Type Anatomy Exercise

**Apex**

**Terminal**

ascender line

**Hairline**

**Ear**

**Crotch**

point size

cap height

**Stem**

**Crossbar**

**Counter**

**Bowl**

x-height

**Bracket**

**Serif**

**Crossbar**

**Link**

baselin

**Loop**

descender line

Ascender

Eye

Shoulder

Ascender

Stem

Ascender

Arm

Leg

counter

Aperture

Bowl

counter

Finial

Tail

Vertical Stress

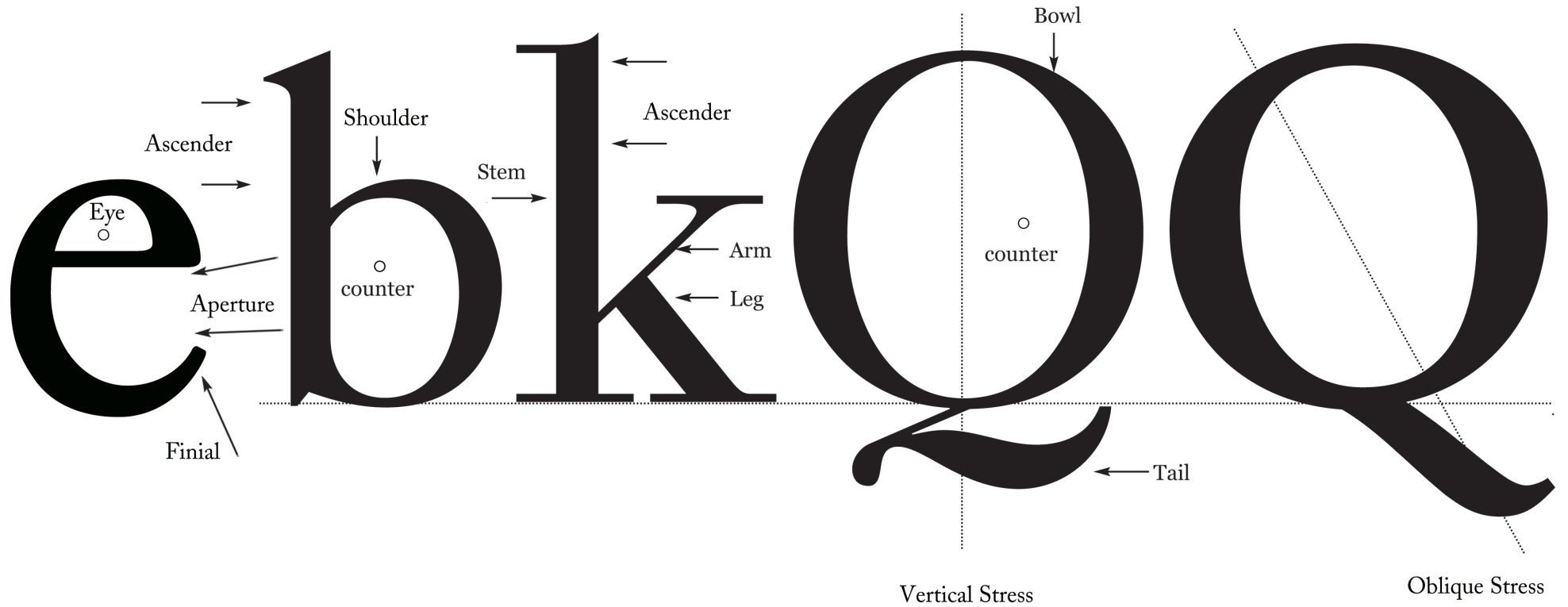Oblique Stress

# Type Anatomy

## Ascender
The lowercase character stroke which extends above the x-height.

## Ascender Line
The invisible line from where the ascender rises. It marks the height of the ascender.

## Aperture
Opening at the end of an open counter.

### Apex
The portion of letters A, M, and N where two strokes meet to form a peak. The point created by joining two
diagonal stems (apex  above,  vertex  below).

## Arm
The diagonal or horizontal stroke that is not connected at one or both ends. Examples would be top of the capital T, the horizontal strokes of the F and the diagonal strokes in K.

## Axis
An imaginary line drawn from top to bottom of a glyph bisecting the upper and lower strokes is the axis.
Also known as stress, angle of stress, design axis.

## Baseline
The imaginary horizontal line to which the body, or main component, of characters rest.

## Beak Terminal  or Beak
A decorative stroke at the end of the arm of a letter. Found is Serif typefaces particularly on the f, and also often on a, c, j, r and y bottom of cap E

## Body Size
 The height of the face of the type, which in letterpress terms is the depth of the body of the type. Originally, this was the height of the face of the metal block .

## Bowl
The fully closed curved or circular part of a character like B, e, g, o.

## Bracket
A curved line connecting the serif to the stroke. The joining of the stem of a letter to the serif. This is also referred to as a fillet.

## Cap Height
Height of the capital letter from the baseline.

## Cap Line
A line marking the height of uppercase letters within a font.

## Characters
The basic typographic element is called a character, which is any individual letter, numeral, or punctuation mark. The capital letters are called caps, or uppercase (u.c.) characters. Small letters are called lowercase (l.c.) characters. Numbers are called numerals or figures.

## Character components
Typographic characters have basic component parts. The easiest way to differentiate characteristics of type  is by comparing the structure of these components.

## Chin
The angled terminal of a "G".

## Contrast
The amount of variation in between thick and thin strokes.

## Crossbar
The horizontal stroke in a letter like A, 'H', 'T', 'e', 'f', 't'.
Also called bar

## Cross Stroke
The horizontal stroke that intersects the stem in t and f.

## Crotch
Acute angle made on the inside where 2 strokes meet.

## Counter
The completely or partially enclosed area within a letter. Letters A, B, D, O, P, Q, R, a, b, d, e, g, o, p, and q. Letters containing open counters include c, f, h, i, s etc.

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**Descender**
The lowercase character stroke which extends below the baseline.

**Descender Line**
The invisible line that marks the end of the descender. It marks the maximum height of the descender.

**Diacriticals**
The accent marks used on some characters ~`'

**Ear**
Ear is a decorative stroke projecting out from the upper bowl of lowercase g.

**Eye**
In side counter space of a lowercase e.

**Finial**
The tapered curved end of the letter as in c and e.

**Font**
A selection of characters of one size/design.

**Glyph**
All the written characters representing one specific letter lower case, cap, italic etc.

**Italic**
A sloped or cursive variation of roman. Not a just slanted version of the roman face, a true italic font is drawn from scratch and has unique features not found in the roman face. Also called oblique, tilted, slanted.

**Jot**
A small round mark on top of i, j, also called tittle, dot

**Hairline**
The thin strokes of a serif typeface.

**Hook**
A curved, protruding stroke in a terminal. Usually found on a lowercase f.

**Leg**
Short, descending portion of a letter.
The lower, down sloping stroke of K, k, is called a leg.

**Ligature**
Two or more letters tied into a single character.

**Link**
A stroke connected the loop and the bowl of a g.

**Lobe**
Rounded projecting stoke attached to the main structure of a letter,, p, b.

**Loop**
The counter below the baseline. It is connected to the bowl with a link. The bottom part of the lowercase roman 'g'.

**Lowercase**
The little letters or non-capital letters of the alphabet are lowercase glyphs. Also called small letters, or more formally minuscule.

**Meanline**
Half the distance from the baseline to the cap height. This may or may not be the x-height, depending on the design of the lower case letters.

**Old-Style Figures**
Numbers with varying heights, some aligning to the baseline and some below.

**Overshoot**
Ascenders extending into the space of a following character like cap F, T.

**Point Size**
The point size of a typeface refers to the size of the body, the imaginary area that encompasses each character in a font.

**Quaint**
An antiquated sort or glyph, used to recreate the typographic flavor of a bygone age.

**Sans Serif**
From the French, meaning "without serif". A typeface which has no serifs. Sans serif typefaces are typically uniform in stroke width.

**Serif**
Tapered corners on the ends of the main stroke. Serifs originated with the chiseled guides made by ancient stonecutters as they lettered monuments. Some serif designs may also be traced back to characteristics of hand calligraphy.
Note that serif type is typically thick and thin in stroke weight. Usually added at the beginning and end of the stroke.

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## San Serif
From the Latin sans serif without serifs. Typeface with no serifs.

## Shoulder
This is the transitional section a curved stroke coming from the stem.

## Slope
The angle of inclination of the stems and extenders of letters. Not to be confused with axis.

## Special characters
Math signs Punctuation marks Accented characters      Reference marks.

## Spine
The main stem stroke that is curved or angled, diagonal of the letter s.

## Spur
A small projection from a rounded stroke. Bottom right corner of capital G , end of a C. Smaller that a  serif

## Stem
A main stroke which is vertical or diagonal from which all strokes  branch  out from.

## Stress
The direction in which a curved stroke changes weight.
Look at  a serif of to see where thin strokes align.
Types of stress:
Oblique, or angled, stress
Semi-oblique stress
Vertical stress

## Stroke
Typeface component which defines the typeface structure. The straight (vertical, horizontal, diagonal) and rounded strokes.

## Swash
A flourish addition replacing a terminal or serif.
 Typographical flourish on a glyph, like an exaggerated serif.

## Tail
The decorative stroke descending down in Q .

## Terminal
The end of a stroke which does not terminate in a serif.
tear-drop terminal, bulbous terminal.

## Tittle
Small round mark on top of i, j, called jot, dot.

## Uppercase
Capital letters of the alphabet are uppercase glyphs. Also called capital letters, capitals, caps, large letters, or more formally majuscule.

## Vertex
The outside point at the bottom or top of a character where two strokes meet.

## X-height
The height of the body, minus ascenders and descenders, which is equal to the height of the lowercase 'x'.
Varies among typefaces in the same point size