

MODERN CALLIGRAPHY

Letters
to
Words

PRACTICE SHEETS



hello!

practice: {verb} - to perform or work at repeatedly so as to become proficient

'don't practice until you get it right, practice until you can't get it wrong'

Once you have mastered your letterforms it is time to move onto words. This is where I find people need the most the most guidance. There can be a tendency to forget to form the letters correctly and to revert to how you normally write!

This workbook will set you on the correct path. Firstly, take some time to get familiar with my five connection rules. Practice as many two letter combinations as you can so when you move on to longer words you will be confident on how to connect each letter.

My biggest tip is to remember to lift your pen off the page. Calligraphy is not handwriting! Imagine you are drawing shapes rather than writing and most importantly remember you don't write a word all in one go, you will stop and start!

You can print the workbook as many times as you like and a blank guideline sheet is included for further practice. Please note the workbook is only intended for your own personal use.

Wishing you well on your calligraphy journey!

Judy

What will you need?

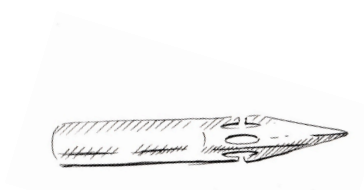
To achieve the best results it is important to use the correct tools. Here are my recommendations to get you started. You can purchase these and a whole lot more from my e-commerce site. Please visit the shop page on my website or find me on Etsy.



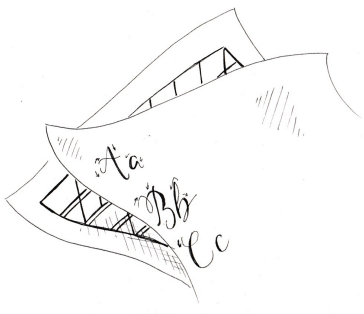
Use a quality black calligraphy ink. I recommend Higgins Eternal black ink for the beginner. The advantage of using this ink is that it is the right consistency to use straight from the bottle. It also dries quickly and produces a strong black colour. It is a permanent ink so do be careful!



You can use an oblique or a straight penholder of your choice. I personally prefer an oblique penholder but try both and see what works best for you. If you are left handed or favour a more upright style you may prefer the straight variety.



I would recommend using a Nikko G nib to begin with. This stainless steel nib, hand-cut in Japan is long lasting and has medium flex. This makes it easier to control than a more flexible nib. Ensure you 'prep' a new nib so the ink flows freely. You can do this by washing it in mild detergent, sticking it in a potato, running it through a naked flame or wiping it with toothpaste.



Print the practice sheets onto a premium printer paper such as Conqueror Wove 100gsm, HP premium 100gsm or Clairefontaine Clairalfa. The cheap copier paper will not give the best results often leading the ink to feather and bleed. Rhodia pads are wonderfully smooth and brilliant for further practice.

Your guide to connecting letters

In this workbook we will cover the connection rules that will help you when moving on from letters to words. Make sure you complete all the tasks in the workbook to gain the confidence to produce beautiful calligraphy.

*So you want
to connect
your letters
beautifully?*

My connection rules...

*They sound
a bit like
dance
moves!*

TopTip!

MAKE
SURE
YOU
KNOW
YOUR
LETTER
FORMS

- 01 Stop, move, go!
- 02 Move to the right!
- 03 Keep on moving!
- 04 Semi circle dip!
- 05 Up and over!

read, write, repeat.

The lift!

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE LIFT! REMEMBER YOU CAN LIFT YOUR PEN OFF THE PAGE AFTER COMPLETING INDIVIDUAL STROKES AND LETTERS.

01 Stop, lift, go!

Rule No.

This rule applies to the majority of letter connections and is all about the lift! Just getting into the habit of lifting your pen is a game changer when it comes to moving from writing letters to words and sentences.

The Rule Explained



Example one

h + e



he



he Stop and lift

Now, go again

Example two

j + i



ji



ji Stop and lift
Now, go again

01 Stop, lift, go! – Let's Practice!

Rule No. |

A
W
B
D
h + e he he he

A
W
B
D
j + i ji ji ji

A
W
B
D
a + b ab ab ab

A
W
B
D
c + h ch ch ch

A
W
B
D
e + t et et et

A
W
B
D
l + e le le le

A
W
B
D
p + h ph ph ph

02 Move to the right!

Rule No.

This rule applies when your second letter starts with an oval shape, so when your second letter is an a, c, d, g, o, or q. It is important for spacing to start these letters in the right place.

The Rule Explained

Complete your first letter



Stop and lift your pen



Move to the right



Begin your second letter at the correct spot



As you complete this oval shape you will connect to the exit stroke of your last letter

Example one

a + c



ac



Stop and lift

Move to the right

ac

Begin second letter

Example two

t + a



ta



Stop and lift

Move to the right

ta

Begin second letter

02 Move to the right! – Let's Practice!

Rule No. |

A
W
B t + a ta ta ta
D

A
W
B a + c ac ac ac
D

A
W
B h + o ho ho ho
D

A
W
B g + o go go go
D

A
W
B c + c cc cc cc
D

A
W
B i + c ic ic ic
D

A
W
B t + o to to to
D

03 Keep on moving!

Rule No.

This rule applies when your second letter is a lowercase r. In this instance for a smooth and seamless connection, you don't need to stop and lift your pen after completing the first letter. Just keep on moving and go straight into the loop of the lowercase r.

The Rule Explained

Complete your first letter



Don't stop at the waist line or lift your pen



Keep on moving
Straight into the loop of the lowercase r



Complete the lowercase r

Example one

i + r



ir



Don't stop
keep on moving

Example two

r + r



rr



Don't stop
keep on moving

03 Keep on moving! – Let's Practice!

Rule No. _____

A
W
B
D
i + r *ir* *ir* *ir*

A
W
B
D
b + r *br* *br* *br*

A
W
B
D
r + r *rr* *rr* *rr*

A
W
B
D
t + r *tr* *tr* *tr*

A
W
B
D
d + r *dr* *dr* *dr*

A
W
B
D
c + r *cr* *cr* *cr*

A
W
B
D
p + r *pr* *pr* *pr*

04 Semi-circle dip!

Rule No.

This rule applies when your first letter is an o, v, or w. In order to make a neat connection to the next letter and to create space between your first and second letter, make a small curve dipping down under the waist line. This takes the shape of a little semi-circle, hence the name semi-circle dip!

The Rule Explained

Complete your first letter



As you finish the letter, dip down under the waistline with a small semi circle and then up again to the waistline, this is your



Semi-circle Dip



You are now in the correct spot to start forming the next letter



Lift your pen.

Example one

h + e



Semicircle dip

Lift, before starting second letter

Example two

j + i



Semicircle dip

Lift, before starting second letter

04 Semi-circle dip! – Let's Practice!

Rule No. _____

A
W
B
D
o + e oe oe oe

A
W
B
D
v + e ve ve ve

A
W
B
D
w + h wh wh wh

A
W
B
D
o + o oo oo oo

A
W
B
D
w + e we we we

A
W
B
D
o + g og og og

A
W
B
D
v + i vi vi vi

05 Up and over!

Rule No.

This connection is applied when connecting to letters such as, m, n, u, y. By going up and over you will create the correct space between your letters.

The Rule Explained

Complete your first letter



Don't stop or lift your pen at the waistline



Continue up and over straight into the subsequent letter.



Lift your pen before starting the next letter

Example one

a + y



ay



Up and over
ay

Example two

i + n



in



Up and over
in

05 Up and over! – Let's Practice!

Rule No. _____

W B D
a + y ay ay ay

W B D
i + n in in in

W B D
n + y ny ny ny

W B D
n + n nn nn nn

W B D
u + m um um um

W B D
i + m im im im

W B D
a + n an an an

DL Double letters

Double letters can sometimes be a bit tricky. There really aren't any hard and fast rules here and I would suggest practicing different options. We have to decide whether to make them the same as or to make them different. Try these combinations and also some of your own.



How to tackle longer words

Before you attempt to write the whole word, look at each pair of connections and identify which connection rule applies to each pair of letters. Then write each pair before tackling the whole word.

star

s + t which connection rule?

stop, lift, go

now write it

st

t + a which connection rule?

move to the right

now write it

ta

a + r which connection rule?

keep on moving

now write it

ar

put it all together



star

pram

p + r which connection rule?

stop, lift, go

now write it

pr

r + a which connection rule?

move to the right

now write it

ra

a + m which connection rule?

keep on moving

now write it

am

put it all together



pram

01 Tackling longer words

Task No.

Now have a go yourself. Remember before you attempt to write the whole word, look at each pair of connections and identify which connection rule applies to each pair of letters. Then write each pair before then tackling the whole word.

magic

m + a which connection rule? _____ now write it _____

a + g which connection rule? _____ now write it _____

g + i which connection rule? _____ now write it _____

i + c which connection rule? _____ now write it _____


put it all together    

love

l + o which connection rule? _____ now write it _____

o + v which connection rule? _____ now write it _____

v + e which connection rule? _____ now write it _____

put it all together    

02 Tackling longer words

Task No.

Now have a go yourself. Remember before you attempt to write the whole word, look at each pair of connections and identify which connection rule applies to each pair of letters. Then write each pair before then tackling the whole word.

amour

a + m which connection rule? _____ now write it _____

m + o which connection rule? _____ now write it _____

o + u which connection rule? _____ now write it _____

u + r which connection rule? _____ now write it _____

put it all together →



inky

i + n which connection rule? _____ now write it _____

n + k which connection rule? _____ now write it _____

k + y which connection rule? _____ now write it _____

put it all together →



03 Let's practice some more words

Task No.

Now it just comes down to good old practice. After a while you won't really have to think of the rules you will just know how to connect one letter to another. Do remember not to revert to handwriting and attempt to write the words in one go! As I mentioned at the beginning of the workbook, lifting your pen is super important for lovely results!

A
W
B
D
rainbow rainbow

A
W
B
D
sunshine sunshine

A
W
B
D
today today

A
W
B
D
tomorrow tomorrow

A
W
B
D
sparkling sparkling

A
W
B
D
awesome awesome

A
W
B
D
fantastic fantastic

04 Let's practice some more words

Task No.

Now it just comes down to good old practice. After a while you won't really have to think of the rules you will just know how to connect one letter to another. Do remember not to revert to handwriting and attempt to write the words in one go! As I mentioned at the beginning of the workbook, lifting your pen is super important for lovely results!

A
W
B
D
birthday birthday

A
W
B
D
bravo bravo

A
W
B
D
cheers cheers

A
W
B
D
happy happy

A
W
B
D
hello hello

A
W
B
D
hooray hooray

A
W
B
D
thanks thanks

05 Let's practice some more words

Task No.

Now it just comes down to good old practice. After a while you won't really have to think of the rules you will just know how to connect one letter to another. Do remember not to revert to handwriting and attempt to write the words in one go! As I mentioned at the beginning of the workbook, lifting your pen is super important for lovely results!

A
W
B
D
menu menu

A
W
B
D
welcome welcome

A
W
B
D
shine shine

A
W
B
D
celebrate celebrate

A
W
B
D
unicorn unicorn

A
W
B
D
fairy fairy

A
W
B
D
magic magic

A note about consistency

When it comes to improving your lettering it is important to critique your work and try and analyse what is working and what isn't. It really all comes down to consistency. We are aiming for consistency in a few different areas.

Letterforms

We are aiming for consistency in our letterforms. If you spend time practicing all of your letterforms you will build muscle memory. My alphabet workbooks can help with this and will ensure you know your letters inside and out.

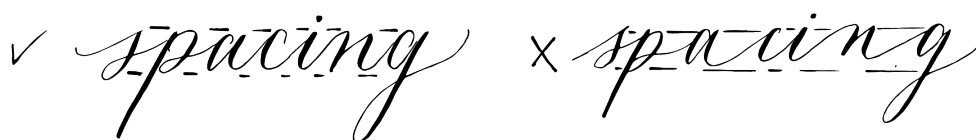
Angles

We are aiming for consistency in our angles. All our down-strokes should be parallel to each other. Ideally our down strokes should be following the 55 degree slant line. However, if you have adopted a more upright style just ensure all your down strokes are following the same angle.



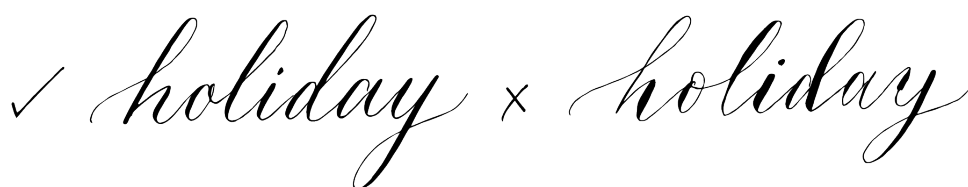
Spacing

Our spacing between our letters should be consistent too. We don't want some really close together and some far apart.



Pressure

We are aiming for consistent and even pressure on our down-strokes. All our down strokes are the same kind of thickness. Try not to make your down strokes too heavy!



Sentences

Hopefully you are now feeling more confident with your connections. Next you can move on to sentences. Either choose a passage from a favourite book, some lyrics from a favourite song or try some pangrams. Pangrams are sentences that use every letter from the alphabet. Here are some pangrams for you to try.

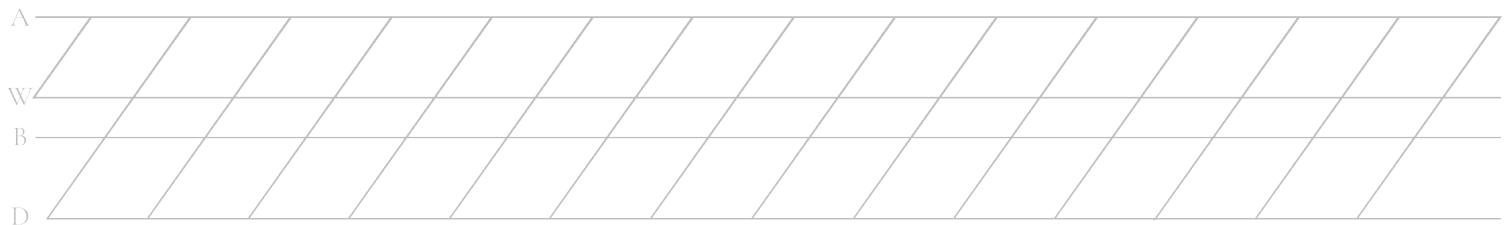
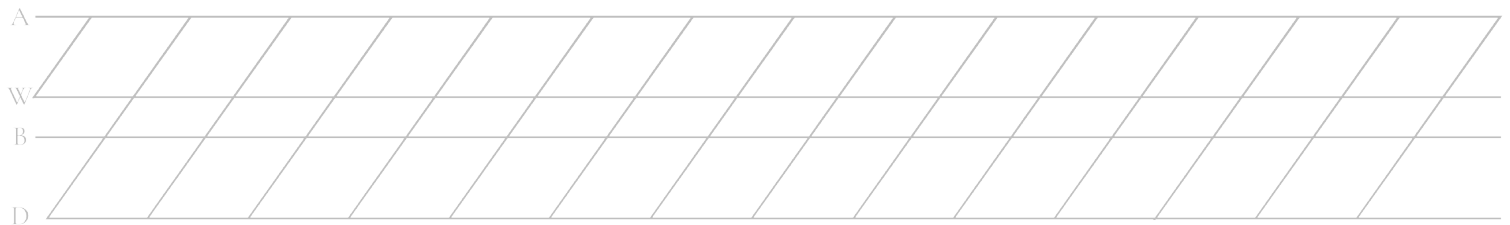
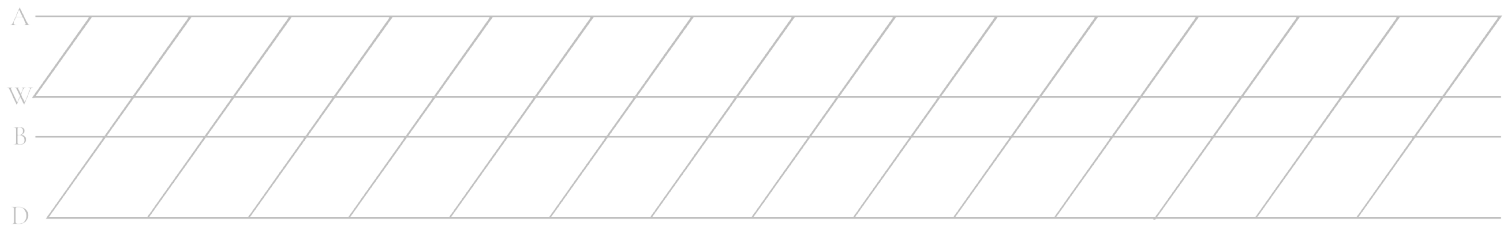
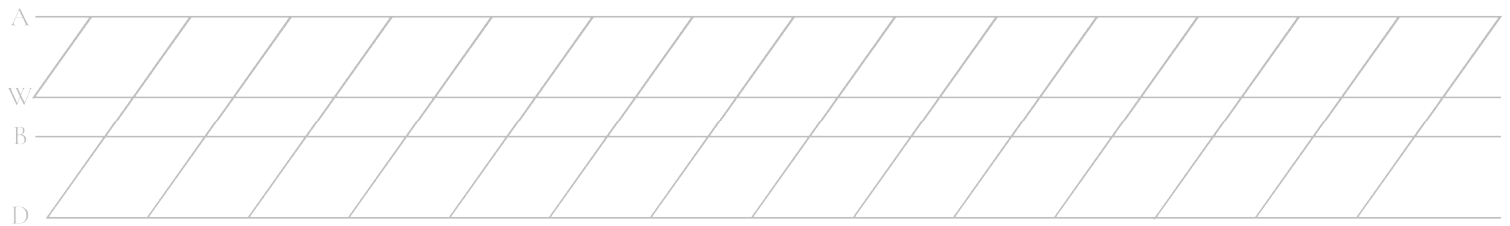
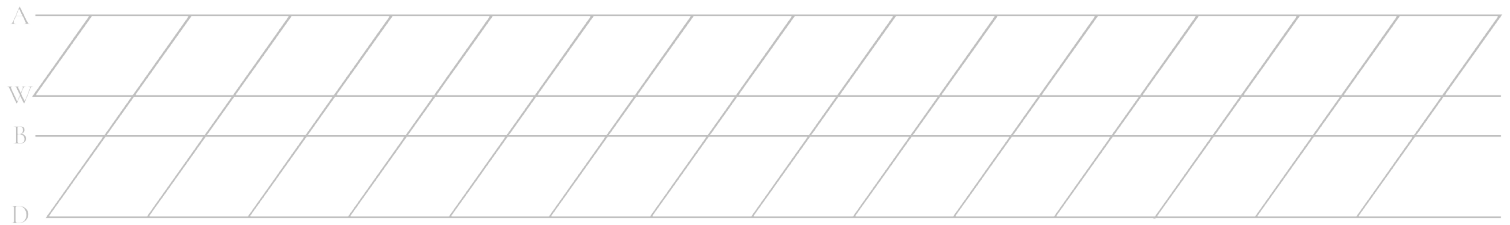
1. The five boxing wizards jump quickly.
2. Crazy Frederick bought many very exquisite opal jewels.
3. The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.
4. Jinxed wizards pluck ivy from the big quilt.
5. A mad boxer shot a quick gloved jab to the jaw of his dizzy opponent.
6. Jaded zombies acted quaintly but kept driving their oxen forward
7. We promptly judged antique ivory buckles for the next prize.
8. My girl wove six dozen plaid jackets before she quit.
9. Intoxicated Queen Elizabeth vows Mick Jagger is perfection.
10. A quick movement of the enemy will jeopardize six gunboats.

06 Sentences

Task No.

Use these blank grid sheets to practice some sentences. Pay careful attention to your connections and letterforms








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