

Inline Linking

Best Practice: How to Implement Inline Linking

The inline linking design pattern is a function that allows users to quickly find more information on a specific term inside a text. Allowing users to access this information with a single click on that term saves them time and effort. To implement the inline linking design pattern correctly, follow these steps:

- 1 Identify the words** for which you feel users might require or benefit from further explanation. For example, in the Wikipedia entry for 'user experience', the word 'affective' is hyperlinked to another Wikipedia page where the term is explained in more detail. Alternatively, you might have an interesting website, web page, or other electronic document that you want to provide the user with instant access to. On these occasions, identify the words within a passage of text that fit most logically with these linked contents. For example, many of the Interaction Design Foundation links are employed to direct users to interesting articles and web pages.
- 2 Conventionally, inline links are blue and underlined.** And when the user places the cursor over the hyperlinked word, the mouse arrow changes into a hand. This serves as informative feedback, letting the users know they can interact with the words.
- 3** When the user hovers the cursor over the inline link, you could have a tooltip appear in close proximity to the words, without obscuring them. When the contents of the link are not explicitly revealed by the hyperlinked words themselves, you could **use the tooltip to indicate what the users will find if they click on the inline link.** For example, when linking to journal articles, the hyperlinked word can be short and concise—using minimal space in a body of text—while the tooltip can show the full journal article title, providing users with the necessary level of detail to decide whether to follow the link or not.

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- 4 | When the user clicks on the inline link, you should either let it open on the user's current page or in a new tab or window.



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■□□ Beginner course

User interface (UI) design patterns can be a designer's best friend, allowing you to build excellent user experiences with structure and speed. When used in the wrong way, however, they can quickly lead to experiences that confuse your users... and no-one wants that! Our course [UI Design Patterns for Successful Software](#) will equip you with the knowledge required to master UI design patterns and secure them as one of the best attributes in your designer's toolkit. You'll be guided through best practices relating to content organization, navigation, data entry, and social integration—all with detailed templates that you can use in your daily work. You'll also analyze and critique popular websites to see how the best of the best utilize UI design patterns to achieve great UX design. If you found this template useful, then this course is a treasure trove of resources and guidance that will continue to enhance your knowledge of UI design.

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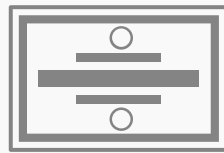
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