



CARY COMMUNICATIONS INSIGHTS

The Best Resume Font Pairings

By Karen Bluestein

The right resume fonts do more than make a document look pretty. They quietly signal how modern you are, how organized you think, and how seriously a recruiter should take you. Different roles call for different visual tones, so one font pairing does not fit every career path.

In this article, we'll cover which fonts are useful for resumes and which font combinations are optimal for different role categories. It also contains mockups of the different font combinations as well as best practices for formatting fonts.

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BEST PRACTICES

Formatting Resume Fonts

- A good rule of thumb is to only use 2 fonts.
- For easiest readability, use a **sans serif font** for headings and **serif font** for body text. (**Serif** = tail, **Sans serif** = without tail. Compare the letter "S" to understand the difference.)



- Headings should be at least 2 font sizes larger than body text.
- A good size for body text is 10 pt regular and 12 pt bold is a good size for headings. Some fonts like Georgia run large, so you may need to adjust accordingly.
- Optimal line spacing/height of 1.15-1.2 (in paragraph settings) is easiest to read.

- Headings typically look best in bold; if headings look too bold, try semi-bold in font settings.
- Keep body text at regular or medium. Avoid hairline or lightweight fonts.
- Dates and locations can be italicized and smaller, e.g. 9 pt.
- Do not press Enter twice. Instead use paragraph spacing of 12 pt before and 6 pt after.
- Do not type multiple spaces. Use tabs to align text, don't eyeball alignment.
- No double spaces after a period or colon.
- No extra spaces before/after "/" marks.
- Do not justify text. Keep it left-aligned.
- Save your resume to PDF so the formatting will remain intact regardless of the fonts on the recipients' systems.
- Identify fonts you like by doing a reverse image search using [What the Font](#).
- Find new fonts at [Google Fonts](#), [Font Squirrel](#) and [DaFont](#). [Adobe](#) subscribers have access to their fonts.

Individual Resume Fonts

A majority of resumes today use one of these fonts: Arial, Calibri, Tahoma, Times New Roman (still!), and Verdana. Aptos is a new addition as Microsoft's default font. Boring, but inoffensive, if that's what you're going for.

Modern resumes use newer fonts and tend to use either all sans serif fonts or a sans serif heading with serif body text.

MOST POPULAR INDIVIDUAL RESUME FONTS

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| • Inter (#1 in tech) | • Libre Baskerville | • Raleway |
| • Garamond | • Merriweather | • Roboto |
| • Georgia | • Montserrat | |
| • Lato | • Open Sans | |

LESSER KNOWN BUT GREAT RESUME FONTS

- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| • Archivo | • League Spartan | • Segoe UI |
| • Arvo | • Lora | • Source Sans 3 |
| • Bitter | • Manrope | • Source Sans Pro |
| • Cabin | • Oswald | • Source Serif 4 |
| • Cormorant Garamond | • Overpass | • Space Grotesk |
| • DM Sans | • Playfair Display | • Trebuchet |
| • EB Garamond | • Roboto Slab | • Ubuntu |
| • Inter Tight | • Rokkit | |

You can use a single font for the entire resume or have bold headings and regular text in an easier to read font.

Following are the strongest combinations based on the category of role you are targeting. All of the fonts are available from Google Fonts (or already built into your system). If you're an Adobe user, there are comparable fonts available on their site, but Google should have everything you need free of charge.

FONTS PAIRINGS BY ROLE TYPE

While you can always play it safe by sticking to a universal typeface like Arial, you can elevate the look of your resume depending on the type of role you're seeking. For example, if you're seeking a role in a startup, traditional fonts look old-school rather than hip. If you're looking for a finance role, a more conservative font is appropriate. It's a subtle way of indicating you're a good cultural fit.

These subheads are summaries. A font sampler follows this section.

Corporate, Finance, Legal, and Executive Roles

These fields reward clarity, credibility, and restraint. You want fonts that feel established and professional without looking dated.

Use a refined serif for headings and a highly readable sans serif for body text.

- **Lato** + EB Garamond
- **Source Sans 3** + Source Serif 4
- **Open Sans** + Georgia

This pairing signals authority in the headings and clean efficiency in the bullet points. It works well for senior leaders, attorneys, consultants, financial professionals, and board roles.

Technology, Engineering, and Product Roles

Tech resumes should look modern, clean, and digitally native. These roles benefit from fonts that feel designed for screens and data heavy layouts. Inter is by far the hottest font for startups and VCs.

- **Inter Tight** + Inter
- **Montserrat** + Roboto
- **Source Sans Pro** + Source Sans 3

These combinations keep everything sharp and easy to scan while signaling that you understand modern tools and interfaces. They are ideal for software engineers, product managers, data scientists, and technical leaders.

Creative, Marketing, and Brand Roles

Here you can show more personality, but it still needs to feel controlled and professional. A distinctive headline font paired with a neutral body font works best.

- **Raleway** + Open Sans
- **Playfair Display** + Source Sans Pro
- **Poppins** + Inter

This gives your resume visual interest without sacrificing readability. It works well for designers, marketers, brand strategists, content creators, and communications professionals.

Startups, Founders, and Growth Roles

These roles live in fast moving, modern environments. The typography should feel confident, flexible, and slightly bold.

- **Space Grotesk** + Inter
- **DM Sans** + Inter
- **Montserrat** + Inter

These pairings feel current and entrepreneurial without being trendy. They work well for founders, operators, product leads, and early-stage startup hires.

Healthcare, Education, and Research Roles

These fields value clarity, trust, and seriousness. Fonts should feel calm, structured, and highly readable.

- **Montserrat** + Lora
- **Lato** + Merriweather
- **Roboto** + Libre Baskerville

This style supports long blocks of text, publications, and detailed experience sections without feeling stiff.

One Rule That Always Applies

No matter the role, keep it to two fonts. One for headings and one for body text. More than that starts to look messy and unprofessional, even if the fonts are beautiful on their own.

The best resumes feel invisible. The typography does its job when the reader never thinks about it at all, they just keep reading.

RESUME FONT PAIRINGS SAMPLER

All of the following fonts are available from [Google Fonts](#). The headings are 12 pt. bold; the body text is 10pt regular. Find other font-related articles on our [Resources](#) page.

Corporate, Finance, Legal, and Executive Roles

[Lato](#) + [EB Garamond](#)

Lato Heading

EB Garamond body text. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.

[Source Sans 3](#) + [Source Serif 4](#)

Source Sans 3 Heading

Source serif 4 body text. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.

Open Sans + Georgia

Opens Sans Heading

Georgia body text. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.

Technology, Engineering, and Product Roles

Inter Tight + Inter

Inter Tight Heading

Inter body text. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.

Montserrat + Roboto

Montserrat Heading

Roboto body text. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.

Source Sans Pro + Lato

Source Sans Pro Heading

Lato body text. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.

Creative, Marketing, and Brand Roles

Raleway + Open Sans

Raleway Heading

Opens Sans body text. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.

Playfair Display + Source Sans Pro

Playfair Display Heading

Sources Sans Pro body text. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.

Montserrat + Lora

Montserrat Heading

Lora body text. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.

Startups, Founders and Growth Roles

Space Grotesk + Inter

Space Grotesk Heading

Inter body text. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.

DM Sans + Source Sans Pro

DM Sams Heading

Source Sans Pro body text. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.

Inter + Source Serif 4

Inter Heading

Source Serif 4 body text. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.

Healthcare, Education, and Research Roles

Montserrat + Lora

Montserrat Heading

Lora body text. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.

Lato + Merriweather

Lato Heading

Merriweather body text. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.

Roboto + Libre Baskerville

Roboto Heading

Libre Baskerville body text. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum. Cormorant Garamond + Lato

All-Purpose Combinations

You're always safe using Arial. The result is clean and simple. But sometimes you want something a bit special to make a statement. You don't have to have sans serif titles and serif body text. It's popular to use sans serif headings as well as body text and even keep to a single font throughout the document. Whatever it is, you should like it and feel it represents you well.

Inter Tight + Inter

Inter Tight Heading

Inter body text duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.

Raleway + Lato

Raleway Heading

Lato body text. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.

Trebuchet + Trebuchet

Trebuchet Heading

Trebuchet body text. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.

Segoe UI + Segoe UI

Segoe UI Heading

Segoe UI body text. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.

Other Combinations

Archivo + Georgia

Archivo Heading

Georgia body text. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.

Arvo + Lora

Arvo Heading

Lora body text. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.

Bitter + Source Sans Pro

Bitter Heading

Source Sans Pro body text. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.

Cabin + Cabin

Cabin Heading

Cabin body text. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.

League Spartan + Inter

League Spartan Heading

Inter body text. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.

Lora + Ubuntu

LORA HEADING

Roboto body text. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.

Montserrat + Ubuntu

Montserrat Heading

Ubuntu body text. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.

Oswald + Opens Sans

OSWALD HEADING

Open Sans body text. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum

Oswald + Source Sans 3

Oswald Heading

Source Sans 3 body text. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.

Quicksand + Segoe UI

Quicksand Heading

Segoe UI body text. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.

Raleway + Cabin

Raleway Heading

Cabin body text. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.

Roboto + Lora

Roboto Heading

Lora body text. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.

Roboto + Roboto

Roboto Heading

Roboto body text. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum..

Roboto Slab + Roboto

Roboto Slab Heading

Roboto body text. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.

Rokkit + Trebuchet

Rokkit Heading

Trebuchet body text. Strategic operations and transformation leader with 12+ years of experience driving growth, improving profitability, and scaling cross-functional teams across technology, financial services, and professional services organizations.

Ubuntu + Ubuntu

Ubuntu Heading

Ubuntu body text Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum

RESOURCES

- All fonts are available free of charge from [Google Fonts](#).
- Find additional fonts at [Font Squirrel](#) and [DaFont](#).
- Identify fonts by image using [What the Font](#).
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