

Graphic communication

Desk Top Publishing

Name: Class:..... Teacher:.....

Introduction

Desktop publishing (DTP) is the process of designing newspapers, magazines, books, leaflets, booklets and reports on a computer. The industry that produces these items is the **publishing Industry**. Designing the structure and format of the publication and layout of each page is the job of the **graphic designer**, while the process of creating the publication on paper is **printing**.

DTP provides a number of benefits to publishers and graphic designers:

- Design work and publication time is greatly reduced as designers can create standardized layout to be used time and again.
- Text and graphics can be imported from a variety of sources and locations around the world.
- Text and graphics can be positioned accurately using grid and snap, scale, rotate and crop functions.
- The proposed layout can be sent electronically to the editor or client for approval prior to printing.
- Modifications can be made easily.
- Once approved, the final layout can be sent for printing electronically with little or no time wasted in pre-production.

DTP Printing Methods and the Environment

In the recent past, printing, publishing and sign making for a mass market were very labour intensive processes that depended on large machines operated by very large workforces. The printing and paper industries were also responsible for significant forms of pollution to our environment.

This has changed with DTP production, digital printing methods. Modern printing methods bring a number of benefits to the industry and our society.

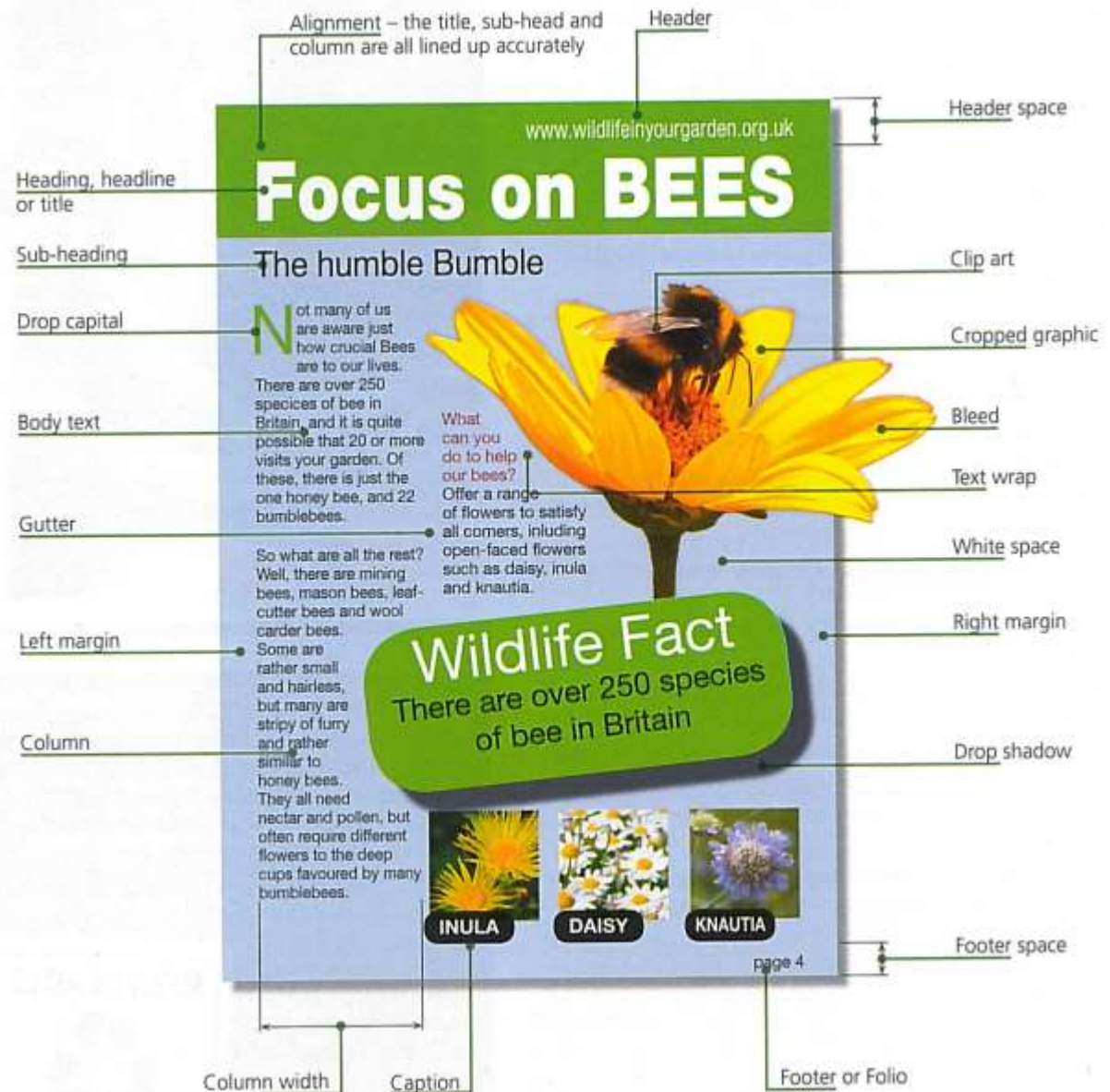
- Printing inks are becoming “greener”. Sustainable, eco-friendly inks based on vegetable oils are beginning to replace petroleum based inks.
- Modern printing can use paper which is 100% re-cycled without loss of quality. This reduces the environmental impact of paper production.
- Electronic newspapers and news feeds further reduce the use of paper.
- Modern printing technologies are more energy efficient than previous methods.

Page layout Features

Before creating your own page layouts it is useful to know about the main DTP layout features. The example on this page shows a typical layout with each feature labelled.

These terms are understood by graphic designers the world over and are used daily in the production of books, magazines and newspapers.

You may be asked about them in the SQA exam, so it is important that you learn the correct terms.



Bitmap

An image file comprised of pixels. These tend to be large files

Bleed

An extension of a graphic or block beyond the trimmed edge of the paper

Body Text

The main blocks of text on the page.

Caption

A brief description that accompanies a photograph, image or table

Clip-Art

Ready-made graphics and photos stored in a gallery

Column

The width of the frame of the body text.

Cropping

Trimming excess material from a photograph or graphic

Drop Capital

The first letter (upper Case) in an article or paragraph that is enlarged

Drop Shadow

A shadow created behind an object or text to create depth and emphasis

Eye Dropped/Picker

A DTP tool that enables exact colour matching of one colour to another

Flow Text Along a Path

Text that travels in the same direction as a line or curve.

Footer/Folio

Information, often a page number in the footer space at the bottom of a page.

Footer Space

The space at the bottom of a page.

Fonts and Typeface

The styles of text lettering used in a document. These can be chosen and sized

Frames

Non-printing boxes that contain text or graphic items.

Graphic

An illustration or art work produced for use in the publication

Grid

A square grid of lines or dots that aids accurate positioning

Guidelines

Lines dragged in from the top and side to help construct a layout.

Gutter

The narrow space between columns of text.

Handles

These are attached to frames to allow the frames to be changed size.

Header

Information that appears in the header space at the top of the page.

Header Space

The space above the title or heading.

Headline/Heading/Title

Text that introduces the article or subject; usually a large font.

Import/Export

The process of sending digital files.

Margins

The white space and borders around the page.

Mirror

Creating a symmetrical or opposite image

Page Formatting

The orientation of the page: portrait or landscape

Page Sizes

The physical size of a document; For example A5, A4 or A3.

Portable Network Graphic (PNG)

A file type that allows the background to be clear

Point Size

Text size is measured in points. This font size is 10pt

Reverse

A reverse is when the text colour is white text on a dark background.

Snap

Cursor attaches to grid or guides to improve speed and accuracy

JPEG

A common image file type used for photographs. File sizes are relatively small

Sub-Heading

An intermediate level of heading, having a size between that of the heading and body text

Text Alignment

The way text lines are arranged in a frame. Left, right, centre or justified

Text Wrap

When text follows the outline of a graphic

Transparency

Making fills and images partially see-through

Vector Graphic

A scalable computer graphic made of shapes, lines and fills.

Typeface

The choice of font in a layout can be vital in making a connection with the target audience. It is the people who read your layout that will determine your choice of font.

Fonts fall into two main groups: serif fonts and sans serif fonts

Serif Fonts

Serif Flick



Serif

Serif fonts are based on an old typeface and this gives them a very traditional or formal look. However the serif flicks also make the fonts very readable when they are used in blocks or columns of body text.

Typical serif fonts include:

Bookman Old Style

Garamond

Lucida Bright

Rockwell

Times New Roman

Sans Serif Fonts

Sans Serif

These are fonts without flicks on the end of the strokes: sans means without in French.

Sans serif fonts are modern in style and were designed to be used in advertising to sell modern products. They can be used to bring impact to headings and titles.

Typical sans serif fonts include:

Basic Sans Light SF

Calibri

Goudita Sans Light

Verdana