Shortcut to Cursive

Cursive Road to
Expressive Handwriting,
Fluent Reading,
Excellent Spelling,
High Comprehension, and
Enhanced Composition

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Author's Notes on *Shortcut to Cursive*

Work on Shortcut to Cursive was started on April 24, 2013. It was originally designed to be used to teach cursive in an expeditious and comprehensive manner to students new to the Odessa Christian School in Odessa, TX, where Mr. Potter is the Spanish Teacher, Reading Tutor, and Cursive Handwriting Specialist. Special attention was paid to all joining strokes so that the program would be comprehensive.

The Alphabet Letter String was created so that students could establish a daily practice of writing the alphabet from a to z to develop high levels of letter writing and letter identification fluency, which is the necessary preliminary to fluent reading and accurate spelling -- and high-level comprehension.

Dr. Rob Rose's work with alphabet writing fluency was a primary motivation behind the work. Mr. Randy Nelson of Peterson Directed Handwriting has generously shared his knowledge of motor learning and cognitive development, as well as offering encouragement throughout the project. Special thanks to all my tutoring students who have helped me to refine this method into a true shortcut to fluent cursive.

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Let's practice writing in cursive. Trace and write more to fill the line.
Say the sound while you trace each letter.
(Try closing your eyes when you write the last one.)

a aa

a aa aaa

Trace and write more to fill the line.
Say the sound while you trace each letter.
(Try closing your eyes when you write the last one.)

b b bb bb

ab ab

ba ba

ab ab

Trace and write more to fill the line.
Say the sound while you trace each letter.
(Try closing your eyes when you write the last one.)

c c cc cc

cab cab

abc abc

Practice writing in cursive. Trace and write more to fill the line.
Say the sound while you trace each letter.

d dd dab

dad

bad

cad

abcd

Trace and write more to fill the line.
Say the sound while you trace each letter.

e ee

be bee

bed

bead

cede

deed

ace

ebb

abcde

Trace and write more to fill the line.
Say the sound while you trace each letter.

f

f ff

feed

fade

deaf

beef

face

abcdef

Trace and write more to fill the line.
Say the sound while you trace each letter.

g

g gg

bag

bagged

gab

age

egg

gaff

caged

abcdefg

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Trace and write more to fill the line.
Say the sound while you trace each letter.

h hh

had

head

heed

hedge

abcdefgh

Practice writing in cursive. Trace and write more to fill the line.
Say the sound while you trace each letter.

i ii

big

hid

hide

if

fib

ice

dice

chief

fife
abcdefghi

Trace and write more to fill the line.
Say the sound while you trace each letter.

j jj
jag
jig
jab
jade
abcdefghij

Trace and write more to fill the line.
Say the sound while you trace each letter.

k kk
kid
back
kick
deck
khaki
abcdefghijk

Trace and write more to fill the line.
Say the sound while you trace each letter.

l

l ll

lad

led

lid

black

bell

ball

flag

ill

bill

glad

lake

lace

lilac

hail

eagle

abcdefghijkl

Practice writing in cursive. Trace and write more to fill the line.
Say the sound while you trace each letter.

m mm

mad

made

lamb

blame

him

abcdefghijklm

Trace and write more to fill the line.
Say the sound while you trace each letter.

n nn

name

hand

fan

fine

knee

nine

glean

Lesson 13

m

Lesson 14

n

abcdefghijklmn

Trace and write more to fill the line.
Say the sound while you trace each letter.

o oo

on

mom

of

off

ok

oh

coal

goad

goal

old

hole

cob

job

joke

odd

oil

foil

hoe

book

ocean

log

local

abcdefghijklmno

Trace and write more to fill the line.
Say the sound while you trace each letter.

p pp

pan

pen

pig

pond

lamp

happen

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lip

pill

phone

hope

mapped

plane

opened

pal

abcdefghijklmnop

Lesson 17

Trace and write more to fill the line.
Note: Q's are always followed by the letter u. You will get a chance to practice this in Lesson 21.

q q qu qu

abcdefg hijklmnopq

Trace and write more to fill the line.
Say the sound while you trace each letter.

r rr

ran

brand

grand

friend

car

rag

bright

red

for

from

hard

projector

error

roar

abcdefghijklmnopqr

Lesson 19

s

s ss

sad

sadness

mass

lost

glass

labs

flags

abcdefghijklmnopqrs

Lesson 20

t

Trace and write more to fill the line.
Say the sound while you trace each letter.

t tt

tan

tape

past

potter

other

fit

bright

get

giant

taste

tattle

debt

ghost

projector

abcdefghijklmnopqrst

Trace and write more to fill the line.
Say the sound while you trace each letter.

u uu

up

but

rubber

putter

tube

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blue

outside

use

bud

suit

judge

guard

quick

quack

quit

quiet

unplugged

abcdefghijklmnopqrstu

Lesson 22

Trace and write more to fill the line.
Say the sound while you trace each letter.

v vv

vat

van

love

vine

valve

velvet

vote

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuv

Trace and write more to fill the line.
Say the sound while you trace each letter.

w ww ww

we

wet

win

walk

write

cows

saw

was

lawn

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17

woke

works

strewn

what

swinging

whole

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvw

Lesson 24

𝓍

Trace and write more to fill the line.
Say the sound while you trace each letter.

x xx

ax

axes

tax

taxes

wax

waxes

box

boxes

fox

foxes

abcdefghijklmnop

qrstuvwx

Trace and write more to fill the line.
Say the sound while you trace each letter.

y yy

yawn

yes

by

buy

bylaws

cry

baby

navy

yearly

you

yip

vinyl

abcdefghijklmnop

qrstuvwxy

Trace and write more to fill the line.
Say the sound while you trace each letter.

z zz

jazz

zoo

zebra

lazy

crazy

buzz

puzzle

cozy

zucchini
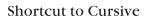
zephyr

abcdefghijklmnop

qrstuvwxyz

**More
Practice**

Capital Letters

A Albert Anna

B Beatrice Benny

C Cathy Carmen

D Dennis Donald

E Erica Esther

F Fred Francis

G George Georgia

H Helen Henry

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I Imogene Imez

J Jean John

K Karen Ken

L Leonard Linda

M Mary Mark

N Nancy Neil

O Oscar Orson

P Penny Paul

Q Quincy

R Rita Ron

S Sarah Shawn

T Terry Troy

U Unice

V Victor Valorie

W Walter Wilma

X Xavier

Y Yolanda Young

Z Zack Zeke

Trace and write more to fill the line.

Downcurve:

a

c

d

g

q

Overcurve:

m

n

o

r

x

y

z

Undercurve.

b

e

f

h

i

j

k

l

p

r

s

t

u

w

y

z

Midline Joining Strokes:

ba

be

bi

bo

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br

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Continued on the next page.

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vu

vy

Below Line Joining Strokes:

ja

je

ji

jo

ju

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ga

ge

gi

go

gu

gl

gr

gs

gg

gh

ya

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yo

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zi

zo

zu

zy

zz

Pangrams:

Pangrams are sentences containing all the letters of the alphabet.

1. The quick brown fox jumps over a lazy dog.

2. How quickly daft jumping zebras.

3. The five boxing wizrds jump quickly.

4. Heavy boxes perform quick waltzes and jigs.

5. Sixty zippers were quickly picked from the woven jute bag.

6. A quart jar of oil mixed with zinc oxide makes a very bright color.

7. The job requires extra pluck and zeal from every young wage earner.

8. Crazy Fredericka bought many very exquisite opal jewels.

9. The public was amazed to view the quickness and dexterity of the juggler.

10. We promptly judged antique ivory buckles for the next prize.

Cursive Reference Chart

Aa Bb Cc Dd

Ee Ff Gg

Hh Ii Jj Kk

Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp

Qq Rr Ss

Tt Uu Vv

Ww Xx Yy Zz

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0