

Writing Our Catholic Faith

Revised Edition

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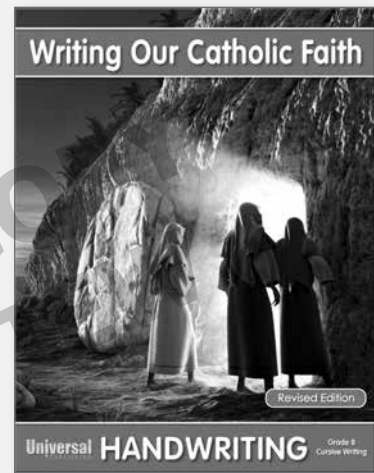


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O my God, I firmly believe that you are one God in three divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe that your divine Son became man and died for our sins and that he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which the Holy Catholic Church teaches because you have revealed them who are eternal truth and wisdom, who can neither deceive nor be deceived. In this faith I intend to live and die. Amen.

FOR

Questions?
Call 1-800-940-2270

Manuscript Alphabet

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

. , ; : ' ? ! " " | 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Cursive Alphabet

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 . , ; : ' ? ! " " | 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Line Quality

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

CORRECT

blink

- Consistent pressure on the pencil
- Good #2 pencil lead

TOO HEAVY

blink

- Too much pressure on the pencil
- Pencil lead too soft

TOO LIGHT

blink

- Not enough pressure on the pencil
- Pencil lead too hard

VARYING

blink

- Varying pressure on the pencil
- Pencil lead too soft

Size and Alignment

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 letters fill almost the entire space.

A B C b f h k l

Maximum Size Letters

Minimum letters fill approximately one-half of the writing space.

a c e i m r s x

Minimum Size Letters

Descenders fill approximately one-half the space below the bottom line.

f g j p q y z

Descender Letters

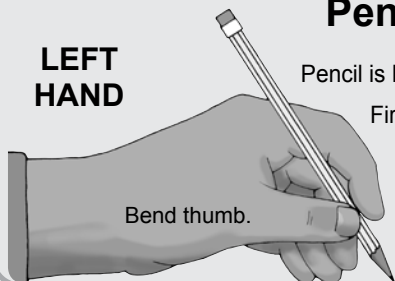
Intermediate letters **d** and **t** fill approximately two-thirds of the writing space.

d t

Intermediate Size Letters

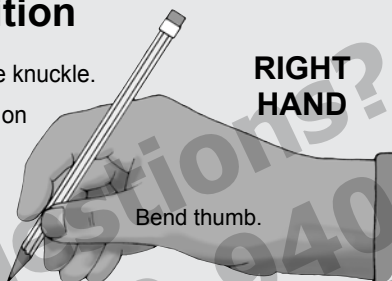
Pencil Position

LEFT HAND



Pencil is held near large knuckle.
First finger rests on top of pencil.

RIGHT HAND



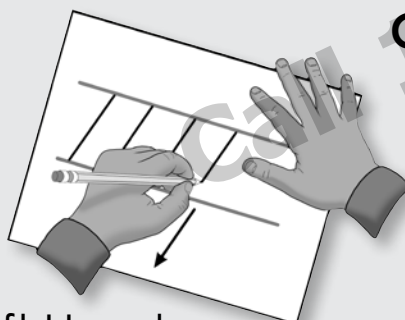
Bend thumb.

Good Posture

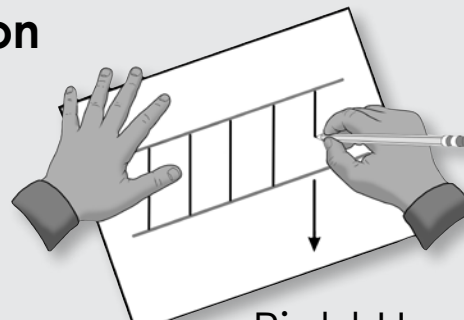
1. Both feet on the floor
2. Elbows off edge of desk
3. Sit back in chair
4. Shoulders slightly forward
5. Desk proper height

Cursive Paper Position

The position of your paper or book is important for maintaining consistent slant in your writing. It also helps with the overall legibility of your handwriting.



Left Hand



Right Hand

Spacing

Correct spacing between letters, words, and sentences makes your writing easy to read. Study the spacing examples below.

Letter Spacing This example shows good spacing between letters.

This shows good letter spacing.

Write the sentence. Check your spacing between letters.

Ann was named captain of the team.

Word Spacing Allow enough space between words to fit a small oval.
The example below shows good spacing between words.

This shows good word spacing.

Write the sentence. Check your spacing between words.

I will exercise every day of the week.

Sentence Spacing Allow enough space between sentences to fit a large oval.
This example shows good spacing between sentences.

Ron is a carpenter. Pam is a news reporter. Roberto is going to be a doctor. What do you want to be?

Write the sentences. Check your spacing between sentences.

I like to sing. Do you like to sing?

New Paragraph Indent When you indent for a new paragraph, allow enough space for two uppercase ovals. Study the example below.

This shows correct indentation for a new paragraph.

Letter Forms

Cursive letters can be grouped in families based on stroke similarities. Study the groupings below.

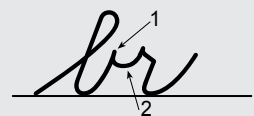
Upper-Loop Letters Be sure to keep the upper-loop open in these letters. The undercurve leading into the upper loop of the letters must be made wide to allow room for the curve back and slant.

b f h k l bluebird hollow

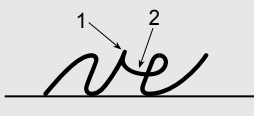
Write the sentences. Check your upper-loop letters.

**Volleyball, baseball, and basketball are Olympic sports.
The United States has always done well in all three of these sports.**

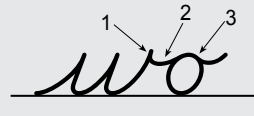
Checkstroke Letters The lowercase letters **b**, **v**, **o**, and **w** are checkstroke-ending letters. Special attention is needed when joining these letters to another letter. Study the examples below.



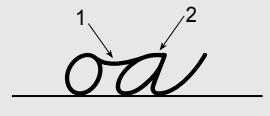
1. Pause, then retrace slightly.
2. Swing right, forming the top of the letter r.



1. Pause, then retrace.
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.
2. Swing right, forming the top of the letter a.

Write each joining two times. Write the words.

br

brave

bribe

ve

velvet

gave

wo

work

wolf

oa

goal

oath

be

bell

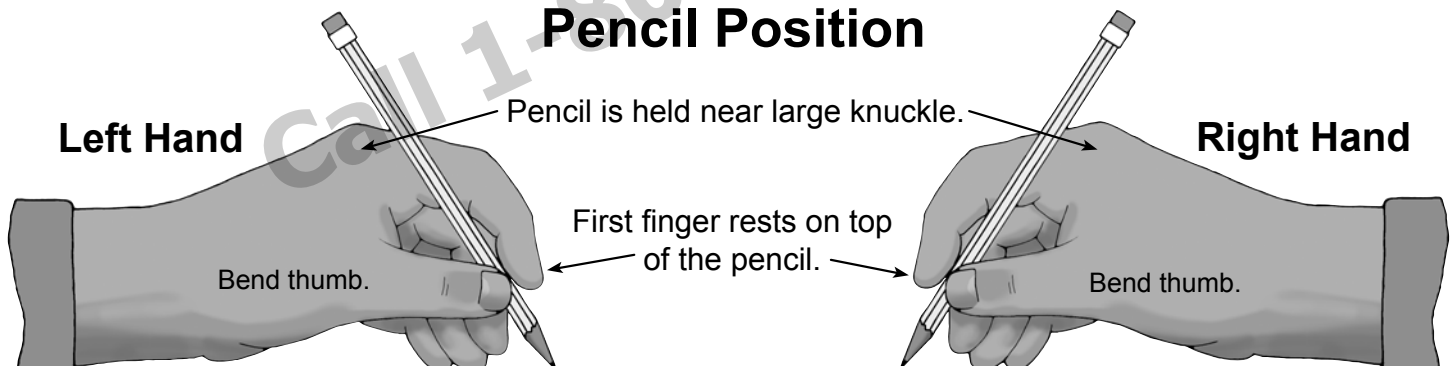
beet

oo

brook

pool

Pencil Position



Basic Strokes

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

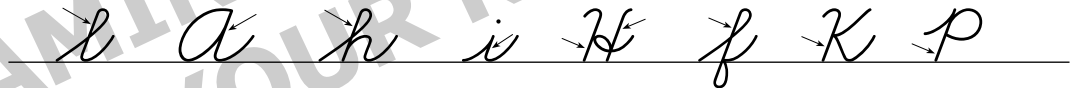
Study the basic strokes below. As you write them, think of letters that contain each stroke.

Slant Strokes

Practice writing the slant strokes. Be sure your book is in the correct position for cursive writing.



Study the slant strokes in the letters to the right.

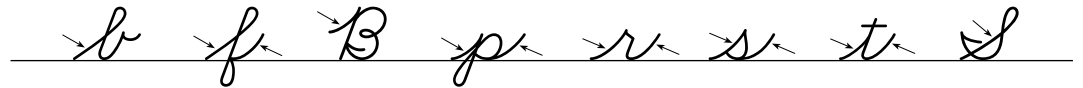


Undercurves

Write the tall and short undercurves. Make the undercurves wide. Do not curve up too quickly.



Study the undercurves in the letters to the right.



Downcurves

Write the tall and short downcurves. Make the downcurves wide. Do not curve down too quickly.



Study the downcurves in the letters to the right.



Overcurves

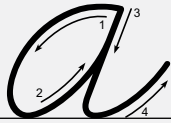
Write the tall and short overcurves. Make the overcurves wide. Do not curve up too quickly.



Study the overcurves in the letters to the right.



Write the sentence: **The new church was built quickly.** Check all your basic strokes.



1. Downcurve
2. Undercurve
3. Slant
4. Undercurve

Trace and write the letter.

a a

a a

a

a

a

a

a

a



1. Downcurve
2. Undercurve
3. Slant
4. Undercurve

Trace and write the letter.

a

a

a

a

a

a

a

a

Write the joinings and words.

As

Assumption

Ac

Acts of the Apostles

ab

absolution

an

sanctifying grace

Write the sentences. Check your writing.

God created us out of love and in

his image. All real love comes from

God. In order to love others and for

others to love us, we must first learn

to love ourselves.



CHECK-UP

☐ LETTER SPACING

☐ JOININGS

☐ LETTER SIZE

☐ SLANT

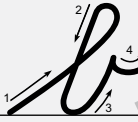
☐ WORD SPACING



1. Undercurve
2. Slant
3. Retrace, curve forward and back
4. Curve forward and back
5. Swing right

Trace and write the letter.

B	B	B
B	B	B
B		B
B		B



1. Undercurve, curve back
2. Slant
3. Sharp undercurve
4. Retrace, swing right

Trace and write the letter.

b	b	b
b	b	b
b		b
b		b

Write the joinings and words.

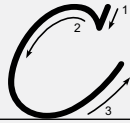
Bethlehem	Beatitudes	Brent	Baptism
bl	blessed	by	goodbye
ba	husband		

Write the sentences. Check your writing.

When God created us, he intended for us to have relationships with other people and with him. These relationships help us to better understand ourselves, each other, and God.

So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.
 God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.
 (1 John 4:16)

CHECK-UP ☐ LETTER SPACING ☐ JOININGS ☐ ALIGNMENT ☐ SLANT ☐ WORD SPACING



1. Short slant
2. Curve back, downcurve
3. Undercurve

Trace and write the letter.

C C

C C

C

C

C

C

C

C



1. Short slant
2. Curve back, sharp downcurve
3. Undercurve

Trace and write the letter.

c c

c c

c

c

c

c

c

c

Write the joinings and words.

Co

Communion of Saints

Ch

Church

ce

celibacy

ca

catacombs

cr

crusade

Write the sentences. Check your writing.

The Church is God's family, and we are all God's children. As such, we should always love our neighbor and work to keep peace in the world.

Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.
(John 13:35)



CHECK-UP

☐ LETTER SPACING

☐ JOININGS

☐ LETTER SIZE

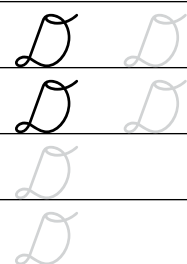
☐ SLANT

☐ WORD SPACING



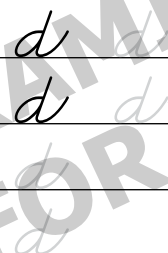
1. Slant
2. Loop
3. Curve up
4. Loop

Trace and write the letter.



1. Downcurve
2. Undercurve
3. Slant
4. Undercurve

Trace and write the letter.



Write the joinings and words.

Diocese		Dominican Order		Decalogue	
di	diaconate	do	dogma	dy	odyssey

Write the sentences. Check your writing.

There are many different kinds of love. For example, the love between a parent and child is different than the love between friends or between a husband and wife.