

## A framework for understanding ease

This chart helps to demonstrate the complexity of the definition of ease, and its evolution over time. As my research moves forward, I will seek a different form of visualization which better accounts for the variation in later qualities of ease.

“Making Writing Easy”

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November 7, 2003

<i>timeline</i>	<i>qualities of ease</i>	<i>often opposed to</i>	<i>textual evidence</i>
Historical definitions (before 1750)	comfort, enjoyment	discomfort, pain, annoyance	Bible on child discipline, virtue of women
	transparency, invisibility, passivity	apparent, visible, active	Royal Society on style
	effortlessness, leisure	intensity, work	
Decline of the classical liberal arts curriculum; early industrialization (1750-1850)	simplicity	complexity, difficulty	John Holmes, <i>The Art of Rhetoric Made Easy</i>
	pragmatics, specificity, localization	theory, abstraction, generalization	John Locke, <i>Some Thoughts Concerning Education</i>
Booms in communication, technology, and the rise of consumer culture (1850-1950)	natural	artificial, synthetic	Letters of sailors & designer of the U.S.S. <i>Monitor</i>
	femininity, intimacy*	masculinity, distance	Christine Frederick, <i>Household Engineering</i>
	flexible, customizable*	mass-produced, standardized	
Technology's growing presence mandates ease (1950-1980)	expediency, facility	deliberative, hard to learn	Appearance of journals <i>Human Factors</i> and <i>Ergonomics</i>
Desktop computing and the pictorial turn (1980-present)	pictorialism* (visual)	literacy (graphic)	<i>Apple Human Interface Guidelines</i> ; Donald Norman, <i>The Psychology of Everyday Things</i>

\* In some ways, these pairs of oppositions disrupt the pattern of the “marked” term appearing on the left.