

MODERN CALLIGRAPHY

Uppercase  
Alphabet

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'.

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The one question I am asked the most often is, how do I improve my calligraphy? As with any new skill the key to improving your calligraphy is to practice and then practice some more!

To be able to write beautifully you are first going to have to perfect your letterforms. These practice sheets are designed with this in mind. As you practice you are building muscle memory until after a while you will be able to make beautiful letters without really thinking about it at all.

There is a worksheet for each letter of the uppercase alphabet with two different variations of that letter. At the top of each page the letter is shown with directional arrows and stroke order together with some written instructions to guide you. Study each letter before tracing the grey letterforms and then have a go yourself. Remember to lift your nib off your page as you finish one stroke and before starting the next.

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

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.

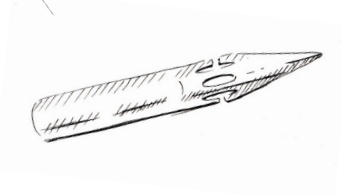
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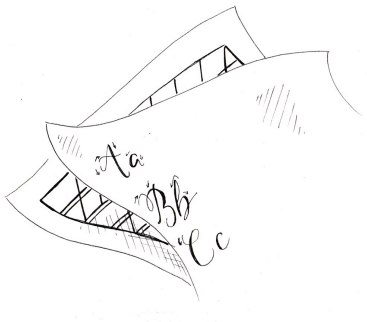
Use a quality black calligraphy ink. I recommend Higgins Eternal black ink. The advantage of using this ink is that it is the right consistency to use straight from the bottle. It also dries quickly and produces a strong black colour. It is a permanent ink so do be careful!



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 recommend using a Nikko G nib. This stainless steel nib, made 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.

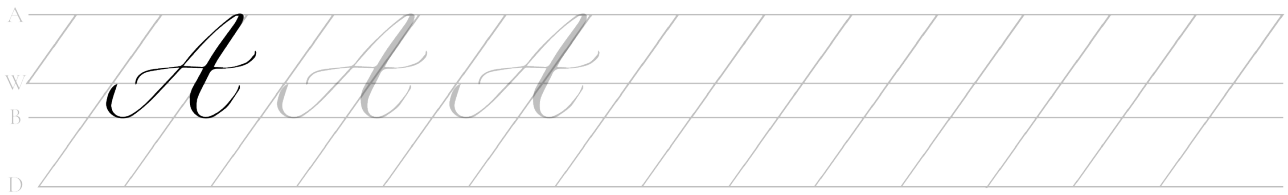
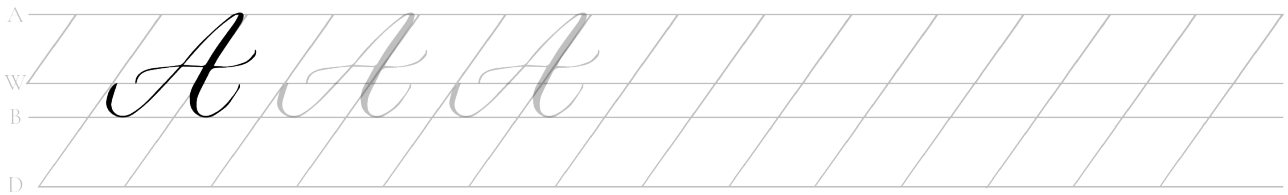
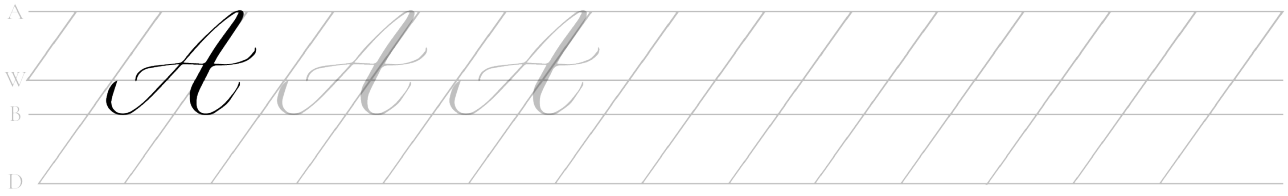
# letter A



Start the uppercase A with some pressure and transcend into a hairline stroke. This hairline stroke can be a little more slanted than your slant line. Just before the ascender line curve to the right before coming down with pressure. The top to the A should be slightly rounded, not too wide or too sharp. The second variation is based on the lowercase a.



## Variation One



## Variation Two



## Extra Practice!

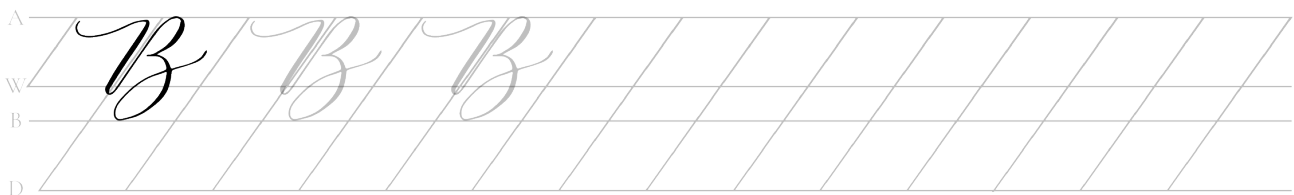


letter B



The uppercase B is a tricky stroke to master. It starts with a lead-in stroke, followed by a pressured stroke to the baseline. Come up in a hairline stroke and form the two bowls of the B. The top bowl can be smaller than the bottom bowl. Keep in mind an oval shape. The second variation starts with the capital stem and then you add the second part of the stroke starting with a loop.

Variation One



Variation Two



Extra Practice!



# letter C



The uppercase C is based on the oval shape and made in one stroke. Start at the ascender line and make a lead-in stroke curving up towards the ascender line. At the top start to add pressure in a curve, release the pressure before you hit the baseline and come up with a hairline and then just dip down again. The second variation adds a flourish at the end.



## Variation One



## Variation Two



## Extra Practice!



# letter D



Like the uppercase B, the uppercase D is a tricky stroke. It starts with a lead-in stroke, followed by a pressured stroke to the baseline. Come up in a hairline stroke and then form the second part of the stroke, keeping in mind the oval shape. The second variation starts with the downward stroke, then lift and complete the second stroke starting with a loop.



## Variation One



## Variation Two



## Extra Practice!



# letter E



The uppercase E is made in one stroke. Start with a lead-in stroke. Complete the two curves with a small loop in the middle. The top curve can be smaller than the bottom curve. The second variation starts with a lead-in on the base line.



## Variation One



## Variation Two



## Extra Practice!





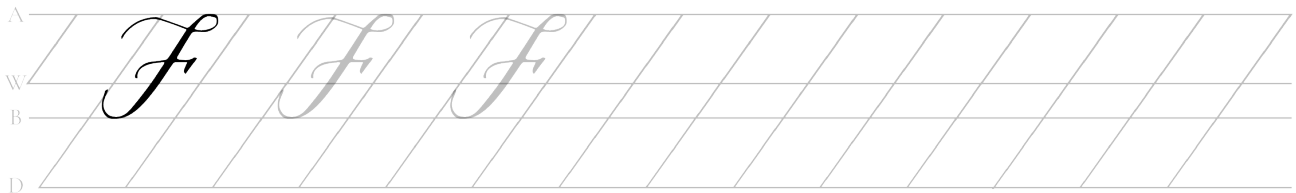
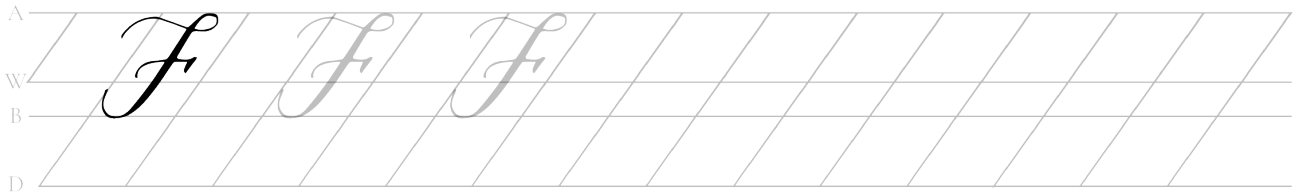
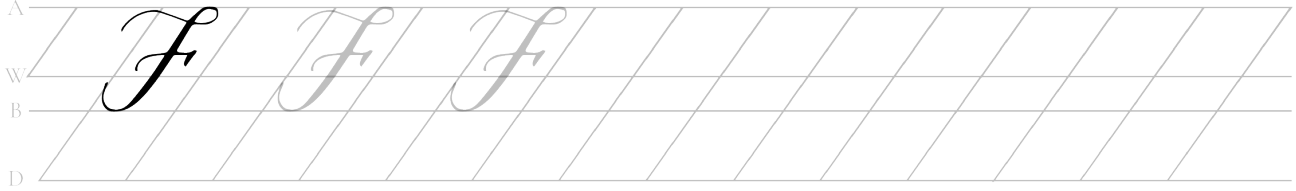
# letter F



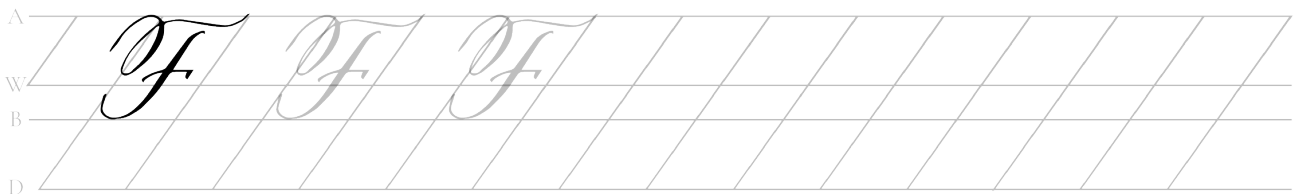
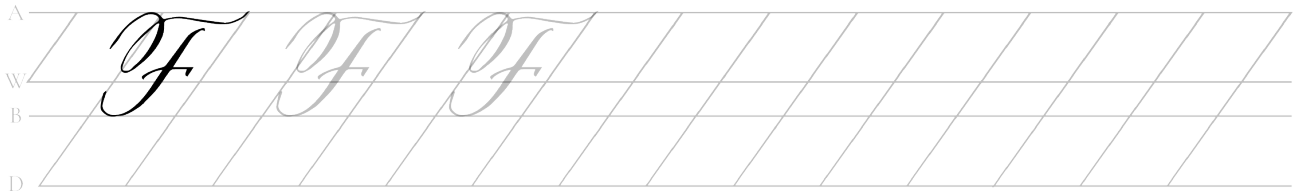
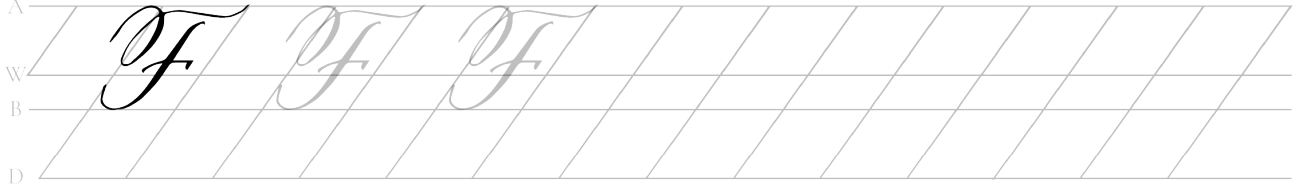
Start with a lead-in stroke that leads into the capital stem. Lift your pen and add the crossbar finishing with a small, pressured stroke. The first stroke on the second variation starts with a flourished loop and then is followed by the capital stem.



## Variation One



## Variation Two



## Extra Practice!



# letter G



The uppercase G is made in two strokes. Start with a curved lead-in stroke and curve round in an oval shape finishing just above the waistline. The second stroke is a descender stroke with a slightly larger loop. The second variation is done all in one stroke.

## Variation One



## Variation Two



## Extra Practice!



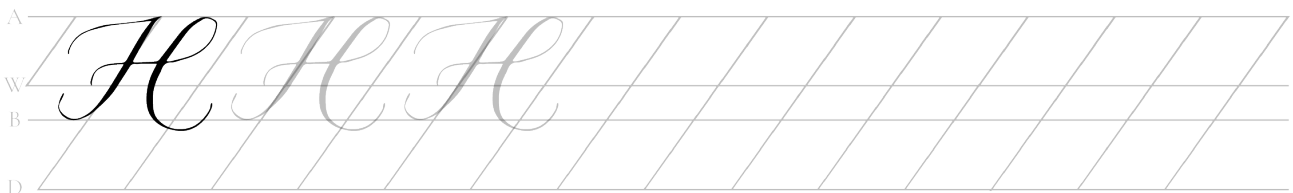
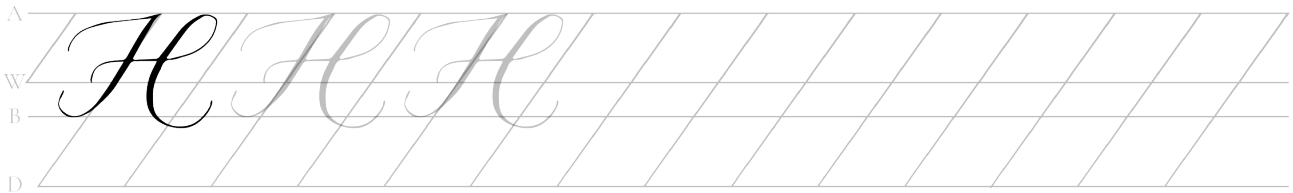
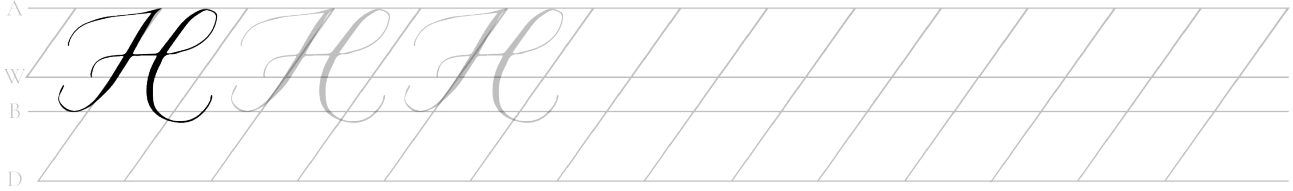
# letter H



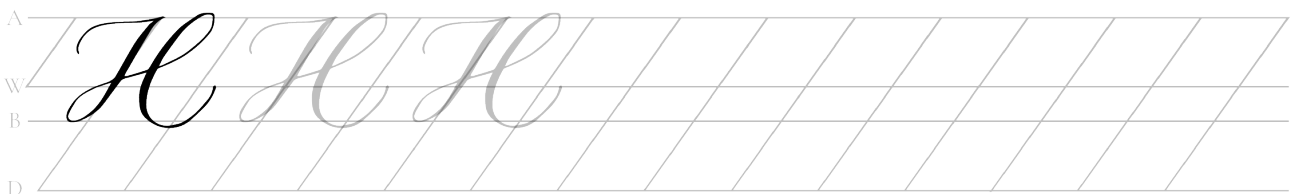
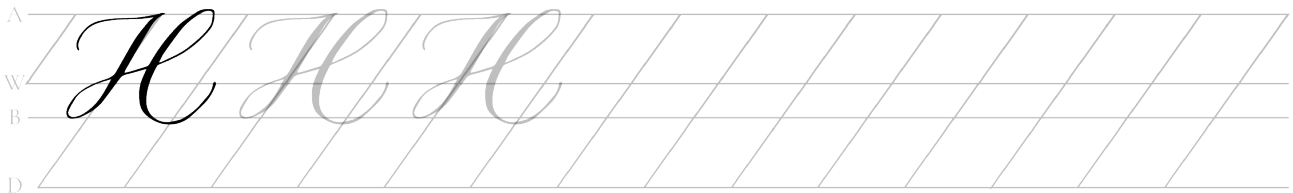
Start the uppercase H with a hairline lead-in stroke. Then add a downward stroke that curves up at the baseline. Lift your pen and start a light cross bar that then curves up to the ascender line. Then curve to the left and come down with a pressured stroke. For the second variation don't lift the pen but keep going to the end of the stroke.



## Variation One



## Variation Two



## Extra Practice!



# letter I

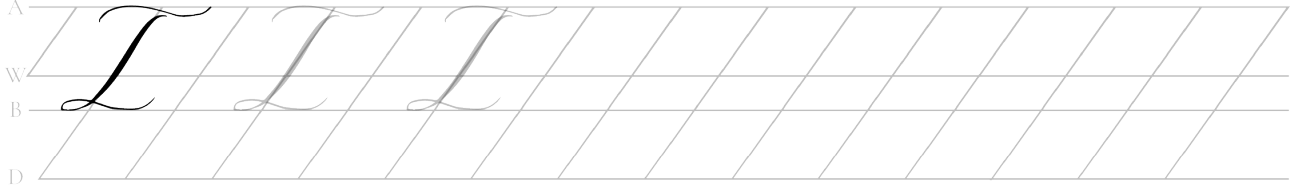


Start with a light lead-in stroke and add a capital stem. The second variation starts with the downward stroke that goes into a loop and then a horizontal stroke. Add the top line at the end.

## Variation One



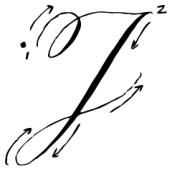
## Variation Two



## Extra Practice!



# letter J



Start with an oval shaped loop and a light horizontal stroke. Add a pressured downward stroke that comes below the baseline. Then curve up with light pressure crossing the stem just below the baseline. The second variation has the flourish at the bottom of the stroke as opposed to the top.



## Variation One



## Variation Two



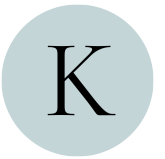
## Extra Practice!



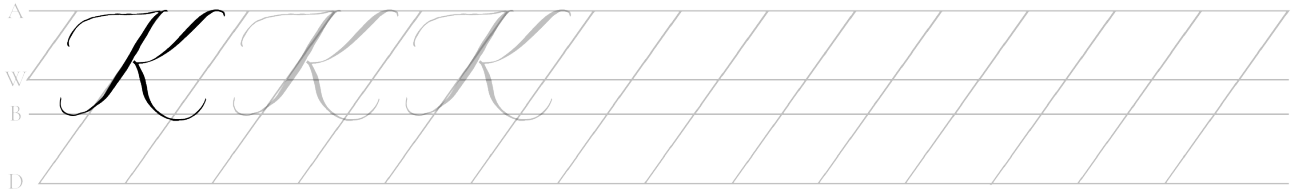
# letter K



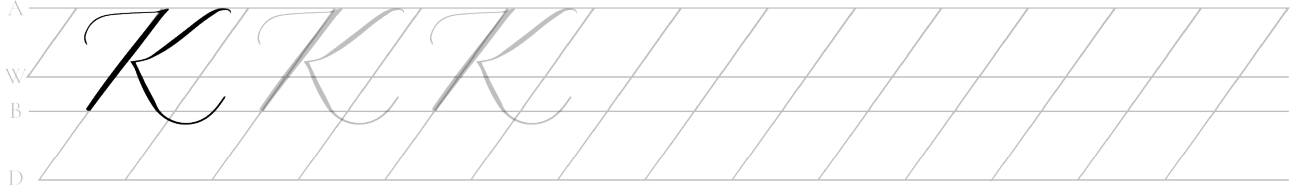
Start with a light lead-in stroke that goes into a capital stem. Lift the pen and move to the ascender line to make the second part of the stroke. Come in to the middle with pressure and then come out again. With the second variation the pressured stroke finishes at the baseline.



## Variation One



## Variation Two



## Extra Practice!



# letter L



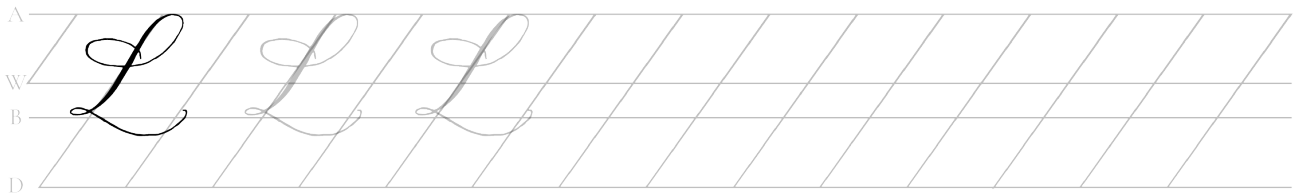
The uppercase L is made in one stroke. Start with a lead-in stroke that curves across and up to the ascender line. Curve around to the left and down towards the base line. At the baseline make a flattened loop and finish the stroke curving down and then back up without pressure. The second variation has a different lead-in and drops below the baseline.



## Variation One



## Variation Two



## Extra Practice!



# letter M



Uppercase M is one of the trickier letters. The first variation starts with a lead-in and moves into a downward stroke. Pause and lift the pen before completing the second stroke that finishes at the base line, then complete the last part of the stroke. The second variation starts with a double loop. The two down strokes should be parallel as should the hairline strokes.



## Variation One



## Variation Two



## Extra Practice!





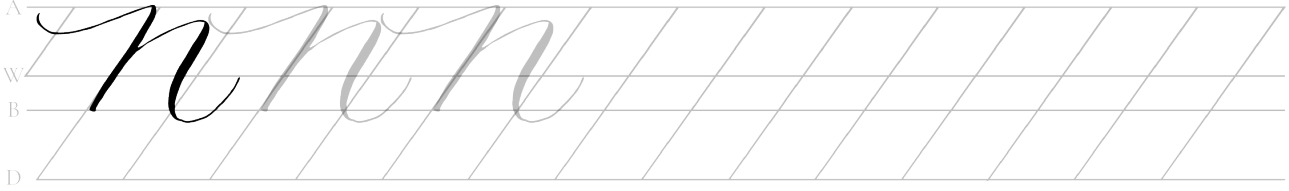
# letter N



The uppercase N is based on the lowercase n for a simple modern letter and is made in two strokes. The second variation starts with a double loop. The two upstrokes should be parallel, the second curving above the ascender line.



## Variation One



## Variation Two



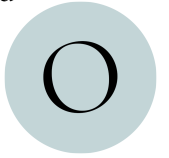
## Extra Practice!



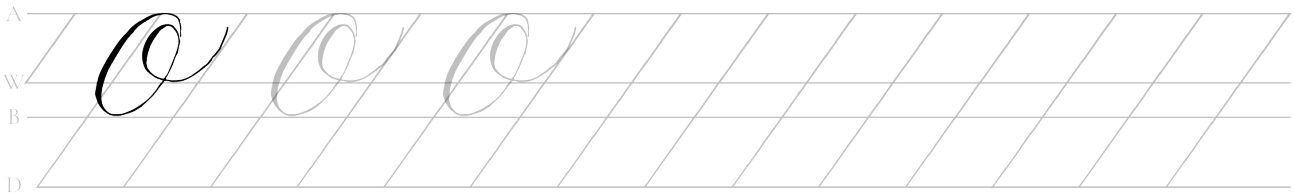
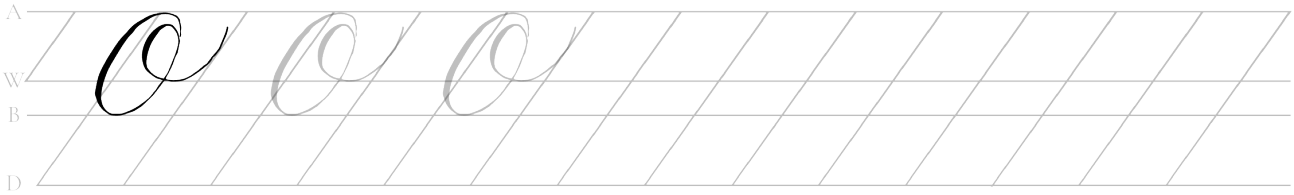
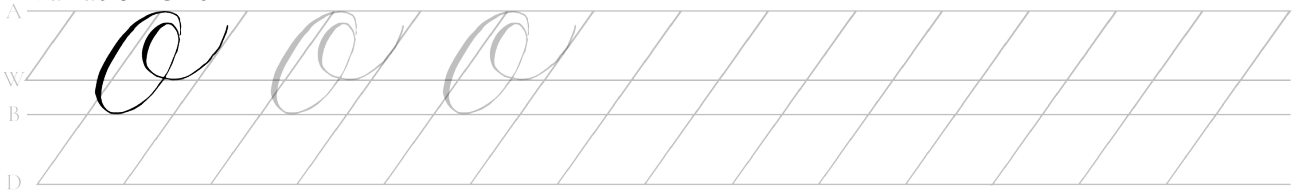
# letter O



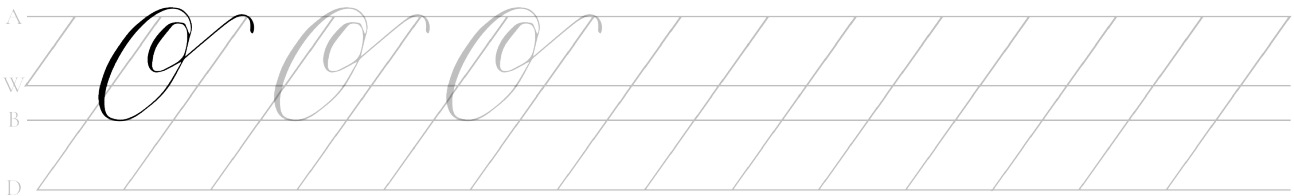
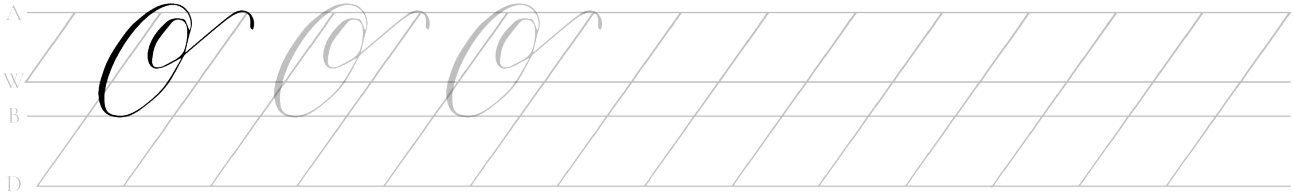
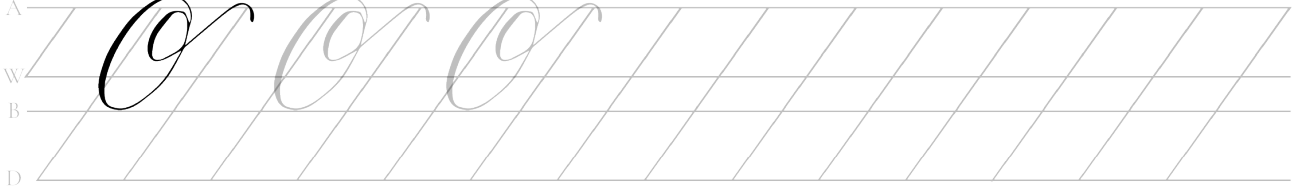
The uppercase O is quite a tricky letter to do well. It is made in one stroke and based on the oval form. Start below the ascender line and move in an anti-clockwise direction making your best oval! As you complete your oval curve down to the left and form a loop, finishing with a hairline. The second variation is similar but just finishes with the start of a figure of eight.



## Variation One



## Variation Two



## Extra Practice!



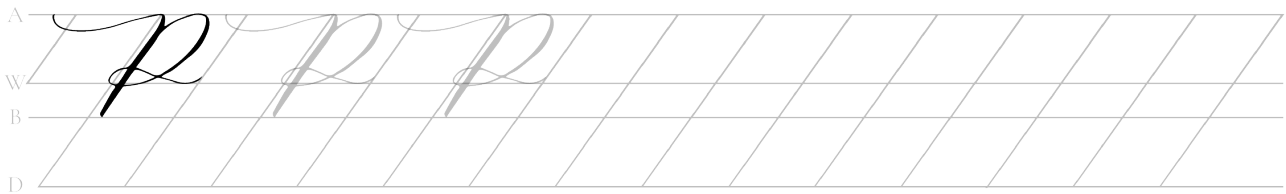
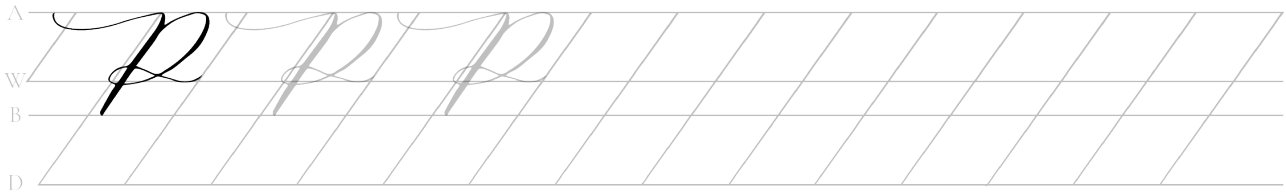
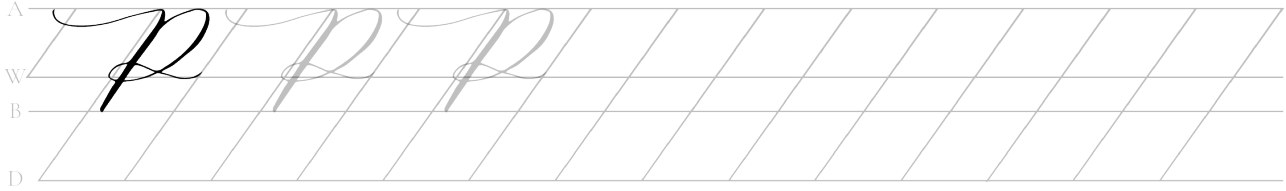
# letter P

P

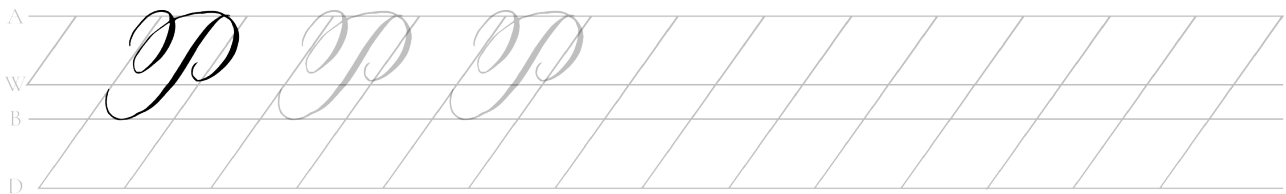
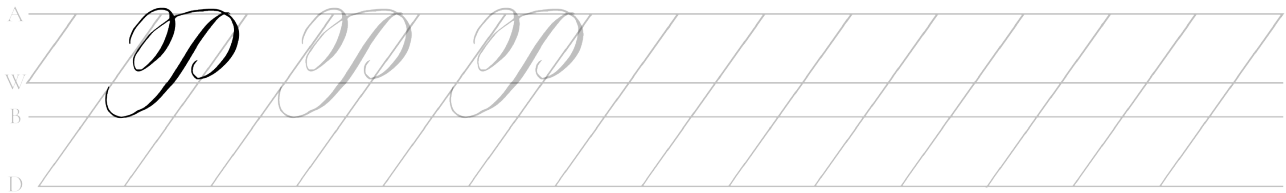
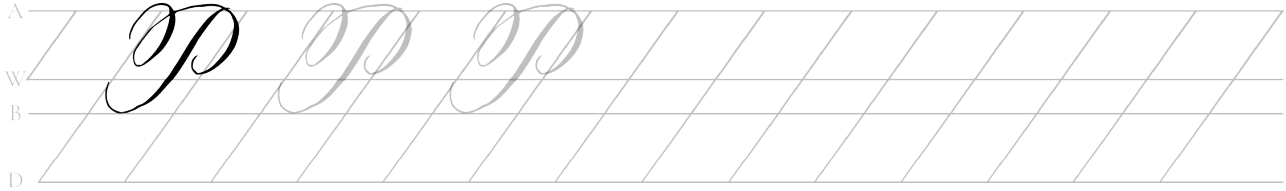


Start the first variation with a lead-in stroke followed by a downward stroke. Lift your pen and complete the second part of the stroke keeping in mind the oval shape. The second variation starts with the capital stem. The second stroke begins with an oval shaped loop. Again think of your oval shape.

## Variation One



## Variation Two



## Extra Practice!



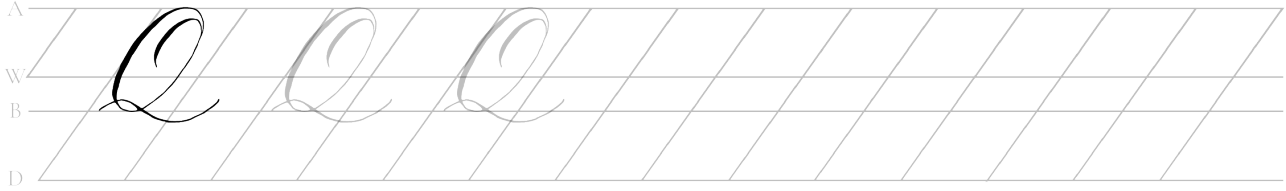
# letter Q



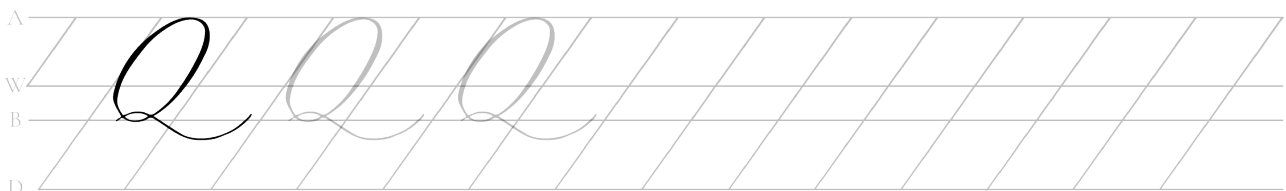
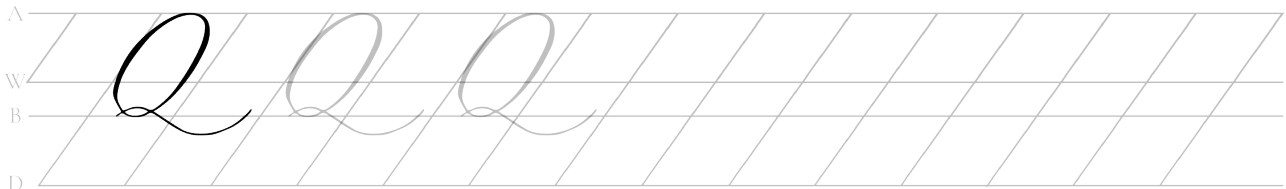
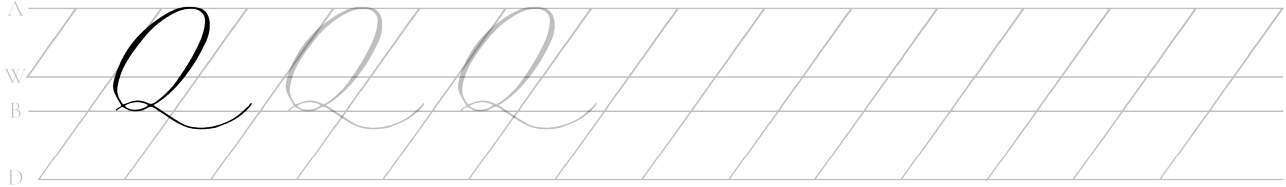
For an uppercase Q make an oval shape. When you come back to the starting point come back inside the oval with a short downward stroke. Then add the tail to complete the letter. The second variation is made up of two curves. Make the left hand one first and then overlap the right hand very slightly so joins are not visible. Then complete the letter by adding the tail.



## Variation One



## Variation Two



## Extra Practice!



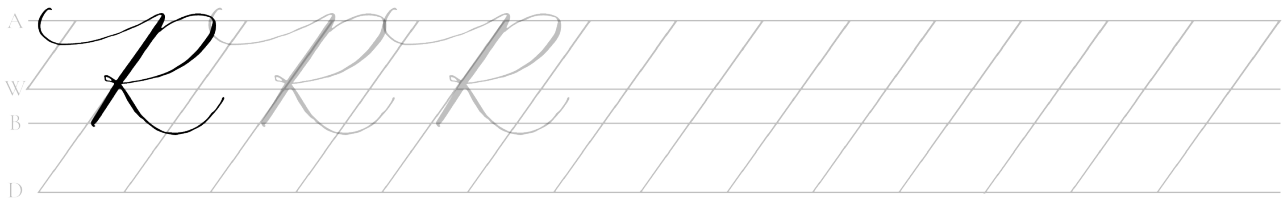
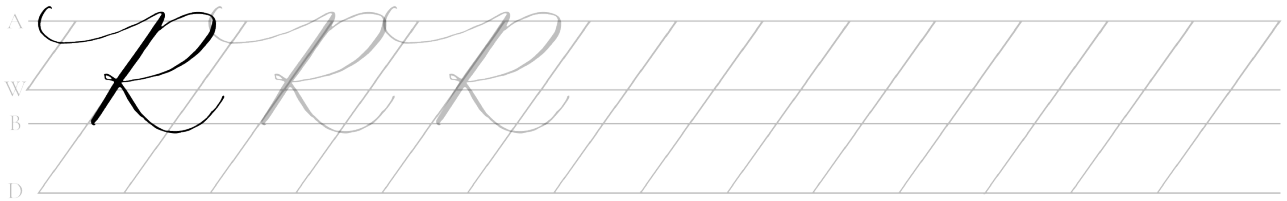
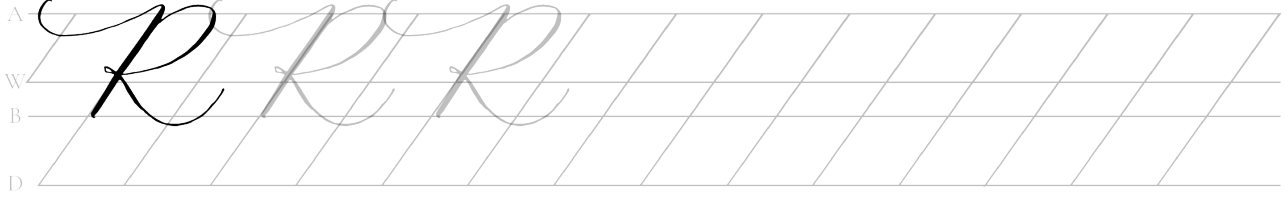
letter



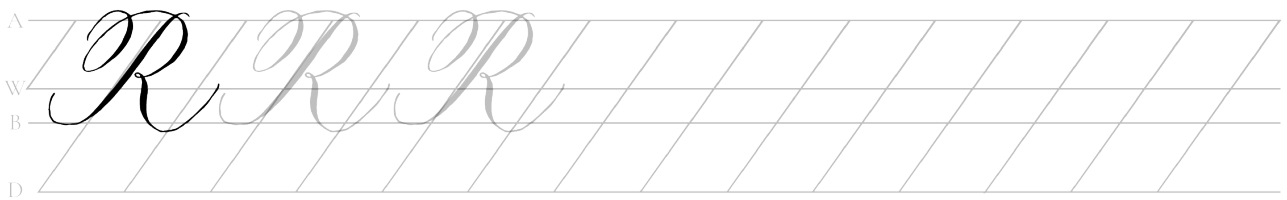
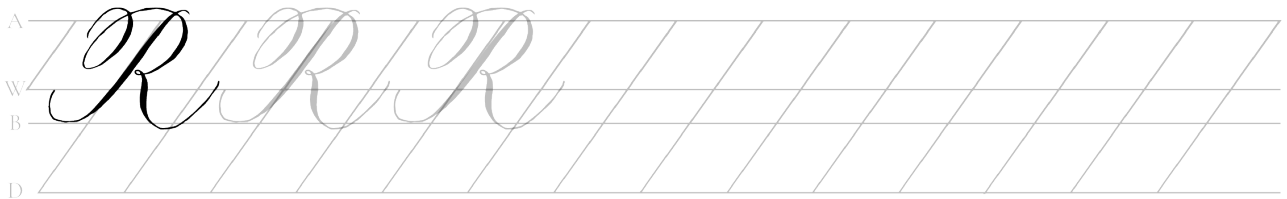
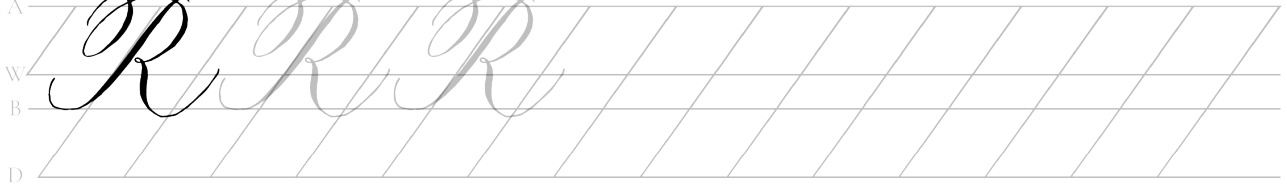
The upper case R is similar in form to the uppercase P. After forming a small loop in the middle come down to the base line. The second variation again is similar to the upper case P. Start with the downward stroke. Start the second stroke with a an oval shaped loop.



Variation One



Variation Two



Extra Practice!



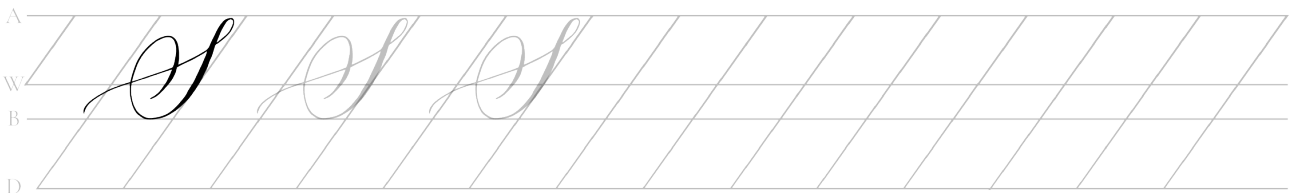
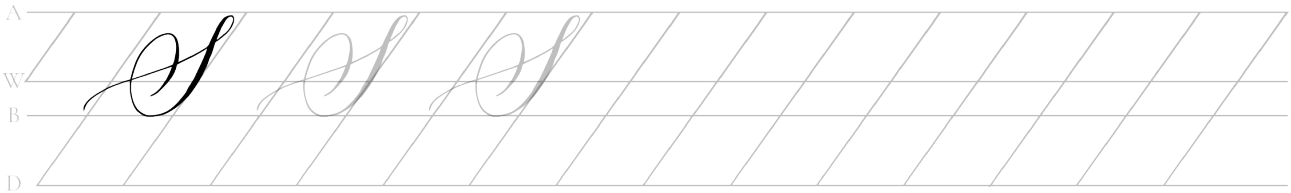
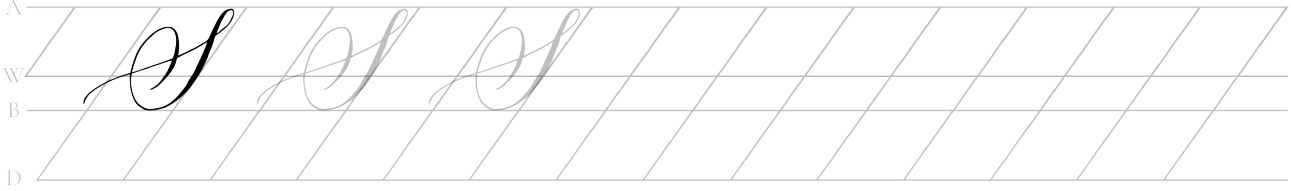
# letter S



Make the uppercase S in one stroke. Start on the baseline with a hairline stroke that curves up to the ascender line. At the ascender line curve to the left and then complete the downward part of the stroke. When you touch the baseline curve up to make a spiral. The second version starts with a lead-in and ends with a loop on the baseline.



## Variation One



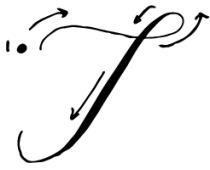
## Variation Two



## Extra Practice!



# letter T



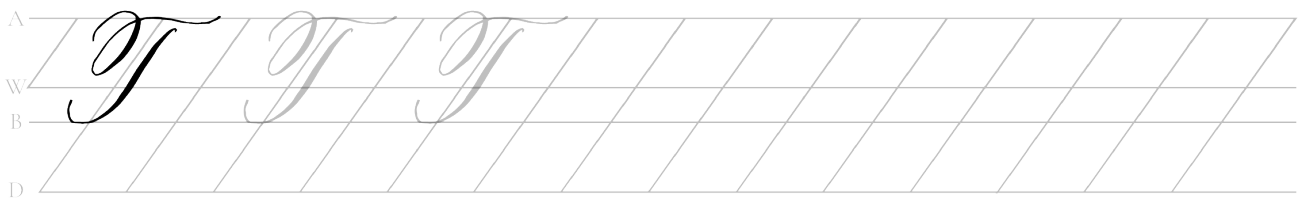
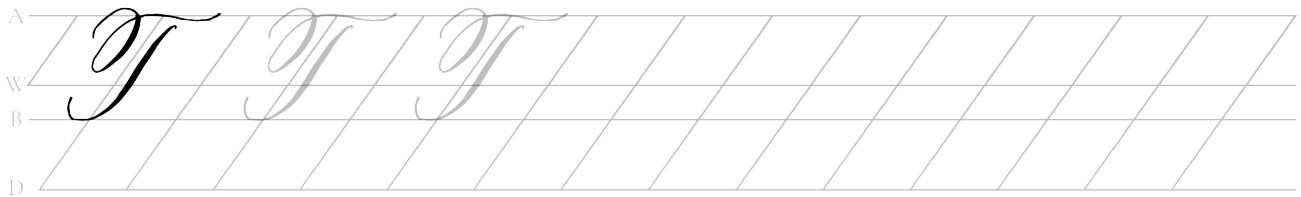
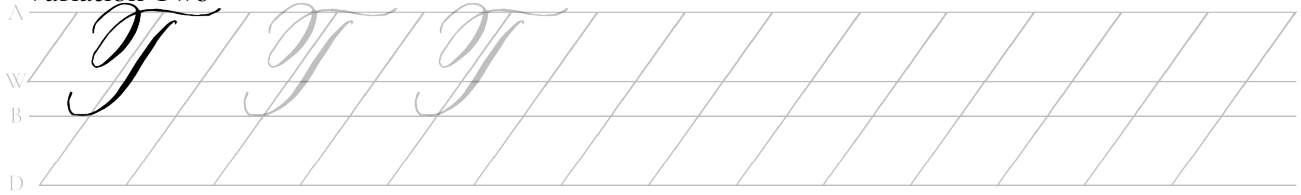
The uppercase T is similar to the uppercase F. Start with a lead-in stroke that leads into the capital stem stroke. Curve up at the baseline with a gentle curve and light pressure. The second variation starts with the flourish. There should be a small space between where the top stroke and the downward stroke.



## Variation One



## Variation Two



## Extra Practice!



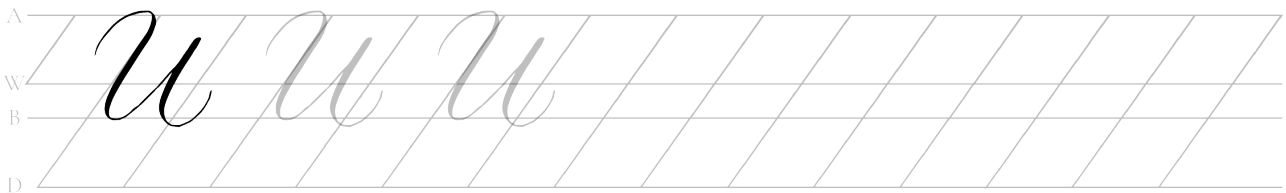
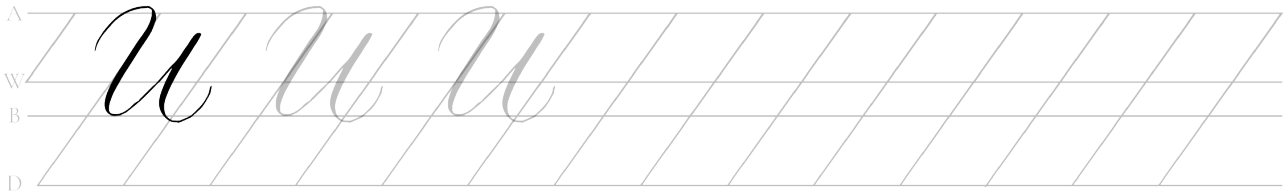
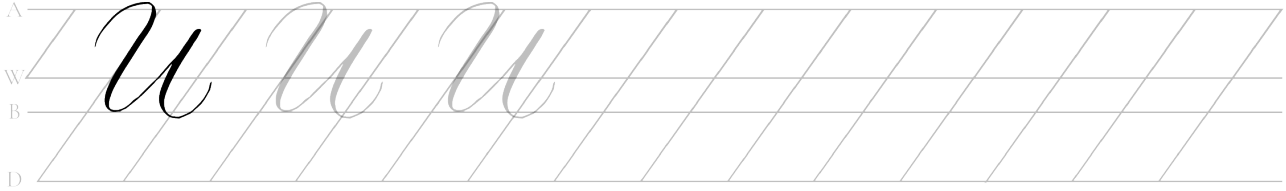
# letter U



The uppercase U is made in two strokes. It starts with a lead-in that continues into a downward stroke. At the baseline, curve back up past the waistline. Start the second stroke just below the ascender line and curve up at the end with a hairline. The loop in the second variation enables the letter to be made in one stroke.



## Variation One



## Variation Two



## Extra Practice!





# letter



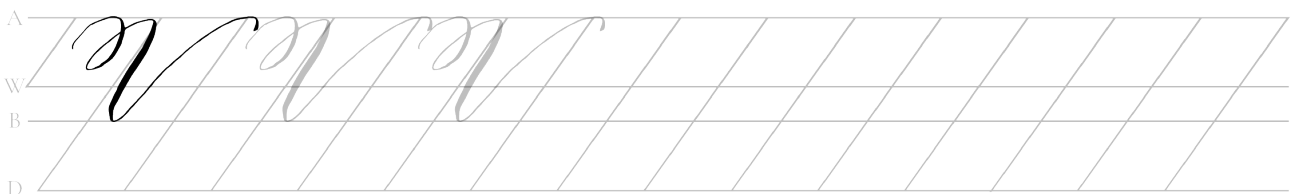
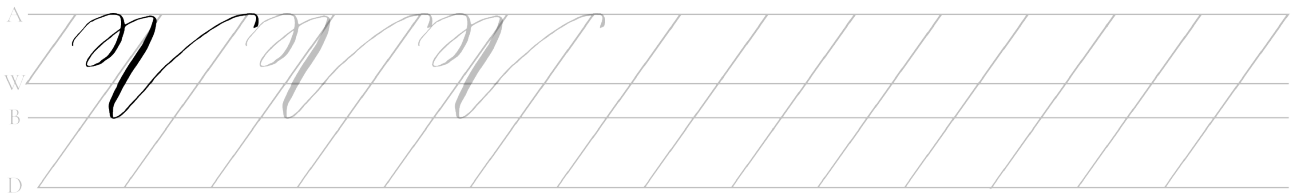
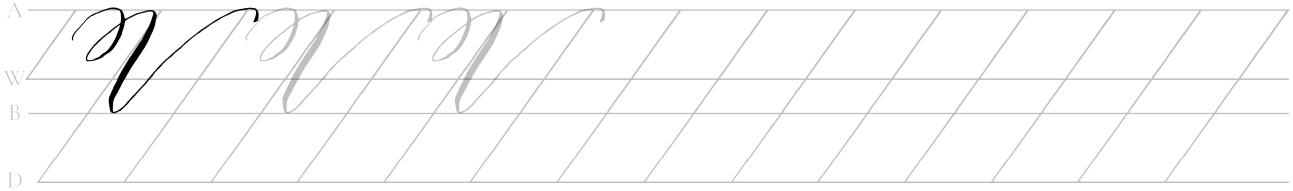
The uppercase V starts with a lead in, comes down with pressure before curving up with light pressure. Add a loop to finish off the letter. The second variation starts with a loop and finishes with a hairline above the ascender line.



## Variation One



## Variation Two



## Extra Practice!



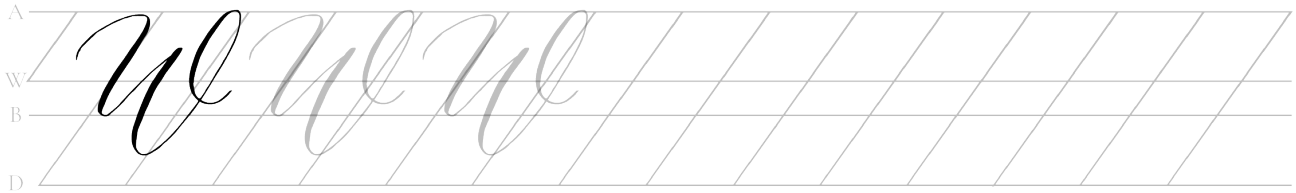
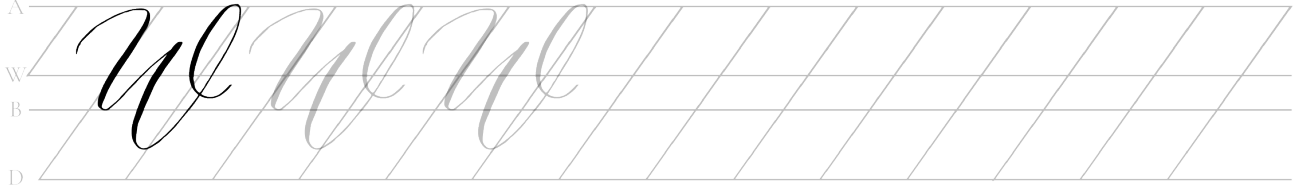
# letter W



The upper case W starts the same way as the uppercase U. Then lift the pen and add the second part of the letter, dipping a bit below the base line and curving in to form a loop. This can join on to the following letter. The second variation is more pointed at the baseline.



## Variation One



## Variation Two



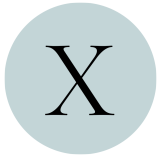
## Extra Practice!



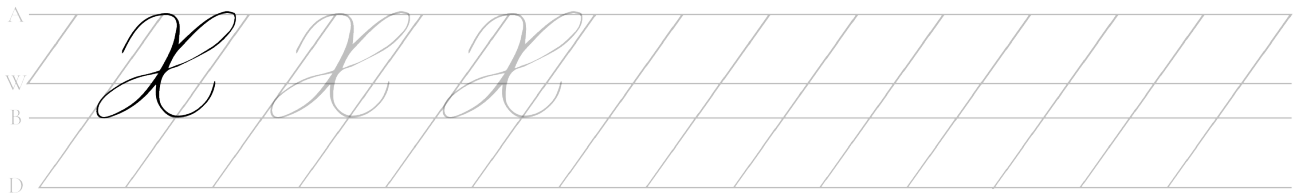
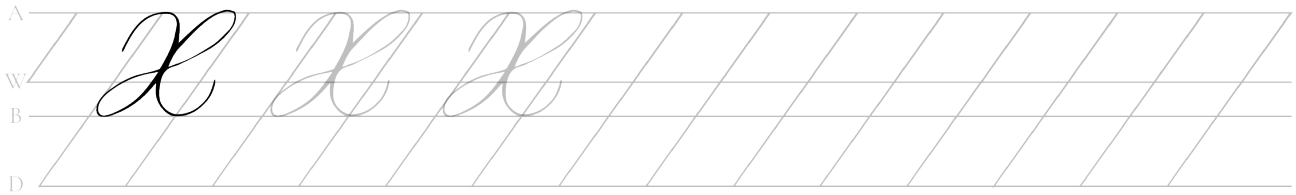
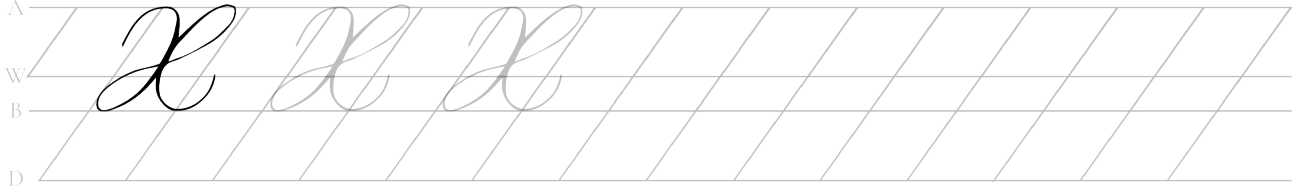
# letter X



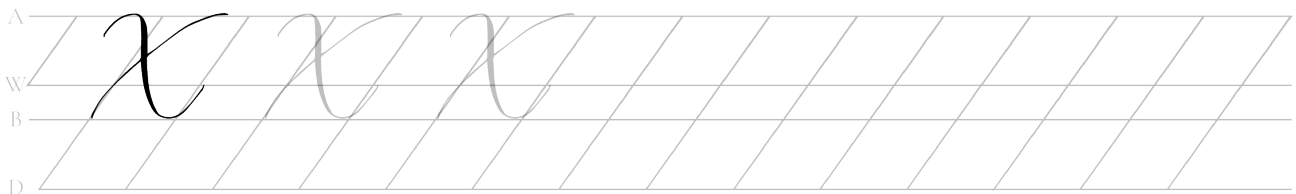
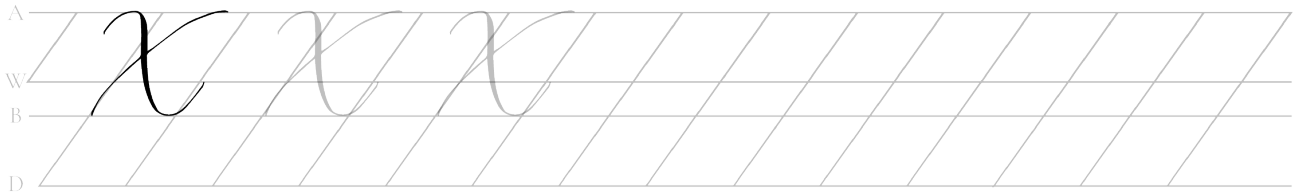
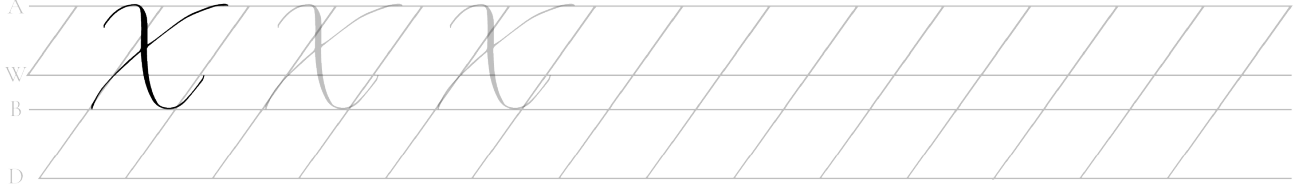
The first version is done all in one stroke. Try to balance both of the loops. As with the lowercase x make the first curve without any pressure so when you complete the second curve it isn't too heavy in the middle. The second variation consists of a downward pressured stroke and an upward hairline stroke.



## Variation One



## Variation Two



## Extra Practice!



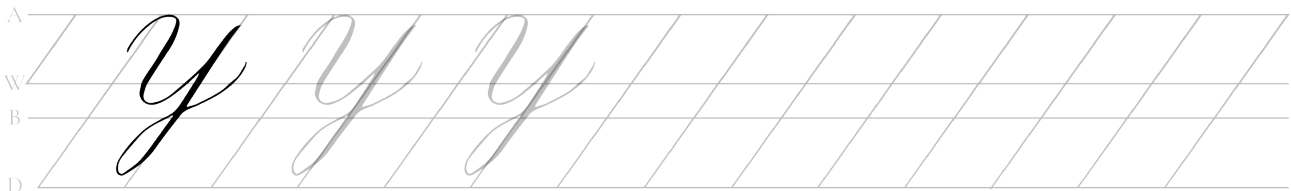
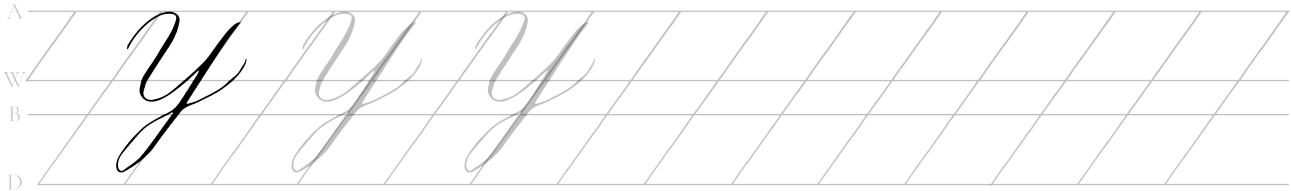
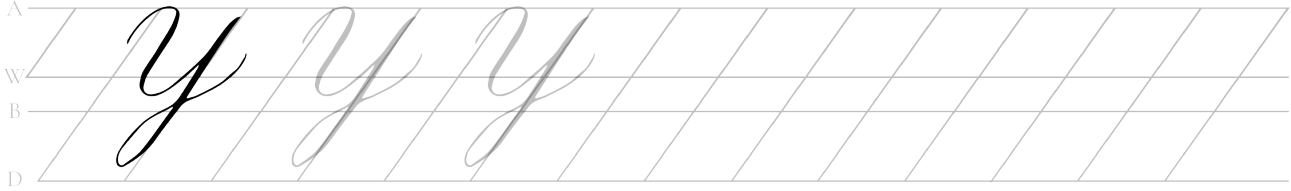
# letter



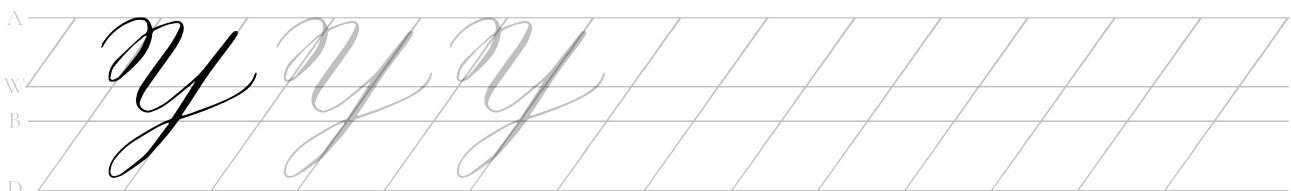
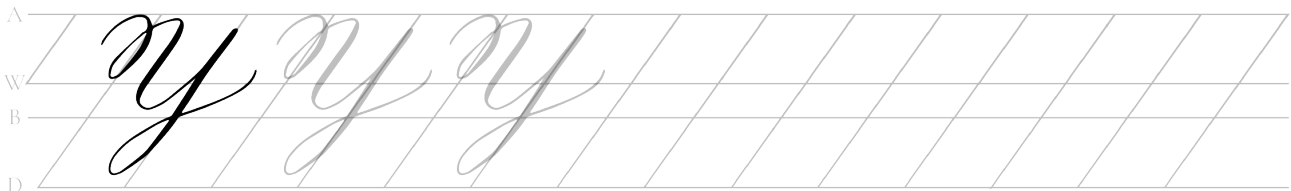
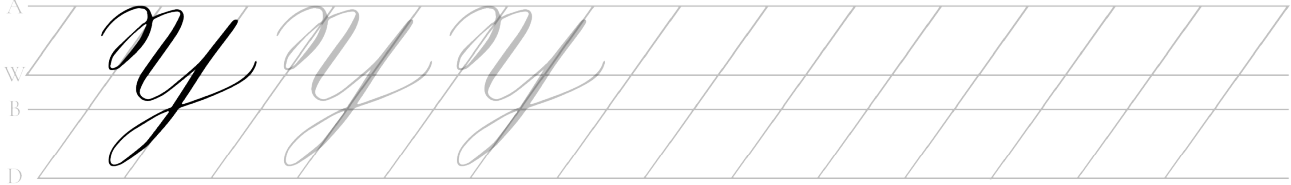
The Y is made up of two strokes. The first half is similar to the U but to keep the proportions looking right the curve of the Y does not sit on the base line, but a little above it. The downward stroke is the same as the G. The second variation starts with a loop and then continues the same as the first variation.



## Variation One



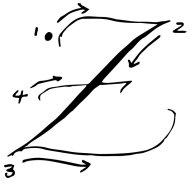
## Variation Two



## Extra Practice!



# letter



The uppercase Z starts with a horizontal lead-in stroke. A diagonal downward stroke follows which starts and finishes lightly but swells in the middle. Complete the stroke by adding a final horizontal stroke. The second variation starts with a loop.



## Variation One

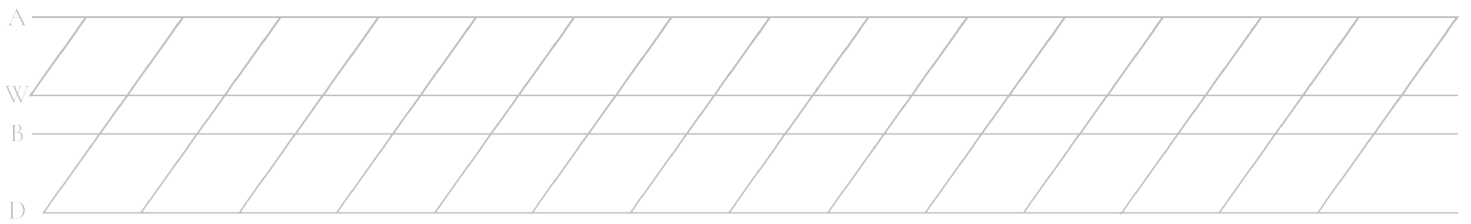
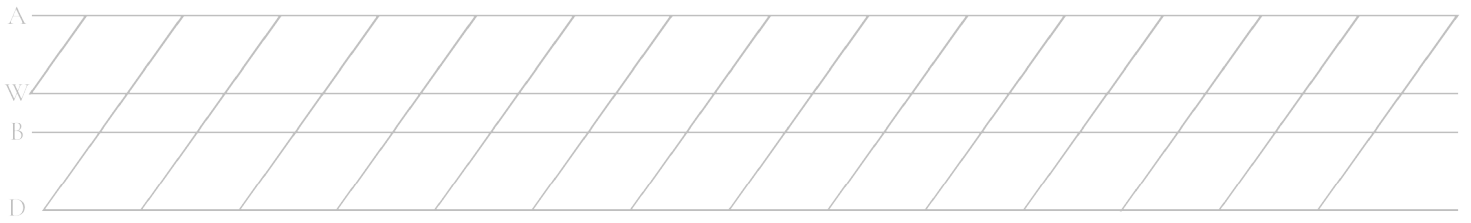


## Variation Two



## Extra Practice!






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