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Grade 4

Reinforcing Cursive

Thomas M. Wasylyk
Jennifer L. Schweighofer

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The Star-Spangled Banner

Oh, say can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?

Francis Scott Key

Write the beginning of "The Star-Spangled Banner" on the lines below.

Evaluate your handwriting using the elements of legibility. Check the box if the element is correct.



CHECK-UP

☐

LETTER SPACING

☐

JOININGS

☐

LETTER SIZE

☐

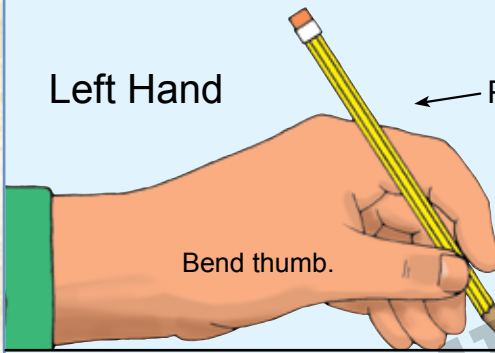
SLANT

☐

WORD SPACING

Pencil Position

Left Hand

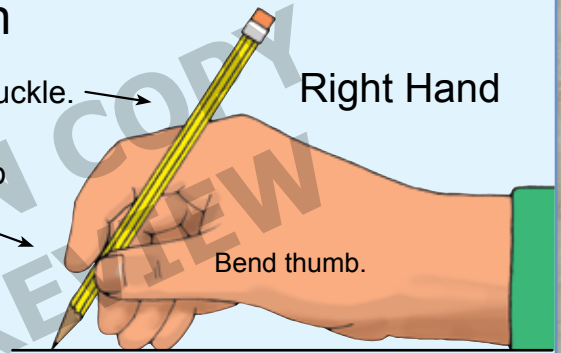


Bend thumb.

Pencil is held near large knuckle.

First finger rests on top of the pencil.

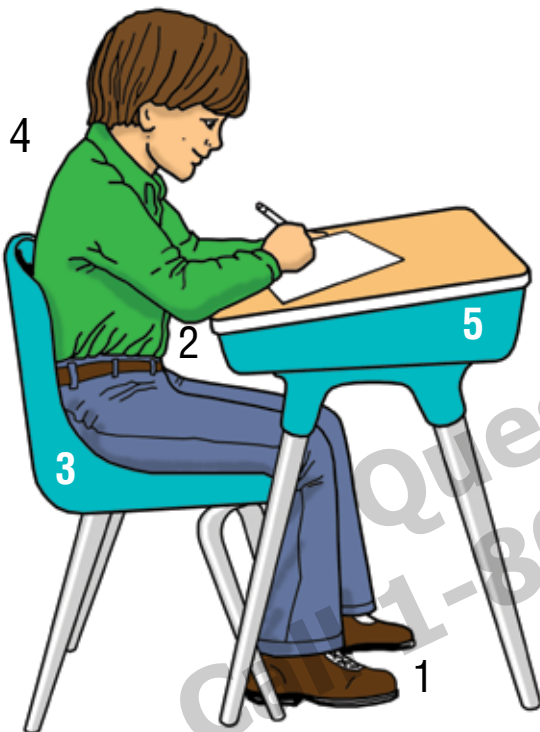
Right Hand



Bend thumb.

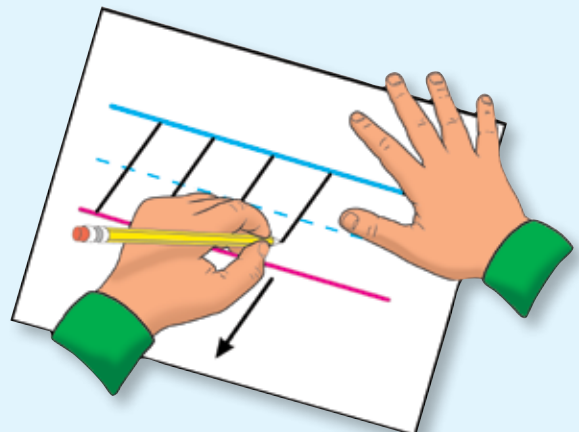
GOOD POSTURE

1. Both feet on the floor
2. Elbows off the edge of desk
3. Sit back in chair
4. Shoulders slightly forward
5. Proper desk height

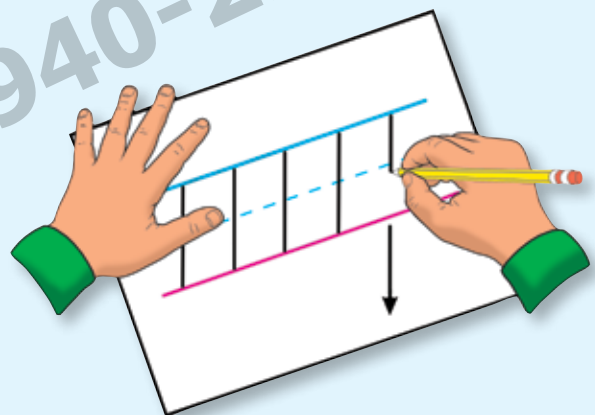


**Good Posture
Good Handwriting**

Paper Position for Cursive Writing



LEFT HAND



RIGHT HAND

Manuscript Alphabet

Write the manuscript letters.

A a B b C c D d E e

F f G g H h I i J j

K k L l M m N n O o

P p Q q R r S s T t

U u V v W w X x Y y

Z z . , ; : ' ! ? " "

Write the manuscript numerals.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10



CHECK-UP



Slant Strokes



Vertical Strokes



Circles



Left-to-Right Strokes

Cursive Alphabet

Write the cursive letters.

A a B b C c D d E e

F f G g H h I i J j

K k L l M m N n O o

P p Q q R r S s T t

U u V v W w X x Y y

Z z . , ; : ' ! ? " "

Write the cursive numerals.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10



CHECK-UP

☐ Slant Strokes

☐ Undercurves

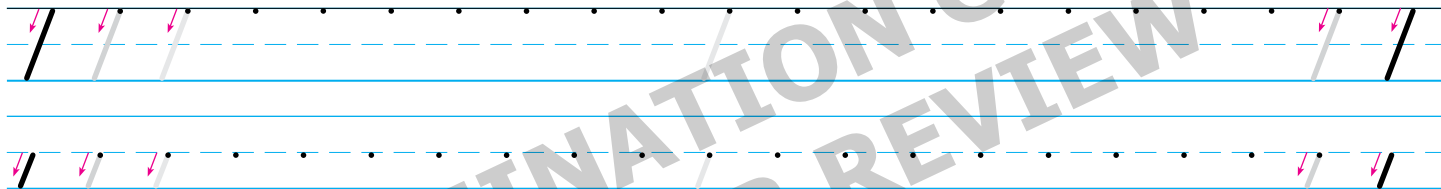
☐ Downcurves

☐ Overcurves

Cursive Basic Strokes

Slant Strokes - Many cursive letters have a slant stroke in them. Can you name some of them?

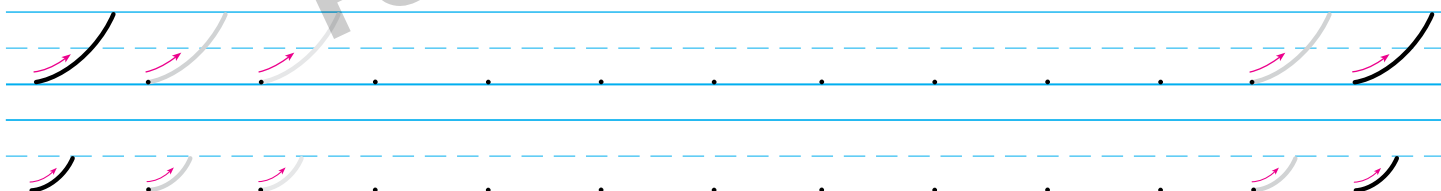
Trace and write the slant strokes.



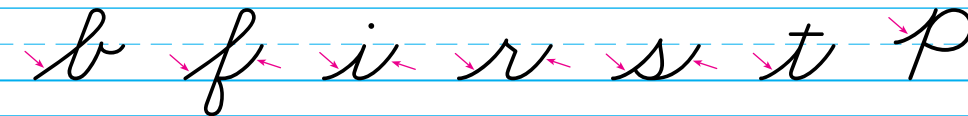
Study the slant strokes in the letters to the right.



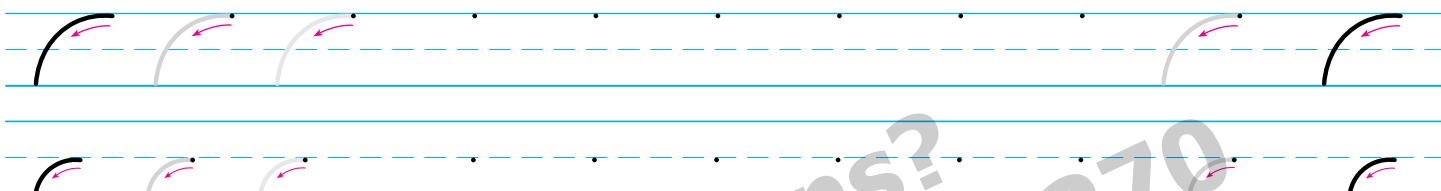
Undercurve - The undercurve is used to begin fourteen lowercase cursive letters. Can you name them? Trace and write the undercurves.



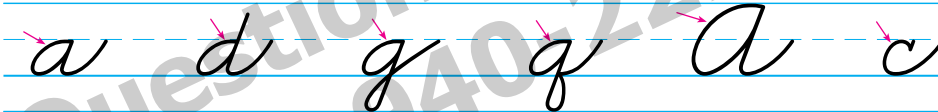
Study the undercurves in the letters to the right.



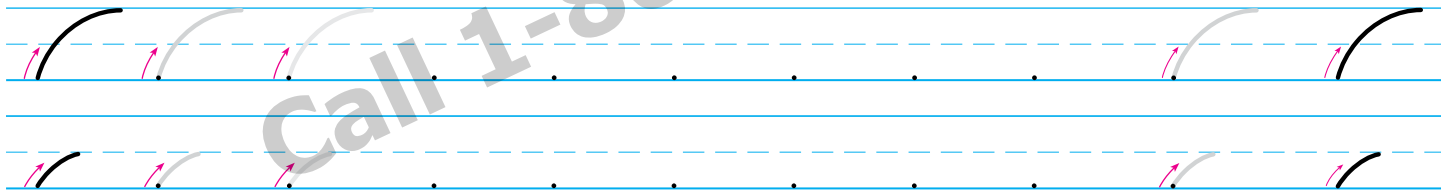
Downcurve - The downcurve is used in six lowercase cursive letters. Can you name them? Trace and write the downcurves.



Study the downcurves in the letters to the right.



Overcurve - The overcurve is used to begin six lowercase letters. Can you name them? Trace and write the overcurves.



Study the overcurves in the letters to the right.



CHECK-UP

☐

Slant Strokes

☐

Undercurves

☐

Downcurves

☐

Overcurves

Trace and write the **undercurve-to-undercurve** joining exercise.



Trace and write the **undercurve-to-undercurve** joining exercise.



Trace and write the **undercurve-to-downcurve** joining exercise.



Trace and write the **undercurve-to-overcurve** joining exercise.



Matching - Draw a line from each stroke to the correct name.



• OVERCURVE

• SLANT

• UNDERCURVE

• DOWNCURVE

Match the **beginning** strokes to the correct letter.



Match the **ending** strokes to the correct letter.



Line Quality

Line quality refers to the smoothness, evenness, color, and thickness of the pencil line.

Be sure to apply the correct amount of pressure to your pencil. Too much pressure may make your writing too dark. Not enough pressure may make your writing too light. Gripping the pencil too tightly causes a wavering line. Study the examples below.

CORRECT

blue

TOO HEAVY

blue

TOO LIGHT

blue

WAVERING

blue

Letter Forms

All letter forms are made up from the basic strokes. If you make your basic strokes correctly, your writing will be legible.

The beginning stroke of a letter must be formed correctly or the entire letter may be illegible. The lowercase cursive letters begin with an undercurve, downcurve, or overcurve. Study the beginning strokes below.

Always make the **undercurves** wide.

b e f h i l t

Do not undercurve up too quickly.

b l f h

Write the undercurve letters **i, t, u, w, e, l, h, b, k, f, r, s, j,** and **p**. Check your undercurves.

Make the **downcurves** wide in the letters **a, d, g,** and **q**. The letters **o** and **c** have sharp downcurves.

A a d g q o c

Do not downcurve too quickly in the letters **a, d, g,** and **q**.

u d g q

Write the downcurve letters **a, d, g, q, A, o,** and **c**. Be sure your downcurves are correct.

Make your **overcurves** wide.

M m n v y

Do not overcurve up too quickly.

m n y

Write the overcurve letters **m, n, v, x, y,** and **z**. Be sure your overcurves are correct.



CHECK-UP

☐ Line Quality

☐ Undercurves

☐ Downcurves

☐ Overcurves

☐ Letter Forms

Size and Alignment refer to the evenness of the letters along the bottom line and along their tops, with all letters of the same size even in height.

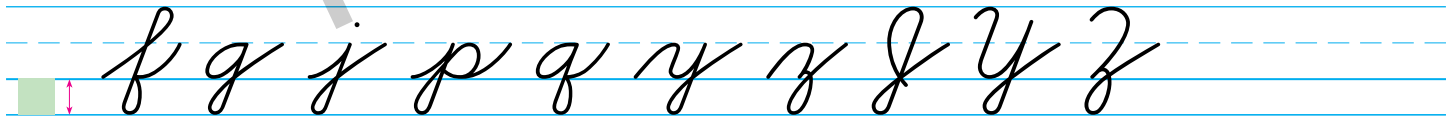
Maximum-size letters fill the entire space from bottom line to top line. All uppercase letters and the lowercase letters **b, f, h, k,** and **l** are maximum-size letters.



Minimum-size letters fill the space between the midline and the bottom line. The lowercase letters **a, c, e, g, i, j, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, u, v, w, x, y,** and **z** are minimum-size letters.



Descender letters fill the space below the bottom line.



Intermediate letters **d** and **t** extend to halfway between the midline and top line.



Write the sentences.

Correct size and alignment of letters are important elements for legible handwriting.
Good letter formation also helps make your writing easy to read.

Handwriting practice lines for writing sentences.



CHECK-UP

☐ LETTER SIZE

☐ JOININGS

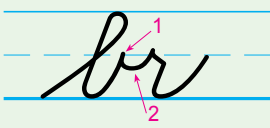
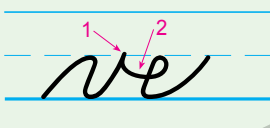
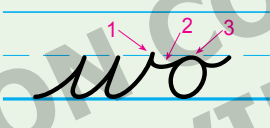
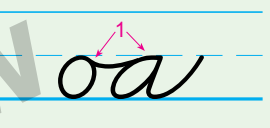
☐ ALIGNMENT

☐ SLANT

☐ WORD SPACING

Checkstroke Joining Letters

Checkstroke Letters - The lowercase letters **b**, **v**, **o**, and **w** each end with a checkstroke. Checkstroke joinings always swing right into the next letter. Study the joinings below.

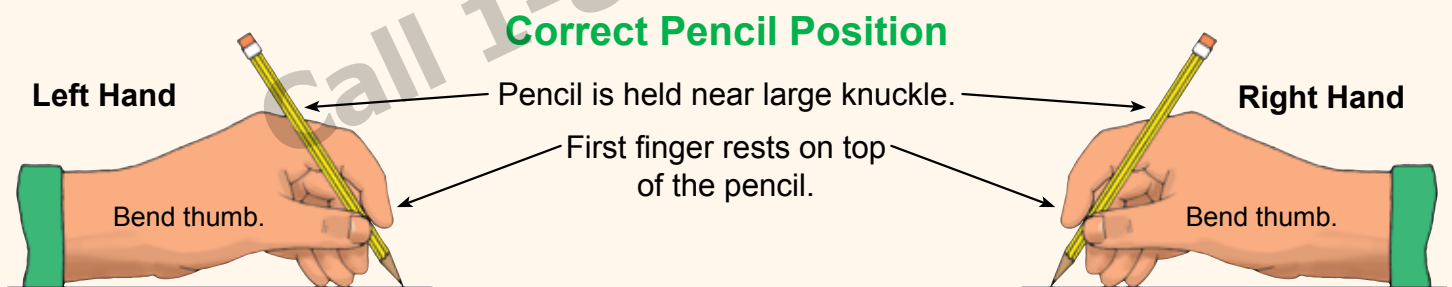
			
1. Pause, then retrace slightly. 2. Swing right, forming the top of the letter r .	1. Pause, then retrace slightly. 2. Swing low and right, forming the loop of the letter e .	1. Pause, then retrace slightly. 2-3. Swing right, forming the top of the letter o .	1. Pause, swing right wide, forming the top of the letter a .

Trace the joinings. Write each joining two times. Write the words.

br	brave
ve	velvet
wo	work
oa	boats
va	value
bo	boots

Write the sentence. Check your checkstroke joinings.

Football and hockey are very physical sports.



Letter Spacing

Letter spacing should be consistent. If letter spacing is too tight or too open your writing will be difficult to read. Study the example below. It shows correct letter spacing.

This is good letter spacing.

CORRECT

letter

TOO TIGHT

letter

TOO OPEN

letter

SPACING VARIES

letter

Word Spacing

Correct word spacing makes your writing easy to read. Keep your word spacing consistent. Allow enough space between words for a small oval. Study the example below.

This is good word spacing.

Write the sentence: **The new truck is blue.** Check your word spacing.

Spacing Between Sentences

Allow enough space between sentences for one large oval. Study the example below.

The car is red. I like it!

Write the sentences: **I like pizza. Do you?** Check your spacing between sentences.

New Paragraph Indent

When you indent for a new paragraph, allow enough space for two large ovals. Study the example below.

This shows the correct indent for a paragraph.