

Learn Cursive Letters

Learn how simple shapes and strokes combine to form cursive letters, then turn the page to practice writing in cursive!

by michaela yee

can you make these shapes?



entrance

start and connect letters with this curved line



underturn

base for letters u and y, tail of a



overturn

important for letters m and n



compound curve

this one is tricky! practice it for h, v and x



oval

base for g, p, d plus many more



ascending loop

the top of f, h and k



descending loop

need this for j and g



dot

dot the tops of i and j



mini hook

connect from round letters like o and b

you can combine shapes to form cursive letters and words!

+ l + v = h + v + . = i h + i = hi!



Tip: A brush pen was used to create this guide, but a regular pen, pencil or marker are all good tools to start with. Give your cursive a handlettered style by adding more pressure on the downstrokes (all lines written with a downward motion) or re-trace and thicken the downstrokes for a faux calligraphy look.

letters categorized by shape

round based

mountains + valleys

a c d e g o p i m n u v w x

tall

oddities

bottom heavy

b d h k l t r s f g j p q y z

(Some letters fall into more than one category.)

tips for improving your letters

critique

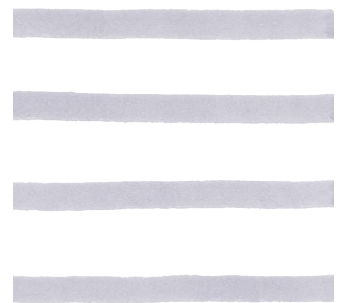
Write the same letter multiple times. Do they look similar?
Are your shapes consistent? Try to keep your letters all about the same size.
Check the width and height. Are they proportionate?



TOO WIDE!

TOO SKINNY!

JUST RIGHT!



repetition

Write to a friend. Send notes back and forth.
By writing often your hand will develop muscle memory.
Write every day. Make lists, take notes.



practice

Try writing your first initial in cursive.
Build the letter with the shapes!

involve

don't forget the basics

Note the order of the strokes in the first letter, then trace the second letter.

