

# Comic Sans: Why is the world's most famous font so hated and controversial?

Comic Sans – a font once created by Microsoft for comic books – has now become the most hated font in the world. Why is Comic Sans controversial, but still has its own value in education and supporting people with reading difficulties?

For decades, many people who are usually very calm can "get angry" just by seeing a seemingly harmless and cheerful font: **Comic Sans** . From birthday cards, posters, wedding invitations to road signs, the appearance of Comic Sans almost always creates controversy.

## How was Comic Sans born?

In 1994, when Vincent Connare designed Comic Sans, he probably had no idea that more than 30 years later, the font would still be at the center of the 'keyboard wars'.

The story begins when Tom Stevens, a program manager at Microsoft, walks into Connare's office to ask for his opinion on the font used in the newly released Microsoft Bob software. In it, the cartoon dog character Rover is drawn with speech bubbles. but is in Times New Roman. Connare immediately jokes: *'Dogs can't talk in Times New Roman'* .

From there, he took inspiration from comics, especially Dave Gibbons's drawings in *Watchmen* , and began sketching out each character to create Comic Sans – a handwritten, fun, friendly typeface that is true to the comics.

Comic Sans didn't make it into Microsoft Bob, but it did make an appearance in Microsoft 3D Movie Maker and later became one of the default fonts of Windows 95, spreading around the world through Microsoft Word.



... the first missionary commitment of each one of us is prayer. It is first and foremost in praying that the way is prepared for the Gospel; it is in praying that hearts are opened to the mystery of God and souls disposed to welcome his Word of Salvation. [u](#)

Grace, lavished upon us by God and communicated through the Mystery of the Incarnate Word, is an absolutely free gift with which nature is healed, strengthened and assisted in pursuing the innate desire for happiness in the heart of every man and of every woman. [u](#)



What surprises Connare is how often his legacy is misused: from Pope Benedict XVI's official photo album, to CERN's Higgs boson diagram, to the prestigious Copa del Rey trophy. Someone has clearly chosen Comic Sans for use in extremely formal documents – which is hard to understand.

## Comic Sans still has its value

Despite being 'hated', Comic Sans still has its place in some special cases.

1. **Dyslexia support:** Many organizations, including **the British Dyslexia Association**, recommend Comic Sans because the letters are designed to be clear, simple, easy to distinguish, and less confusing. It is also popular with people with ADHD and learning disorders.
2. **Primary Education:** Comic Sans resembles the simple single-stroke handwriting that children are learning to write, especially the letters 'a' and 'g'. As such, it is often used in teaching materials.
3. **Social campaign:** In 2014, the *Comic Sans for Cancer* movement used the font to raise funds for cancer research, attracting artists from 38 countries and millions of views.

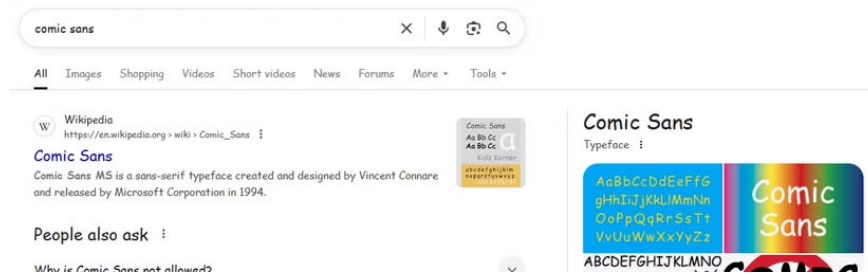
a b c d e f g h i j k l m  
n o p q r s t u v w x y z

## Why is Comic Sans so divisive?

Partly because people like to have something to argue about, Comic Sans has become such an easy symbol to mock, that websites like *Comic Sans Criminal* have even been created to 'educate' users on proper usage.

On the contrary, the *Comic Sans Project* group stood up to 'defend' it, even editing famous logos into Comic Sans versions for fun.

This contradiction has made the font a pop culture phenomenon. CERN once trolled the world by announcing that it would use Comic Sans for all of its documents. Google joined in the fun by displaying search results for 'Comic Sans' in the font itself.



In short, Comic Sans may be hated, ridiculed, but it also has a surprising amount of value. It is not just a font, it has become a cultural icon – something we recognize and also argue about.

Love it or hate it, Comic Sans is here to stay. And who knows, maybe in a few decades it will appear on traffic signs, storefronts, and government documents, continuing to fuel a never-ending debate.

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