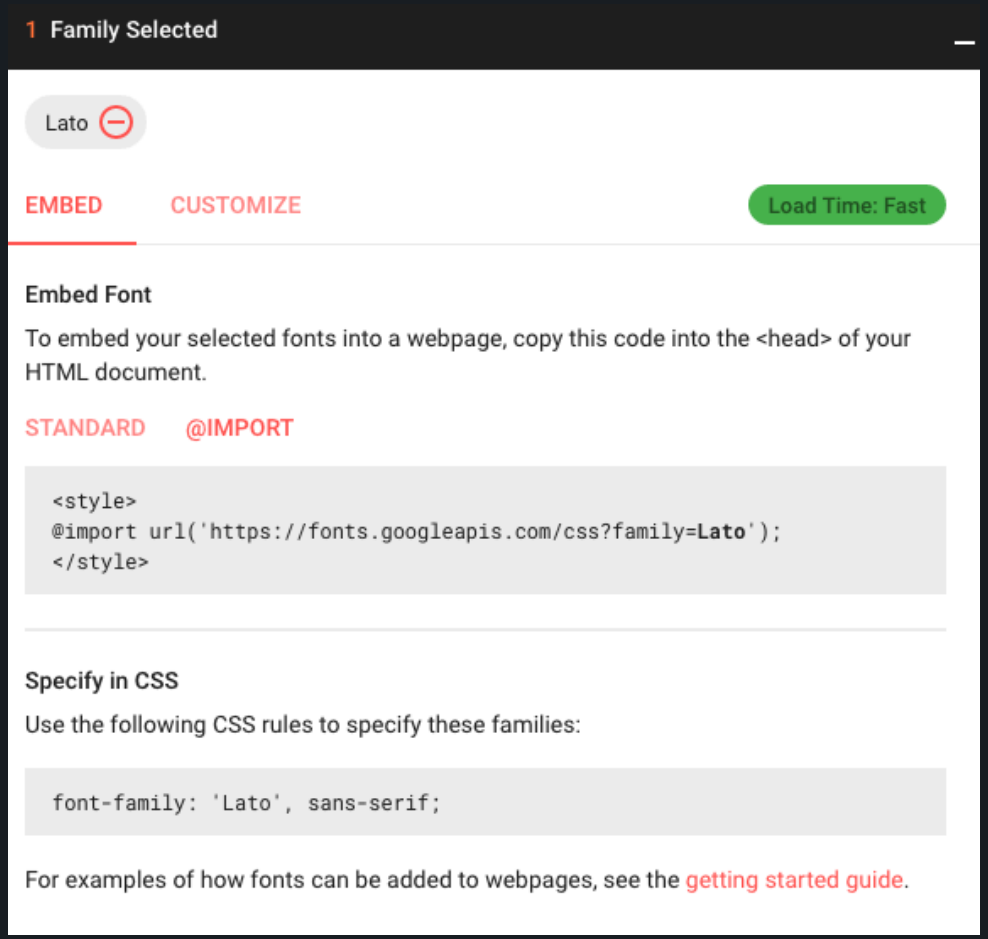
Let's say I wanted to get Lato on my wiki. I'd go to the Embed | @import tab and copy this line to the top of my MediaWiki:Wikia.css file:

```
@import url('https://
fonts.googleapis.com/css?
family=Lato');
```

Then, wherever I wanted to use Lato in my CSS, I'd add this rule:

```
font-family: 'Lato', sans-serif;
```

Easy.



Do the embed.

Let's say I wanted to get Lato on my wiki. I'd go to the Embed | @import tab and copy this line to the top of my MediaWiki:Wikia.css file:

```
@import url('https://
fonts.googleapis.com/css?
family=Lato');
```

Then, wherever I wanted to use Lato in my CSS, I'd add this rule:

```
font-family: 'Lato', sans-serif;
```

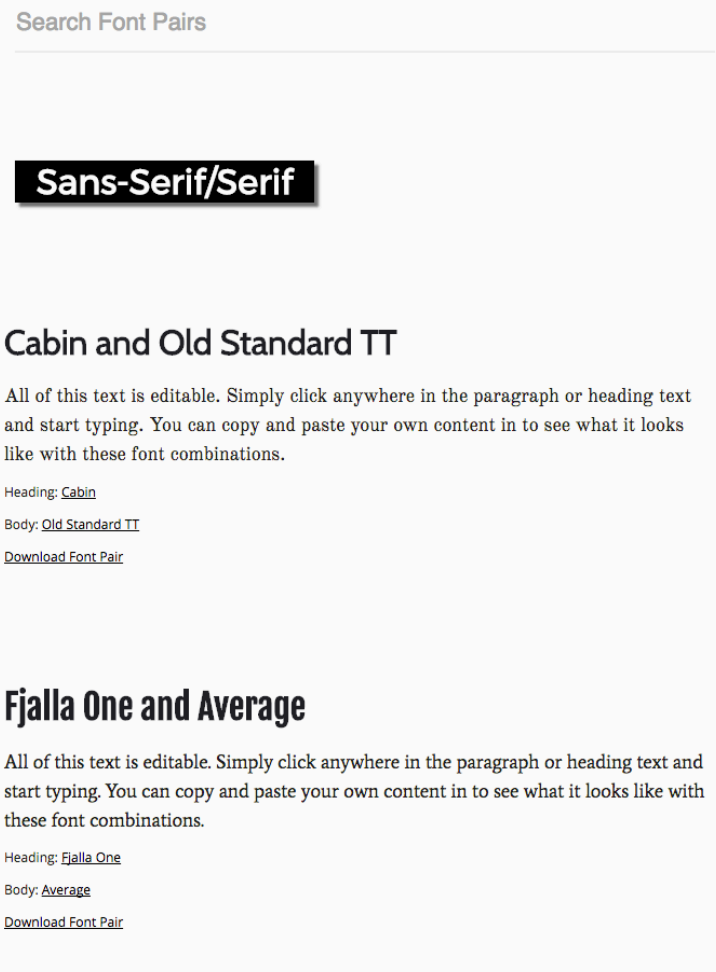
Easy.

Pair ‘em up!

Of course, that's just the mechanics of getting a new font onto your wiki. Figuring out which fonts look good together is something people build whole careers out of. But, here are some pro-tips:

- Don't go crazy. Either just change your headers, or have a single combination of headers and body text.
- It's usually distracting to have different fonts on infoboxes, navboxes or other elements than you have in the main part of your pages

fandom POWERED BY WIKIA



Get some pairing suggestions.

Pairing fonts is a thing that could well make you crazy. So don't be afraid to look at some sites made by people who have *already* been driven crazy.

A good place to go, particularly if you're using Google Fonts, is fontpair.co (not .com)

fandom POWERED BY WIKIA

Questions?