

Recommended Body Text Typefaces

What follows is a selection of body text typefaces I recommend for use in most books. Each example you see includes a brief description of which genres the typeface is best suited for, though you are not limited to pick ones that list your genre. Each example also shows how the typeface appears in both standard text and italicized text. This is helpful for books that have heavy use of italics.

Note: Even though the typefaces appear to be different sizes, they aren't. Each typeface is set at 10.5 points with a leading (space from the bottom of one line to the next) of 14 points. Because the point size is a measure of the invisible box that surrounds each letter and not of the letters themselves, some typefaces look smaller or bigger than others set at the same size depending on how much of the box they take up. You are not locked in to 10.5 points for the final book, but your final text won't be far off.

Arno

Recommended for contemporary fiction, genre fiction, and memoir.

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ABCDEFGHIJKLMNPOQRSTUVWXYZ

Regular: Roger, hungry: ate 236 peaches & cantaloupes in 1904!

Italic: Roger, hungry: ate 236 peaches & cantaloupes in 1904!

Bold: Roger, hungry: ate 236 peaches & cantaloupes in 1904!

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way—in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only.

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Adobe Caslon Pro

Recommended for nonfiction.

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Baskerville URW

Recommended for literary fiction.

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Mrs. Eaves

Recommended for literary fiction and historical fiction.

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Sabon

Recommended for contemporary fiction and genre fiction.

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Calluna

Recommended for contemporary fiction and memoir.

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Garamond

Recommended for most books.

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