

Type Specimen

Softdrive®

About Lingo

Imagine a library. Sealed-in quiet. Walls of books, thick as dictionaries. Many are dictionaries. But that's not why you're here. You sit before a big cube of a desktop computer. Navigate to your personal linguistic authority: Urban Dictionary. Feverishly type in the word that's been on your mind since it left your crush's lips in math class: turnt. A thrill washes over you. Not just the definition — when someone's too hype for their own health — but the sight of it: turnt, turned from spoken to serif. Dignified. Elevated. To see slang suited up, it feels almost subversive. And just right.

Softdrive's new typeface, Lingo, was born from moments like this. Timeless elegance meets current trend. Intellectual authority meets the people's slang. Lingo is both a workhorse — trotting along in body copy — and a show pony — shining in display. This serif respects classical typographic tradition... until it doesn't. By including letterforms from the International Phonetic Alphabet, Lingo invites writers and designers to get funky. Lingo hails from the 18th century and looks toward the future of language. And invites you to be part of shaping it.

Lingo's origins go way back to the 18th century. It's inspired by the transitional roman typefaces of the United Kingdom and France – like the typefaces of William Caslon, John Baskerville (from around 1750), Philippe Grandjean, and Louis Simonneau's Romain du Roi (1745). You know these fonts for their old-world elegance. That low stroke contrast. The warmth of letterpress printing. Lingo takes their iconic balance of geometry and charm and runs with it. The result is a serif specialized for long body copy that's easy on the eyes. But Lingo is tradition with a twist. Check out that little g. The f and a. Those punchy drops give drama and personality. And when pure legibility is your goal, you can select for alternatives that dial back the drops.

Like Lingo's Roman ancestors, Lingo includes true italics — cursiva humanistica, rooted in handwriting. This gives them real presence that stands out in body text. But we didn't stop there. Lingo goes where typefaces have rarely gone before — italicizing even the IPA variants. All to give you the widest possible range of design possibilities. More on that below.

We studied the phonetic characters most commonly used in Western languages. And included all of them. A typographic tongue twister, of sorts. Because that wasn't quite enough, we gave Lingo ten stylistic sets that swap classic for phonetic characters — built for distinctive display type and logo design. There are also further OpenType alternatives, including a special character for double g and a full smallcaps feature. Talk about characters with charisma!

Technical

Styles	12
Glyphs	979 (Roman) 965 (Italic)
Year	2026
Variable	1 Axis (Weight)

ss01	Alpha Style a (Roman only)
ss02	Epsilon Style e
ss03	Body g
ss04	Simple g
ss05	Open o
ss06	Fishhook r
ss07	Upsilon u
ss08	Gamma y
ss09	Ezh z
ss10	Epsilon E
calt	Contextual Alternates
smcp	Small Capitals
onum	Oldstyle Figures
tnum	Tabular Figures
frac	Fractions
sups	Superscripts
subs	Subscripts
zero	Slashed Zero
case	Case-Sensitive Forms
dlig	Discretionary Ligatures

Thin *Italic*

Light *Italic*

Regular *Italic*

Medium *Italic*

Bold *Italic*

Black *Italic*

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg
Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn
Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu
Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz
0123456789 €$£
(){}[]@&?!.,:;-”“»«

Regularly Spitting *with Wisdom.*

My slang is currently flowing *loudly* and *clearly* because I'm a *políglota* and muy *elocuente*.

Languages don’t decay — they drift. A vowel shifts in a thousand mouths before anyone notices, and by the time a grammarian writes it down as a rule, the speakers have already moved on. The great *vowel shift* reshaped English so thoroughly that a speaker from 1350 would not recognize the speech of 1600 as the same language. Words we still spell the same — time, house, name — once rhymed with entirely different partners. The spelling is a fossil record of sounds that no living mouth makes, and every silent letter is a phoneme that gave up sometime before the printing press fixed everything in place.

The *International Phonetic Alphabet* assigns a unique symbol to every sound a human voice can make. Clicks that exist in no European language. Tones that carry grammatical weight. Subtle distinctions between dental and *alveolar consonants*, between rounded and unrounded vowels, between stressed and unstressed syllables. A transcription in IPA is not a spelling — it is a *blueprint of the sound itself:* the precise movement of tongue, lip, and airstream that produces what we call a word. Two words can be spelled identically and transcribed differently; two words can look nothing alike and share the same *phonological structure* entirely. Languages don’t decay — they drift. A vowel shifts in a thousand mouths before anyone notices, and by the time a grammarian writes it down as a rule, the speakers have already moved on. The great vowel shift reshaped English so thoroughly that a speaker from 1350 would not recognize the speech of 1600 as the same language. Words we still spell the same — time, house, name — once rhymed with entirely different partners. The spelling is a *fossil record of sounds* that no living mouth makes, and every silent letter is a phoneme that gave up sometime before the printing press fixed everything in place.

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No Stiff
Upperlips in
my Visage.

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Similar to a *Spill of Syllables.*

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Just like a Dialect *of Diacritis.*

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Humbly *Mumbling* my Verse.

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With my *Sticky* Tongue.

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Character Set

Basic Latin

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

Latin-1 Supplement

ÀÁÂÃÄÅÆÇÈÉÊËÌÍÎÏÐÑÒÓÔÕÖØÙÚÛ
ÜÝÞßàáâãäåæçèéêëìíîïðñòóôõöøþßùúûüýÿ

Latin-1 Extended-A

ĀĂĄĆČĈĊĎĐĒĔĖĚĘẼĜĞĠĢĤĦĨĪĬĮİIJĴĶ
ĹĻĽĿŁŃŅŇŊŌŎŐŒŖŘŚŜŞŠŤŢŢŦŨ
ŪŬŮŰŲẀẂŴẄỲŶŸŹŻŽāăąćčĉċďđēĕėěę
ẽĝğġģĥħĩīĭįıijĵķĺļľŀłńņňʼnŋōŏőœŗřśŝşš
ťţţŧũūŭůűųẁẃŵẅỳŷźżž

Latin-1 Extended-B

ǍÆǴǦĞĦǏǨǸǑȮǾƝǓȣỸǎæǵǧğȟǐɨǰǩʁſǹŋ
ǒȯɵǿǔȣỹ

IPA Extensions

ɪʁʁʏɛɛəʏɣɑɒɐɜɜɞəɘʃʒgɯɔɾɹəʊʌ

Spacing Modifier Letters & Spacing Accents

ʾˌːˑ ˈˤˆˇ˘˙˚˛˜˝˞˟ˠˡˢˣˤ˥˦˧˨˩˪˫ˬ˭˰˱˲˳˴˵˶˷˸˹˺˻˼˽˾˿ ̀́̂̃̄̅̆̇̈̉̊̋̌̍̎̏̐̑̒̓̔̕̚ ̡̢̧̨̛̖̗̘̙̜̝̞̟̠̣̤̥̦̩̪̫̬̭̮̯̰̱̲̳̹̺̻̼̽̾̿̀́͂̓̈́͆͊͋͌͐͑͒͗͘͜͟͢͝͞͠͡

Greek & Coptic

αβθμπΔΩ

Smallcaps

AÀÁÂÃÄÅĀĂĄǍÆǼBCĆČĈÇDĎĐEÈÉÊËĒĔĖĚĘẼ
FGĞĜĞĠĢHĦĤĨÌÍÎÏĪĬĮIJJÍĴKǨĸĶLĹĻĽĿŁM
NÑŃŅŇŉŊNÒÓÔÕÖŎȮŌŎŐØǾŒPÞQRŔŖŘ
SŚŜŞŠTŤŢŢŦUÙÚÛÜŪŬŮŰŲỲẂŴẄỲÝŶŸZŹŻŽ

Ligatures

fi fl ff fj fb fh fk ffi ffl ffb ffh ffk ft

SS01 – Alpha a

aàáâãäåæāăąǎć

SS02 – Epsilon e

eèéêëēĕėěęẽ

SS03 – Body g

gĝğġģḡğ

SS04 – Simple g

gĝğġģḡğ

SS05 – Open o

ɔōŏőœǫǒȯǿ

SS06 — Fishhook r

ɾɾ̨ɾ̌

SS07 — Upsilon u

ʊʊ́ʊ̂ʊ̈ʊ̃ʊ̄ʊ̆ʊ̊ʊ̋ʊ̨ʊ̌

SS08 — Gamma y

ɣɣ́ɣ̀ɣ̂ɣ̈

SS09 — Ezh z

ʒʒ́ʒ̇ǯ

SS10 — Epsilon E

ɛɛ̀ɛ́ɛ̂ɛ̈ɛ̄ɛ̆ɛ̇ɛ̨ɛ̌ɛ̃ĒĔĖĚĘẼĒĔĖĚĘẼ

Standard Figures

01234567890

Tabular Glyphs

01234567890 01234567890

Roman Numerals

I II III IV V VI VII VIII IX X XI XII L C D M

Circled Figures

① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ⑧ ⑨

❶ ❷ ❸ ❹ ❺ ❻ ❼ ❽ ❾

Fractions

1/1½1⅓2/3¼3/4⅕2/5⅗3/5⅘4/5⅙5/6⅙1/7⅛3/8⅝5/8⅞7/8⅑1/9⅒1/10

012456789/0123456789

Subscript & Superscript

0123456789 0123456789

Slashed Zero

00ø0

Punctuation & Spacing

,.,:;‘’,‘“”„“»«›‹...---—_?¿!¡#%‰@/\

[]{}()〈〉《》【】§¶·*†‡•

Currency

$¢£¤¥₩₪€₹₴₺₽

Mathematical Operators

+<=>|~¬±×÷/−/·∞≈≠≤≥∂Δ∏∑∫√%‰

Arrows & Geometric

↑↗→↘↓↙←↖↔↕↩↪↰↱↵↳↻↺

Symbols

▼■◀▶▲□●○◆◇■□▲▶▼◀△▷▽◁◌◊

Case Sensitive Forms

¿QUE DICES?
¡NO ENTIENDO!
EN: LANGUAGE
WRITE; SPEAK
MOTHER-TONGUE
ALPHA–OMEGA
ROOT (LATIN)
[PRONOUNCE]
{SYNONYMS}
«BONJOUR»
‹LOANWORD›
【HIRAGANA】
COL·LEGI

¿QUE DICES?
¡NO ENTIENDO!
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ROOT (LATIN)
[PRONOUNCE]
{SYNONYMS}
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‹LOANWORD›
【HIRAGANA】
COL·LEGI

Standard Ligatures

Refined
Inflection
Leafblower
Stuff
Hafjell

Refined
Inflection
Leafblower
Stuff
Hafjell

Kafka
Halfhearted
Offbeat
Affluent
Official
Cliffhanger
Stiffknee

Kafka
Halfhearted
Offbeat
Affluent
Official
Cliffhanger
Stiffknee

Discretionary Ligatures

Softcake

Softcake

Contextual Alternates

<— / —>

← / →

Fractions

3694 / 1230

3694⁄1230

Ordinals

2o en la 1a División

2º en la 1ª División

Superscript

Note2 / Duden®

Note² / Duden®

Subscript / Scientific Inferiors

C20H25N3O

$C_{20}H_{25}N_3O$



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