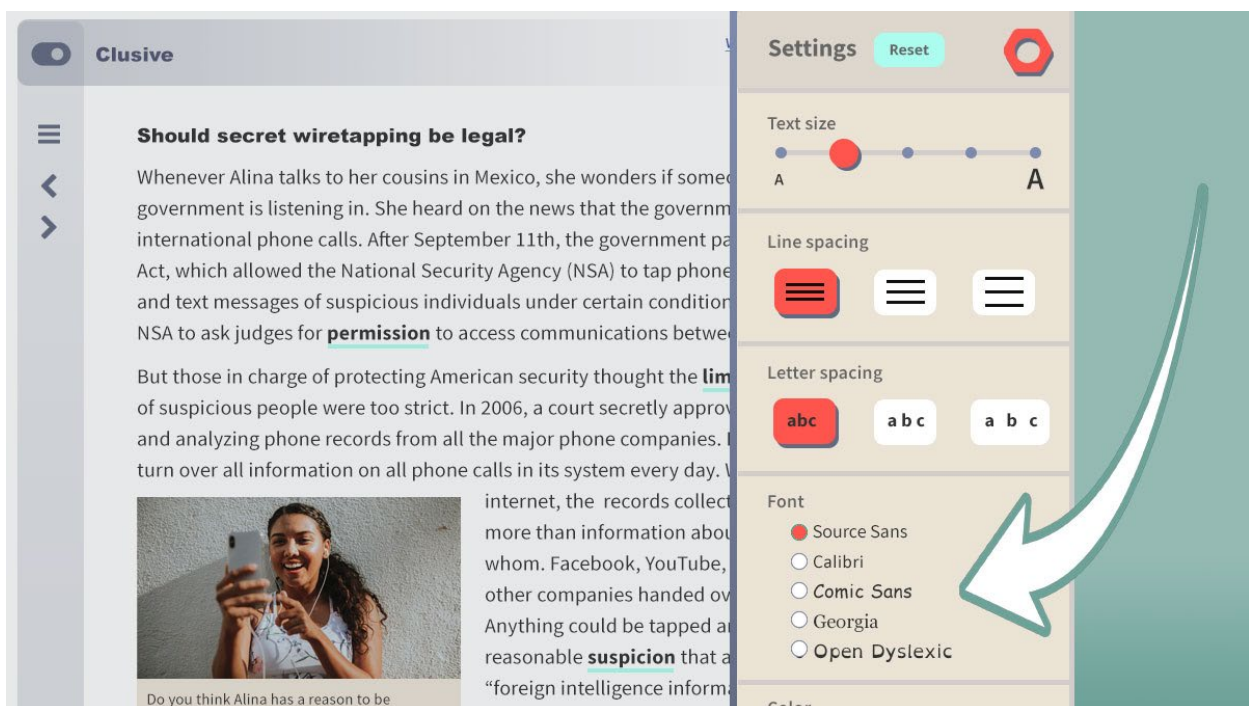


Technology Feature Brief

Font Choice

Though research has shown that most fonts designed specifically for dyslexia do not lead to increased reading speed and accuracy, readers may want to choose a font they prefer that is most comfortable for them.

In the example below, CAST's digital reader, [Clusive](#), provides users with a choice of Font styles to use when in the environment.



Research

There have been a few different fonts designed for children and adults with dyslexia: Dyslexie, OpenDyslexic, and EasyReading. **Research on the impact of these fonts is mixed.**

- One study of Dyslexie, with 170 Dutch children with dyslexia aged 7 to 12, found no improvement in reading speed or accuracy when Dyslexie was compared to Arial and Times New Roman.
[Kuster, van Weerdenburg, Gompel, & Bosman, 2018](#)
- However, another study with 39 Australian children in grades 2 to 6, found children read 7% more words per minute in Dyslexie compared to Arial. But further analyses showed

the improvement was due to Dyslexie’s letter spacing and not to its specially designed letter shapes.

[Marinus, Mostard, Segers, Schubert, Madelaine, & Wheldall, 2016](#)

- A study of OpenDyslexic, with 13 third to sixth graders in the US, found no improvement in reading speed or accuracy.

[Wery & Diliberto, 2017](#)

- A study of EasyReading™, with 533 fourth graders (54 with dyslexia and 27 with some reading difficulties) in Italy, found EasyReading™ led to faster reading with fewer mistakes compared to Times New Roman. But the researchers noted it was not clear if the results were due to the font or its spacing between letters, words, and lines.

[Bachmann & Mengheri, 2018](#)

There has also been some research conducted using commonly available fonts, such as Courier, Times, Arial, and Comic Sans, with **some conflicting results**.

- The British Dyslexia Association has recommended the use of sans serif fonts such as Arial or Comic Sans, and other researchers have based guidelines on this recommendation.

[British Dyslexia Association](#) and [Dyslexia Style Guide](#)

[Evetts & Brown, 2005](#)

- One study found that among 27 children in 4th–6th grade, Comic Sans, Arial, and Times New Roman produced better reading efficiency than Courier. The authors also found that children significantly preferred Comic Sans over the other fonts.

[Bernard, Chaparro, Mills, & Halcomb, 2002](#)

- However, a different study investigated 12 fonts with 48 people with dyslexia (aged 11–50), and recommended Courier, Arial, Helvetica, Verdana, and CMU. Additionally, they found no difference in reading that could be attributed to a font’s use of a serif.

[Rello & Baeza-Yates, 2013](#)

Related Guidelines

Font choice is a feature related to existing guidelines and best practices, including the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) and the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Guidelines. Connections include:

- UDL Guidelines
 - [UDL Checkpoint 1.1](#): Offer ways of customizing the display of information
 - [UDL Checkpoint 2.3](#): Support decoding of text, mathematical notation, and symbols
 - [UDL Checkpoint 7.1](#): Optimize individual choice and autonomy

- WCAG does not require font choice be provided, but [Guideline 3.1: Readable](#) requires that developers make text content readable and understandable. Font choice, particularly fonts that support readers with dyslexia, can allow students to decode more easily, and meaningfully engage with text.

Font Choice Examples

In addition to CAST's [Clusive](#) environment, other projects exploring font choice features include [The Reading Well's overview of fonts that can support readers with dyslexia](#).



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