

CHARACTER ANATOMY

- Ampersand** A ligature formed from an upper or lowercase *e* conjoined with *t* which spells *et* (*and* in Latin).
- Arm** A horizontal stroke that is free on one end.
- Ascender** The part of the lowercase letters *b*, *d*, *f*, *h*, *k*, *l*, and *t*, that extends above the height of the lowercase *x*.
- Bar** The horizontal stroke in the *A*, *H*, *e*, *t* and similar letters.
- Bowl/Eye** A curved stroke which makes an enclosed space.
- Counter** The fully or partially enclosed space within a character.
- Descender** The part of the letters *g*, *j*, *p*, *q*, *y*, and sometimes *J*, that extends below the baseline.
- Ear** The small stroke projecting from the top of the lowercase *g*.
- Hairline** A thin stroke usually common to serif typestyles.
- Italics** A cursive alphabet which is matched with a roman font and used along chiefly for emphasis.
- Ligature** Characters conjoined in order to avoid overlap and clumsy spacing. Common ligatures are: *fi* and *fl*
- Link** The stroke connecting the top and bottom of a lowercase *g*.
- Loop** The lower portion of the lowercase *g*.

- Old-style Figures** Lower case numbers which are employed, almost invisibly, in body copy.
- Serif** A stroke added as a stop to the beginning and end of the main strokes of a character.
- Shoulder** The curved stroke of the *h*, *m* and *n*.
- Small Caps** Upper case type designed at the lower case height in an extended font family. Used for acronyms, initialisms and abbreviations in normal text.
- Spine** The main curved stroke of a lowercase or capital *S*.
- Spur** A small projection off a main stroke; found on many capital *G*s.
- Stem** A main stroke that is more or less straight, not part of a bowl. The letter *o* has no stem; The letter *l* consists of a stem and serifs alone.
- Stress** The direction of thickening in a curved stroke.
- Stroke** A straight or curved diagonal line.
- Swash** A flourish replacing a terminal or serif.
- Tail** The descender of *Q* or short diagonal stroke of the *R*.
- Terminal** The end of a stroke not terminated with a serif.
- X-height** The height of the lowercase letters excluding ascender- and descenders.

