HAND
Home of Accessibility and NeuroDiversity

giffgaff

Social Media: Custom Fonts

What is it for?

People often use generator websites to make their text look unique (e.g. 𝒸𝓊𝓇𝓈𝒾𝓋𝑒 or 𝐛𝐨𝐥𝐝). However, these are not real fonts. They are mathematical symbols from the Unicode standard designed for equations, not language.

When a screen reader encounters this text, it does not read the word. It reads the mathematical description of every single character. ℋ𝑒𝓁𝓁𝑜 ("Hello") becomes "Mathematical script capital H, mathematical script small e..." which renders the message completely unintelligible.

How to support it

The kindest thing you can do is avoid these generators entirely for your display name, bio, and captions.

- Use the default keyboard font provided by the platform. This ensures your text is readable and searchable.
- Since you cannot use bold or italics on most apps, use simple capitalisation to highlight key words instead.

Useful Links

Accessible Social - Just Not My Type