

Week 09

Layout Tutorial

Layout of information can have a huge impact on how usable it is. Even seemingly small changes can make a large difference in how easy it is to find and group information.

In this tutorial we are going to look at poor examples of user interface designs and then try and fix them. Below are the Gestalt Principles we learned about in lecture. In this tutorial you will be applying these principles to several graphical interfaces to improve them.

- Proximity
- Similarity
- Continuity
- Closure
- Symmetry
- Figure/Ground
- Common Fate

ACTIVITY 1: RE-DESIGN NILE VALLEY MENU

The Nile Valley is a restaurant located across from Appleton Tower in Edinburgh. They have delicious food, but the design of menu (see image below) could be improved. In this activity you will be working in groups to re-design their menu to make it more user friendly.

Break into groups and discuss the following questions in relation to the existing Nile Valley menu (see image below):

1. What is the goal of the menu design?
2. How are information elements currently grouped? Does the grouping make sense? If not, how can it be improved? What elements should be grouped together, and which ones should be separated?
Information on a display often has multiple groupings sometimes in hierarchies and sometimes in overlapping groups.
3. What Gestalt Principles are being used currently? Are the principles being used in a way that makes the design easy to understand? If not, why not?

Once you feel like you understand the goals and problems of the current design, try and create a new design. Layout can be strongly influenced by the details so we will be creating these designs using a mock-up tool.

You can use Word, PowerPoint, or Figma, or just pen and paper to sketch your improved layout. Share your file to enable collaboration.

The Nile Valley

Experience of 20 years

BEST FLAFEL, AFRICAN, BARY, CHICKEN AVOCADO & CHICKEN MAYO WRAPS

Chicken Salad - Chicken Breast With Garlic & Mayo	£3.50
Chicken & Avocado	£4.00
Flafel With Humus	£4.00
Flafel With Fuul (Broad Beans)	£4.00
Full Bil Jibna With Onions & Tomato	£3.95
Humus & Salad	£3.25
Humus & Aubergine	£4.00
Humus & Mixed Peppers	£3.75
Baba Ganoush & Salad	£3.75
Baba Ganoush & Falafel	£4.00
Guacamole & Aubergine	£4.00
Tuna & Salad	£3.00
Tuna & Sweetcorn	£3.35
Spicy Tuna Salad	£3.25
Spicy Fetta Cheese	£3.50
Feeta Cheese Cheese & Salad	£3.00
Cheddar Cheese & Salad	£3.00
Extra Toppings	£0.25
Africa Wrap (flafel, Fuul, Fetta, Cheese)	£4.00
Bary Wrap (falafel, Humus, Chicken Fuul)	£4.50
Feeta Cheese Sundry Tomato	£3.95
Cartons	£0.80
Can	£0.75
Bottled Drinks	£1.00
All Coffee	£1.75



A comfortable 50 VIP seats are available
for parties and functions for students for hot meals
downstairs with option of bring your own wine
with no additional charge

**FOR BOOKINGS &
INFORMATION CALL 0131 667 8200**

**SPECIAL
LENTIL SOUP**
sit in or
takeaway

ACTIVITY 2: RE-DESIGN AN INSTALLATION SCREEN

The image below shows a screenshot of a software installation screen. As part of the installation the software is offering to also install a browser tool called “MySearch App”.

Discuss the following questions in relation to the existing installation screen (see image below):

1. What is the goal of the installation screen and the information shown?
2. What information-elements in the design need to be grouped or separated?
Information on a display often has multiple groupings sometimes in hierarchies and sometimes in overlapping groups.
3. What Gestalt Principles are being used currently? Are the principles being used in a way that makes the design easy to understand? Why or why not?

