

# INSTALLING FONTS ON YOUR COMPUTER

There are a plethora of fonts available out there! Try to use free ones as much as possible (there are plenty of good ones!). Only buy a typeface if you really need to, or if a client insists on it. They can get real pricey.

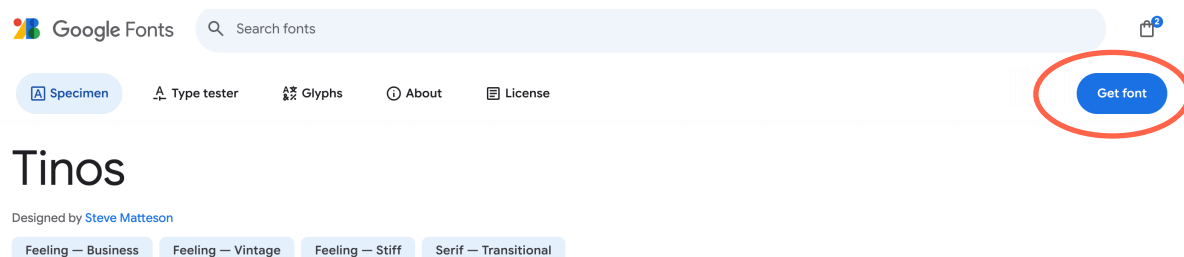
My favorite sources for free typefaces are Google Fonts ([fonts.google.com](https://fonts.google.com)) and Dafont ([dafont.com](https://dafont.com)). There are other font foundries out there on the internet as well. Adobe also has its own font source ([fonts.adobe.com](https://fonts.adobe.com)) that can be accessed if you have an Adobe account, but be aware — if you no longer have an Adobe license, you could lose access to those fonts! (Adobe fonts can also only be used in Adobe programs, whereas the fonts from other sources can be used on any program installed on your computer, not just Adobe software.) So it's definitely best to use other font sources because once you download (or buy) those fonts, they're pretty much yours until your computer dies.

So once you find the perfect font(s), how do you get them on your machine? The process is the same across the board, no matter where you get the typeface (except if you go the Adobe Font route), and it's similar for Macs and PCs. (Note that the screenshots here are Mac-specific but they shouldn't be too much different from the software that PCs use.)

## STEP 1: FIND SOME FONTS!

As mentioned before, there are plenty of fonts out there. If you go the Google Fonts route, you can choose one or more fonts all at once.

Look through the catalog and when you find something you like, you should see a giant “Get Font” button in the top right corner:



Click that and it'll be added to the little shopping bag in the top corner. Do this for all the fonts you like. When you're done, click the shopping bag and you'll see all the typefaces you selected in one list.

 Google Fonts



2 font families selected



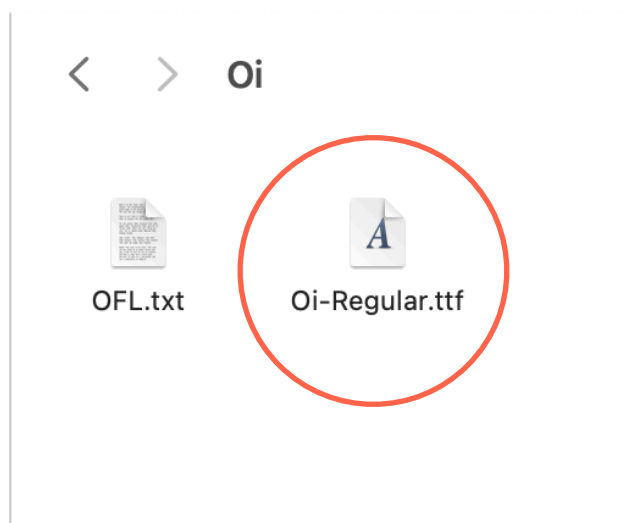
Click the “Download all” button and a zip file should download to your computer wherever your downloads get saved.

For Dafont or other sites, just look for the download button for whatever font you choose and you should also get a zip file to download.

## STEP 2: UNZIP AND INSTALL

Once you've downloaded all the fonts, it's time to unzip the files. For Macs and PCs, unzipping works pretty much the same way — just double-click to open the contents.

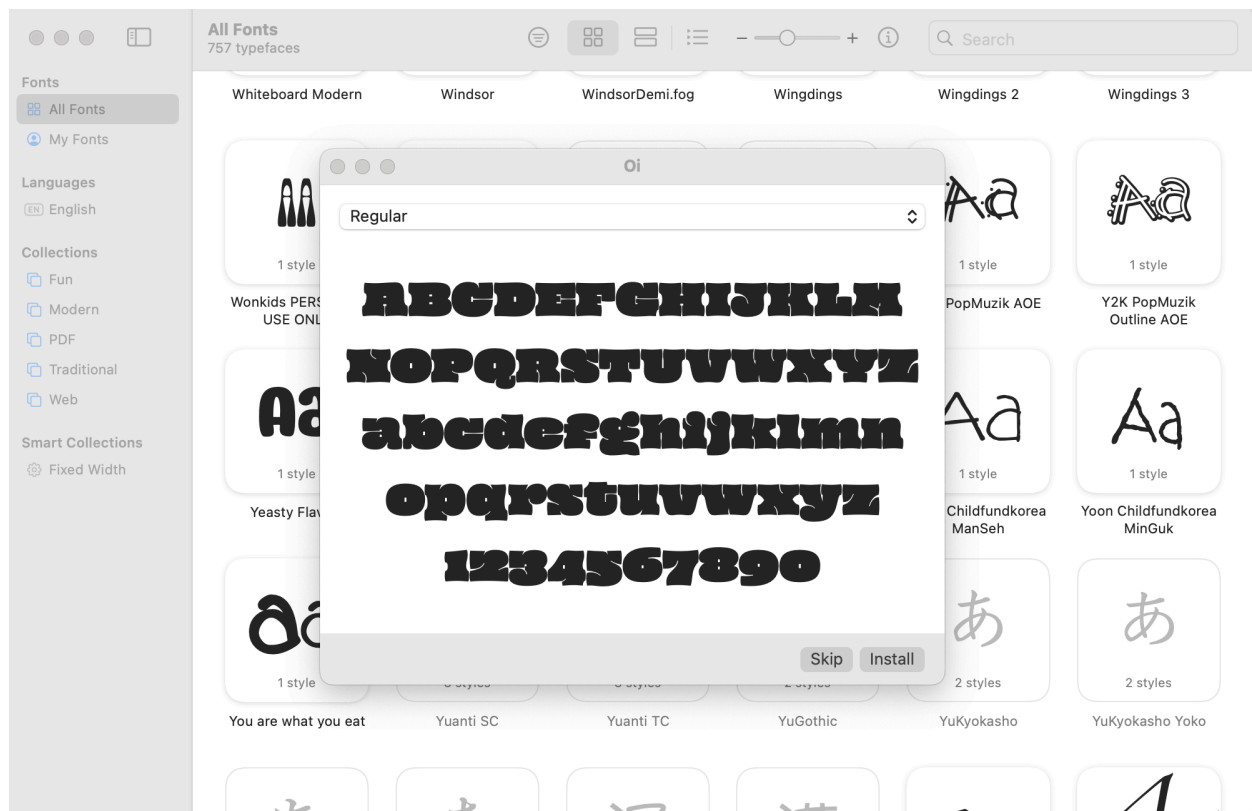
What you're looking for are .ttf files or .otf files. You'll probably see a bunch of other stuff too, like text files or PDFs. Sometimes there is more than one .ttf or .otf file (this is the case if there's more than one weight or font style, such as bold, bold italic, etc.).



Double-click all of the .ttf or .otf files you see.

On a Mac, a program called Font Book should immediately open. The program is called something else on a PC but it's something similar. Either way, it should ask you to install the font.

Here's what it looks like on a Mac:



Just hit Install and that's it! (If nothing happens afterward, your installation was successful!) Do this for all the fonts you downloaded if there were more than one.

Once your font is installed, it should be available instantly. Open up whatever program you want to use, note the name of the font you installed and you should be able to find it in the character list. Enjoy!