

Instructions for the proper setting of Blackletter Typefaces

abedefghijklmnopqrſſtuvwxyz
 ABCDEFGH IJKLMNOPQRS TU VWXYZ
 1234567890
 ., - ; ! ? () / - & S
 ch ck ff fi fl ft ll ff fi ft g

When using a blackletter typeface to set text in German (or any other desired language), special rules exist regarding the usage of the long s (ſ) and the closing s (ſ̣). The long s looks similar to the letter f, while the closing s takes the same form of the letter s that users of non-blackletter typefaces are acquainted with.

The long ſ must always be used when the letter s begins a word, or syllable. A long ſ is also required when the letter s appears in the following letter combinations: **ſp**, **ſt**, **ſch**.

Examples: **ſagen**, **Heimſuchung**, **abſurd**, **Wefpe**, **Würſte**, **ſchügen**, **waſchen**

The long ſ is used even when the s seems to be the last letter of a syllable, because the following e has been dropped.

Examples: **Drechsler** (**Drechseler**), **erwieſne Freundschaft** (**erwieſene**).

The long ſ is used in the ›trans-‹ prefix when it proceeds the characters **k**, **p**, **z**, and when the s has been dropped from the ›trans-‹ prefix in the original latin word:

Examples: **transkription**, **Transpiration**, **Transjendenz**.

The closing ſ̣ is used when the letter s is the last letter of a word, or of a syllable, because the following character has been dropped. The closing ſ̣ is also used when the letter s is a connecting character between syllables.

Examples: **büſ** (**büſe**), **Hüſchen** (**Haſe**), **lieſ!** (**leſen**);
Geburtſtag, **Lebenshaltung**, **vorſichtshalber**.

The closing ſ̣ is used when the letter s ends a syllable and proceeds the letters **k**, **n**, **w**. The closing ſ̣ is also used when a word ends like: **-aſ**, **-iſ**, **-niſ**, **-uſ**.

Examples: **Humoreske**, **Gleisner**, **Oswald**; **Atlas**, **Kürbiſ**, **Zeugniſ**, **Omnibuſ**.

The closing ſ̣ is used in the ›trans-‹ prefix when the s is not part of the following syllable:

Examples: **Transaktion**, **Transfer**, **Translation**, **Transplantation**, **Transparent**, **Transport**.

The closing ſ̣ is used for foreign words in the german language when it proceeds the letter ›m‹ and when the letter s ends a syllable:

Examples: **Föderaliſmuſ**, **Deſinfektiſon**, **Diſkont**, **Fiſkuſ**, **Iſchiaſ**, **Sanſjouci**, **juſpendieren**.

s beginning a word, or syllable

s seems to be the last letter of a syllable

The ›trans-‹ prefix

s as the last letter of a word, or of a syllable;
s as a connecting character

s ends a syllable

The ›trans-‹ prefix

Foreign words

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