Newspeak is based on architectural forms from Stalinist Russia and the Cyrillic alphabet letterforms presented with a decadent visual language and a sinister political undertone

FAMILY

NEWSPEAK

WEIGHTS

LIGHT

HEAVY

ABOUT

Newspeak is a display typeface based upon Soviet architectural forms from the Stalinist period (spanning the 1930s—'50s). Stalinist architecture is now considered unsightly and without aesthetic merit, yet it has a strange beauty, hinting at an unrealised utopia (while its function was to buttress a brutal dictatorship). Inspiration was also drawn from the Cyrillic alphabet which, to kids growing up in Western Europe in the '70s and '80s, was a cipher for an alternative way of living – Cyrillic letterforms represented the exotic, familiarity-twice-removed universe of Eastern Bloc states. When you visited a communist country you were confronted with unfamiliar typography that reinforced your sense of alienation and unease that there existed a real, if imperfect, working alternative to consumerism.

The name Newspeak comes from the fictional language in George Orwell's novel *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. Newspeak is a controlled language, with a heavily-reduced dictionary, used by the totalitarian state Oceania to limit freedom of thought, and to prevent citizens from straying from approved ideology: If words do not exist to describe a concept, then that concept cannot be imagined. Newspeak represses concepts that pose any threat to the regime such as freedom, self-expression, individuality and peace. The name was chosen as an acknowledgement of how typography, as a representation of language, can communicate the subtle nuances of thought.

The poster published to accompany the typeface release featured a picture of former British Prime Minister, Tony Blair. There remains an obvious connection between the language of Newspeak and the way that Blair's reimagined UK Labour party (dubbed 'New Labour') manipulated the media to a degree never seen previously and changed the way that all British political parties interacted with the media and the general public. New Labour's iron grip on language and image exerted control over the perception of Tony Blair and also to present neoliberal policies as social democracy.

SUPPORTED LANGUAGES

Afar / Afrikaans / Albanian / Basque / Bosnian / Breton / Catalan / Crimean Tatar (Latin) / Croatian / Czech / Danish / Dutch / English / Esperanto / Estonian / Faroese / Finnish / French / Frisian / Friulian / German / Greenlandic / Hawaiian / Hungarian / Icelandic / Indonesian / Interlingua / Irish Gaelic / Italian / Karelian / Kirundi / Kurdish (Latin) / Ladin / Latvian / Lithuanian / Luxemburgish / Malagasy / Malay / Maltese / Māori Norn / Norwegian (Bokmål) / Norwegian (Nynorsk) / Occitan / Palauan / Polish / Portuguese / Rhaeto-Romance / Romani / Romanian / Sango / Sámi (Northern) / Scottish Gaelic / Serbian (Latin) / Shona / Slovak / Slovene / Sorbian / Spanish / Swahili / Swati / Swedish / Tagalog (Filipino) / Tahitian / Tokelauan / Tsonga / Turkish / Umbundu / Veps / Welsh / Wolof / Zulu

UNICODE RANGES

Complete: Basic Latin / Latin-1 Supplement / Latin Extended-A
Parts of: Mathematical Operators / Latin Extended-B / Latin Extended Additional / Spacing Modifier Letters / General Punctuation / Currency Symbols / Letterlike Symbols

WEB FONT FEATURES

frac / liga / salt / ss01

CREDITS

Designed by Jonathan Barnbrook
First published in 1997
Revised and expanded character set published in 2016

ABCDEFGHIJKLMN
OPQRSTUVWXYZ

ACCENTED

ÀÁÂÃÄÅĀĂĄÆÇĆĈĊČĐ
ÉÊËĒĔĖĘĚĜĞĠĢĢÈĤĦĨĪĬĮĨĮĬ
İĲĴĶĶĐĹĻĽĿŁÑŃŅŇŊŊŅŊÒÓ
ÔÕÖØŌŎŐŒŔŖŘŚŜŞŠŢŤŦŨ
ÙÚÛŨŪŬŮŰŲŮŴŶŸÝŹŻŽÞẞ

ALTERNATE

ABDEFIMNHSt

ACCENTED ALTERNATE

ÀÁÂÃÄÅĀÃĂĄÆĎĐ
ÈÉÊËĒĔĖĘĚĤĦĨĪĬĨĨĮĬ
İĳŃŅŇŃŊĐŇÒÔÖØŌ
ŎŐŒŚŜŞŦŤŦŤÉŞẞ

PUNCTUATION

¡¿ɁP.,:;…''""‚„·•«»‹›＊'"/({[|!]})\ ‑–—_@&†‡

FIGURES

0123456789

FRACTIONS ¼ ½ ¾ 1 2 3

ORDINALS ª ⁒

SYMBOLS ® © ™ ℈ ¶ °

CURRENCY ＄¢£€¥ƒ¤

MATHEMATICAL

− + ± < > ≤ ≥ = ≠ ≈ ⌢ ¬ / # % ‰ ⌐ □

STANDARD CHARACTER SET

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N
O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

ACCENTED

À Á Â Ã Ä Å Ā Ă Ą Æ Ç Ć Ĉ
Ċ Č Đ É Ê Ë Ē Ĕ Ė Ę Ě Ĝ Ğ Ġ
Ģ Ǧ È Ĥ Ħ Ì Í Î Ï Ĩ Ī Ĭ Į İ Ŋ Ĵ Ķ
ĸ Đ Ĺ Ļ Ľ Ŀ Ł Ń Ń Ņ Ň 'n Ŋ Ñ
Ò Ó Ô Ŏ Õ Ö Ø Ō Ŏ Ő Œ Ŕ Ŗ
Ř Ś Ŝ Ş Š Ţ Ť Ŧ Ü Ù Ú Û Ũ Ū
Ŭ Ů Ű Ų Ŵ Ŷ Ÿ Ý Ź Ż Ž Þ ß

ALTERNATE

a b d e f i m n k u s t

ACCENTED ALTERNATE

à á â ã ä å ā ā ă ą æ ď đ è é
ê ë ē ĕ ė ę ě ĥ ħ ì í î ï ĩ ī ĭ į
ŋ ń ņ ň 'n ŋ đ ř ò û ö ø ß
ū ŭ ű œ é ŝ ş ţ ŧ ŧ ť ę ß

PUNCTUATION

¡ ! ¿ ? . , : ; … ' ' " " , „ · • « » ‹ › * ' "
/ ({ [¦ ¦] }) \ - – — _ @ & † ‡

STANDARD FIGURES

0 1 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

FRACTIONS

¼ ½ ¾ 1 2 3

SYMBOLS

® © ™ § ¶ º

ORDINALS

ª º

CURRENCY

$ ¢ £ € ¥ ƒ ¤

MATHEMATICAL

− + ± < > ≤ ≥ = ≠ ≈ ~ ¬ / # ⁰/₀ ⁰/₀₀ µ ∏

GOODER

MINILUV

POLITBURO

2050

AMBIVALENT

CRIMETHINK

REALITY

NWSPK

USSR

FACECRIME

2050

THE NAME NEWSPEAK COMES FROM THE NOVEL 1984 BY GEORGE ORWELL

A LANGUAGE INVENTED SO THAT PEOPLE CANNOT EXPRESS THEMSELVES IN A WAY OUTSIDE THE POLITICAL DOCTRINE ENFORCED BY THE DICTATORSHIP IN POWER

EQUAL

SEC

THINKPOL

JOYCAMP

NEW HISTORY

VERIFY

NEWSPEAK WAS DESIGNED NOT TO EXTEND BUT TO *DIMINISH THE RANGE OF THOUGHT*, AND THIS PURPOSE WAS ASSISTED BY *CUTTING THE CHOICE OF WORDS* DOWN TO A MINIMUM