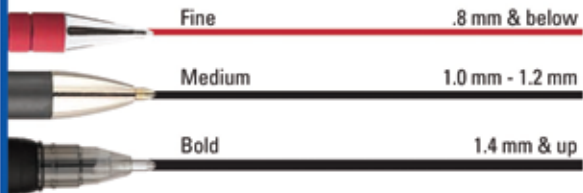


BUYING GUIDE • Pens and Ink

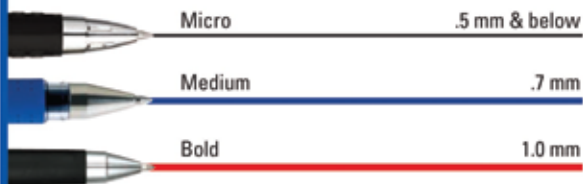


There's much more to choosing a writing instrument these days than just color. You should think about other features as well. Factors like grip type, special inks, pocket clip types and refillability all come into play. Some of the most common pen types are described below.

SELECT YOUR PEN BASED ON THESE OPTIONS:



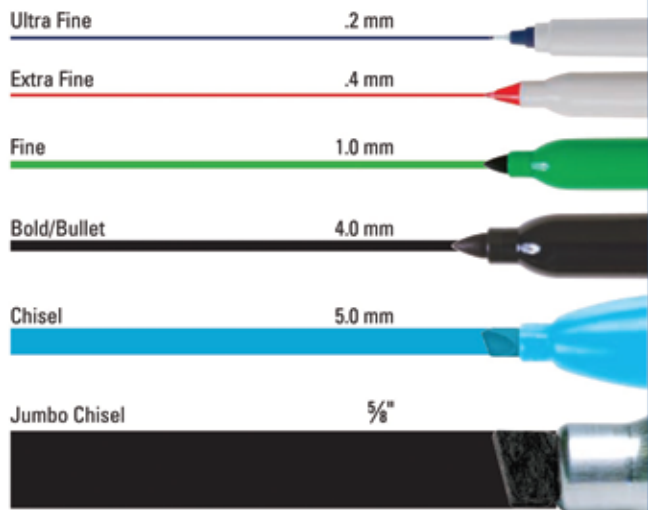
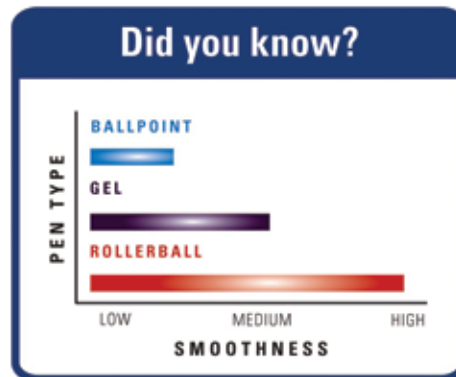
BALLPOINT INK Thick, non-water based ink that does not thin while you write. Ballpoint pens use a small rotating ball made of brass, steel or tungsten carbide to dispense the ink as you write. Ballpoint ink is usually permanent.



GEL INK This water-based ink has also a viscosity or thickness that can fluctuate. When a gel pen is not being used, the ink tends to have a higher viscosity or thicker ink. When the ball starts to rotate, the ink thins down and is "dragged" in a similar manner as the rollerball ink. Gel ink provides the best of both worlds—the smooth write of a rollerball, with the performance of a ballpoint.



ROLLER BALL INK This water-based ink takes very little effort to make the ink flow, allowing for a smooth write. Roller ball pens utilize the same type of ball as a ballpoint pen, but because the ink is much thinner, it floods the ball and "drags" a pool of ink across the paper as you write. The smaller the point size of your pen, the less ink there is to drag, thus producing a finer line. Roller ball ink is usually not permanent.



PERMANENT INK Permanent markers have the ability to mark on virtually any surface from packages, to labels, to glass and so much more. Fade- and water-resistant ink options further extend multiple project uses. A variety of colors and tip sizes are available to make your mark unique.