



# Today's Computer Integration

**SPECIAL  
EDITION:  
BETTER WEBS**

**FREE!**

Mr. Breitsprecher's Edition

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## Good Webs/Bad Webs Learning from Other's Mistakes



<http://www.geocities.com/wcswebbuilders/suggestions/design/webpages.html>

What makes a good web design? Well, reasonable people can disagree. The Internet is a vast collection of all types of information.

Just think of how you surf the web. Probably you don't like to wait for pages to download and if a page is not easy to read, you click and go to another site. After all, some sites are easier to navigate than others.

Creating Web pages with today's software is easy. In Microsoft Office, you can make Web pages with Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Access, and FrontPage.

Once you get started, the only limit to what you can do is your imagination. Learning to create user-friendly Web sites that people will WANT to see is a valuable skill. Let's see what we can learn from other's mistakes.

The link above was created to show things to avoid when making pages. Let's review the examples and see what we can learn about effective Web page layout BEFORE we get started.

Please go through the Web site identified above and review the links for each of the 6 rules. Answer the questions about each rule below.

### Rule 1: Use Plain Backgrounds.

1. Click on the first 2 links in this paragraph. What is wrong with these Web pages?
2. What does the 3<sup>rd</sup> link in this paragraph (this one) suggest to add color and style to a Web page and still keep a clean, easy to read look?

### Rule 2: Use Graphics that Match.

1. Click on the link in this paragraph. What is the problem with the example shown?
2. What does this site recommend be done to fix the problem?

**KFC**



And your "beefy" friends remind you to...



**Rule 3: Use Animations Very Sparingly.**

1. According to the link in this paragraph, what is the problem with animations that blink all over a page?
2. While not directly explained, what other problem does this link illustrate about using many animations on a page.

**Rule 4: Crop, Resize, and Compress Your Photos.**

1. Please click on the link in this paragraph. Which picture (left or right) would you rather wait to download? Why?
2. There is a tradeoff between quality and download. Please explain.
3. In the last paragraph of this link, there is a suggestion for using photos that will allow those that don't mind waiting for an image to download to see a full-size, high quality image while the rest of us can go on surfing. What does this page recommend?

**Rule 5: Don't Use Cutting Edge Technology.**

1. To be sure that most visitors can appreciate your Web page design, what width (in pixels) should you use? Why?

**Rule 5: (Continued) Don't Use Cutting Edge Technology.**

2. What does this site identify as the problem with using java applets, javascript, cascading style sheets, or DHTML on your website?
3. Please click on the link in this section. What is the problem that is illustrated?

**Rule 6: Don't Fill Your Page with Big Text and Capital Letters.**

1. What do people think when an entire Web page looks like a flyer from a discount magazine?
2. Please click on the link in this paragraph. The example shows an example of "overkill." This page says that overuse of big text and capital letters suggests two things to the viewer. What are they?



# Now it's YOUR turn!



Let's do a little surfin' of our own and see what we can find for some good and bad examples of the Web page designs based on the rules we have just reviewed. Using your favorite search engine, locate appropriate Web sites on topics of your choice. As you review these Web pages, identify some that are good examples and some that are less than good examples.

Write the rule number down that each example illustrates (good or bad). Write the URLs of good examples in the column on the left. Write the URLs of less than good examples in the column on the right. Be prepared to share your answers with the class.

## Good Examples

## Less Than Good Examples

URL:

URL:

Rule:

Rule:

Critique:

Critique:

URL:

URL:

Rule:

Rule:

Critique:

Critique:

URL:

URL:

Rule:

Rule:

Critique:

Critique:

