

# COMMON TYPOGRAPHIC DISEASES

*Various forms of dysfunction appear among populations exposed to typography for long periods of time. Listed here are a number of frequently observed afflictions.*

## TYPOPHILIA

An excessive attachment to and fascination with the shape of letters, often to the exclusion of other interests and object choices. Typophiliacs usually die penniless and alone.

## TYPOPHOBIA

The irrational dislike of letterforms, often marked by a preference for icons, dingbats, and—in fatal cases—bullets and daggers. The fears of the typophobe can often be quieted (but not cured) by steady doses of Helvetica and Times Roman.

## TYPOCHONDRIA

A persistent anxiety that one has selected the wrong typeface. This condition is often paired with okd (optical kerning disorder), the need to constantly adjust and readjust the spaces between letters.

## TYPOTHERMIA

The promiscuous refusal to make a lifelong commitment to a single typeface—or even to five or six, as some doctors recommend. The typtothermiac is constantly tempted to test drive “hot” new fonts, often without a proper license.

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## C O M M O N T Y P O G R A P H I C D I S E A S E S

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