



How to...

DID YOU KNOW?

There are more than 439,711 billboards located throughout the US.



Give graphic design a try

This creative art form is used to inspire and communicate with others.

Graphic design is an art form that uses design elements, including images and text, to provide people with information. There are examples of it everywhere in daily life, including this magazine. Learning about graphic design can be helpful in many ways. For instance, if you want to make a poster to tell people about an activity you are working on, such as a bake sale or a play, following graphic design principles can make your poster stand out. Here's how to get started.

Recognize graphic design

Besides being used to make magazines, graphic design is used to create other products. For instance, the packaging on food and consumer goods, such as shampoo and soap, is created when artists combine images and text. Websites and apps are made using graphic design. When advertisers want to get the word out about a product, graphic design is used to make ads to display on posters, billboards, social media, and more.

Understand basic principles

An important principle of graphic design is that the words are legible, meaning they are easy for people to read. The font you choose can be playful and set the tone for your design, but you want to be sure that other people can easily understand the words. If you have a bold font, you

could make the letters white and put them on a dark background—or make the letters a dark color against a pale background. You also want people to read the most important information first, such as the title. You may want that to be in the largest type size and at the top.

Pick a project

The best way to learn about graphic design is to try it out. Graphic design is primarily done on computers, but you can start with paper and pen if you wish. For example, you could first find images in magazines or newspapers and arrange them on paper or poster board. You can also draw your own images. Decide what words or phrases you want to use and where you want them to go. Practice writing the words on another piece of paper, then write them on your design. Besides posters, you could make your own business cards if you want to start a pet walking or babysitting business. Or you could make tags for jewelry or pottery that you want to sell to friends and family.

Get more experience

If you enjoy graphic design, you could take a class to learn more about it and how to use design software. Your school may even offer a design course or club. Talk to a teacher about your interest. If your school doesn't have a club, maybe you could help start one!



Use color in your designs.

4 programs that teach graphic design

If you want to make art that combines images and text on a computer, ask an adult if you can download one of these programs.

Canva

Use the free version of this app to design creations like greeting cards, posters, and fliers. Start with a blank page to create your own design, or try one of the templates for inspiration.



Desygner

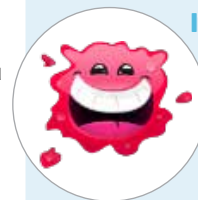
This free program offers easy-to-follow advice on how to

combine images and text with its fun backgrounds. You could use it to make fliers and posters, for example.

Google Drawings

If you or a family member has a Google account, this program is available for use.

You don't have to download an app. It allows you to add your own images and text to make a design.



Inkscape

This free program features a drawing pencil tool.

You can use it to create your own drawings or add special arrows or underlines to bring attention to important information in your design.