



Making Word Documents Accessible

Fonts and Paragraphs

Fonts

- Fonts are any characters that you type with your keyboard.
- Fonts have properties that can be changed, such as size or colour.
- Font families are different ways of drawing characters and use either a serif or sans-serif style.

Paragraphs

- Every time you press the Enter key, you are creating a new paragraph.
- Paragraphs have their own set of properties that affect the paragraph as a whole.

Font Family

- **Serif** are fine for printed materials, but not digital materials.
 - Serifs are extra strokes added to fonts, usually for flair.
- **Sans-serif** works best for digital materials.
- **Do not use** cursive fonts for any digital materials.



Serif



Sans-serif

Font Size

- Use a font size of **12 point** or higher.
- Be consistent with your font sizes throughout the document.

A
12 point

A
41 point

Font Effects

- **Do not use** font effects to create emphasis; effects include:
 - Italics, all caps, and strikethroughs.
 - Outlines, shadows, reflections, and glows.
- Bold is fine to use, but should be used with Styles.

italics
~~strikethrough~~
shadow
glow

outline
reflection
bold
underline

Font Alignment

- **Left alignment** is accessible and should be the default used.
- **Right alignment** is **not accessible** but is fine in tables.
- **Centre alignment** can be used for some titles or in tables.
- **Justified alignment** is **not accessible** as it can create uneven spacing between words.

Left Alignment

Right Alignment

Centre Alignment

Justified Alignment

Paragraph Spacing

- **Do not press Enter** to create spacing between paragraphs.
- Spacing **Before** or **After** a paragraph can be adjusted.
- Modify the **Normal** style to change the paragraph spacing.
 - Set the **Before** or **After** spacing to at least **6 point**.

0 points → Paragraph h 1
6 points → Paragraph h 2
Paragraph h 3