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I'm trying to use a command like this:
\font\1="Liberation Serif" % quotes are required
{\1 This is Liberation Serif.}
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TeX tells me it can't find the '.tfm' file. (I did not actually look for this font to verify.)

Even "Computer Modern" won't load with \font\CM={Computer Modern}. I can only load a variant by filename like \font\Medfont=cmr12. \Medfont is issued before document content.

Please also see my PDF to see display issues. Using *filenames* from "texmf-local" (with extra words and spacing added to display text to demonstrate issues):

- here's Utopia
- Garamond VM
- Classic OVM
- Letter GRH
- don'tforgetArial (why no spaces?)
- Lettergothic (ditto?)
- Literaturnaya
- ' (no error, but gives black bar except puntuation!)
- here's Luxi
- (is WebOMints GD; spaces work, hard to see)
- URWClassico Regular LF T1
- GandhiSans Regular TLF OT1.

But I want entire families, not to load every variant by hand in custom macros ... as opposed to \it, \bf etc! (This is a random selection of types, not necessarily the fonts I desire — those would include Utopia, Garamond, Gentium Book, etc.)

Some fonts from Don Knuth's "Individual Font Families" I also tested by name included AlegreyaSans, DejaVuSans and ParaType. Other fonts tried by name included Utopia and DSSerif. (You can view the source of this file for commands and specific comments.)