



skin, Body

ASCENDER HEIGHT

Some elements may extend slightly above the cap height.

CAP HEIGHT

The distance from the baseline to the top of the capital letter determines the letter's point size.

DESCENDER HEIGHT

The length of a letter's descenders contributes to its overall style and attitude.

X-HEIGHT is the height of the main body of the lowercase letter (or the height of a lowercase x), excluding its ascenders and descenders.

THE BASELINE is where all the letters sit. This is the most stable axis along a line of text, and it is a crucial edge for aligning text with images or with other text.

OVERHANG The curves at the bottom of letters hang slightly below the baseline. Commas and semicolons also cross the baseline. If a typeface were not positioned this way, it would appear to teeter precariously. Without overhang, rounded letters would look smaller than their flat-footed compatriots.

Bone

Although kids learn to write using ruled paper that divides letters exactly in half, most typefaces are not designed that way. The x-height usually occupies more than half of the cap height. The larger the x-height is in relation to the cap height, the bigger the letters appear to be. In a field of text, the greatest density occurs between the baseline and the x-height.

Hey, look!
They supersized
my x-height.

Two blocks of text are often aligned along a shared baseline.

Here, 14/18 Scala Pro (14-pt type with 18 pts of line spacing) is paired with 7/9 Scala Pro.