Use Shorthand

Usefully, CSS provides a font property to which various font preferences can be specified in a combined single rule stating:

font-style | font-variant | font-weight | font-size | font-family

Appropriate values can be assigned to each part of the combined font shorthand property – for example, like this:

p { font : italic small-caps bold medium "Times", serif ; }

The font-size and font-family values are mandatory, but the first three values for font-style, font-variant, and font-weight properties are optional and may appear in any order. Values for each one of these three optional properties may be completely omitted and a normal value will be automatically assumed.

It is important to recognize that values not explicitly specified will still have a normal value applied – no value is inherited from the containing element, and this can produce some unexpected results. For example, a style rule selecting a span element within a containing paragraph element styled by the rule above might look like this:

span { font : large cursive ; }

The values explicitly specified in this rule will be applied to the font-size and font-family properties of the span element, and a normal value will be applied to its font-style, font-variant, and font-weight properties – so text within the span element does not inherit the italic, small-caps, or bold values from the paragraph.

One further possibility available with a combined font rule is the option to specify a line-height (the spacing between each line) by adding a forward slash and unit value after the font-size value. This is useful to establish a common standard line spacing where various font sizes appear.

Create an HTML document containing a paragraph with several spanned sections of text

```html
<p>
  <span class="head">The Sneakers Game</span><br>
  In 1934 the <span class="giant">New York Giants</span> beat the <span class="bears">Chicago Bears</span>, by <span class="score">30-13</span>, in nine-degree temperatures [</p>
```