

Learning Cursive Writing Skills

Diana Hanbury King

*Left-Hand Lowercase Edition
Handwriting Workbook*

***Learning Cursive Writing Skills -
Left-Hand Lowercase Edition***

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Introduction

This workbook is intended for young students. The letters are taught in an order that is based on ease of formation. The bridge letters (b,o,v,w) are postponed as they are difficult to join. From the beginning, students are taught to write the whole word without lifting the pencil, and to go back for the four “finish-later” letters (i, t, j, x).

It is important that all letters begin on the line and end with a serif, or “little smile,” which will facilitate the transition to the next letter.

All formations should be practiced on a white board or chalk board with the student standing up using large muscles before beginning to write on paper. The four steps for this are as follows:

1. Trace the teacher’s model at least three times. Sometimes using a different color each time makes the process more interesting.
2. Copy on a line.
3. Erase or cover the model and write the letter from memory.
4. Finally, form the letter with eyes closed or averted. This procedure, which children generally enjoy, strengthens the neurological connections.

At each stage having the students name the letter as they form it strengthens the connection between brain and hand. Say to the student, “Tell your hand what to do.” This procedure is known as Simultaneous Oral Spelling, or S.O.S.

There are important reasons for having students establish cursive handwriting:

1. As the word is formed in a single motion, like a dance movement, cursive facilitates the learning and retention of spelling.
2. It is unquestionably faster. College students who use cursive can take notes at the rate of about 100 words a minute. If they print, this rate drops down to about 30.
3. Interestingly, the College Board reported that students who used cursive in the written portion of the SAT scored better than those who printed.

Capital formations should be postponed until lower case letters are firmly established. There is no reason for students not to continue printing capitals—many adults do.

From the beginning, it is essential to establish correct posture, paper position, and grip. This is especially important for left-handed students.


Getting Ready To Write

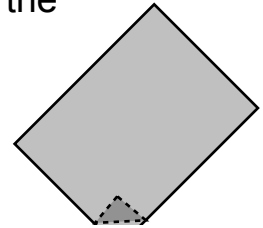
Before the student begins to write the three important words to keep in mind are Posture, Paper, and Grip:

Posture

The student should be sitting with back straight and feet firmly on the floor. The desktop should be no more than two inches above the elbow when the arm is hanging down at the student's side. If the desk cannot be adjusted and is too high, a thick cushion can be used to raise the student to the proper height; use a box or stool if the child's feet are not flat on the ground. Both elbows should be resting on the desktop ready to position the paper properly.

Paper Position

The paper must be slanted at a forty-five degree angle to the right for the left-handed student, allowing the hand to swing across the page using the elbow as a pivot. The teacher can tape a  onto the desk or turn under the corner of the writing paper to align the bottom of the folder corner with the bottom edge of the desk.



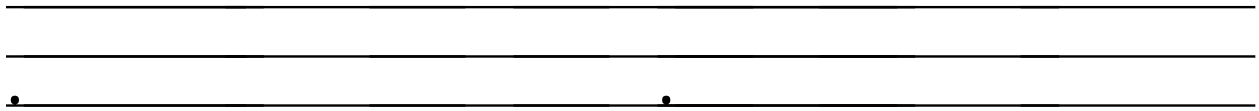
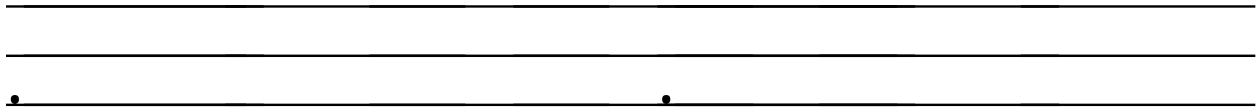
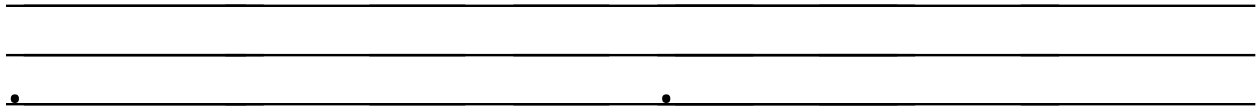
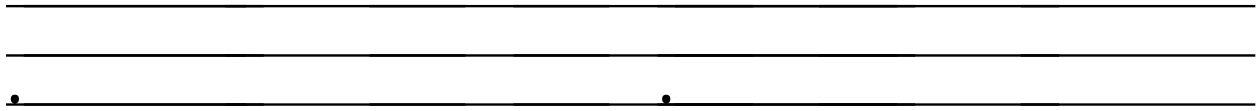
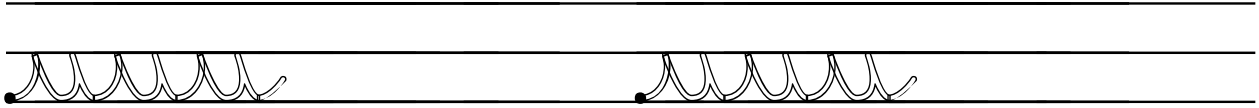
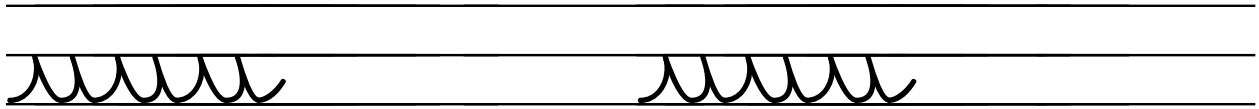
The right hand should be placed on the top of the paper to keep it from sliding around the desk as the student writes.

Pencil Grip

The pencil should be positioned in the left hand so that there is equal pressure between the thumb and the tip of the index finger, with the side of the middle finger forming a ledge to support the pencil. The pencil rests in the hollow between the thumb and the forefinger, and when correctly positioned, the end of the pencil will point toward the shoulder. The wrist should be kept straight and fairly flat. All fingers are bent slightly. This is called a "tripod grip." This grip allows the pencil to be finely controlled by the fingers for writing.

There are various grips on the market to help the student position the fingers properly and alleviate writing fatigue. Some pens and mechanical pencils with shaped grips may work well for older students.

Swing-ups

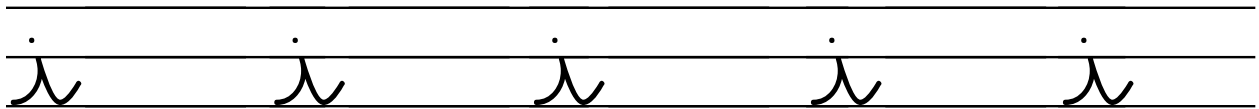
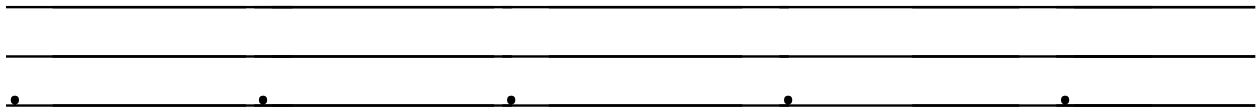
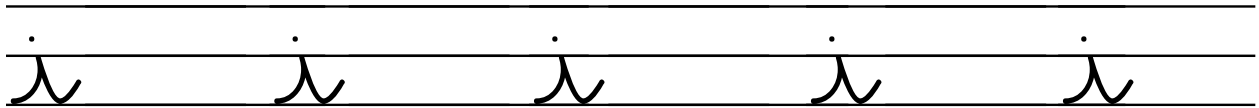
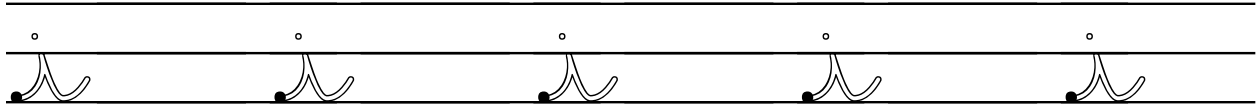
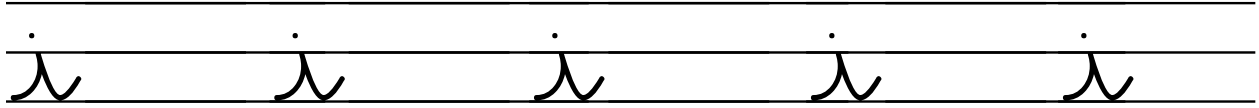


Eyes closed



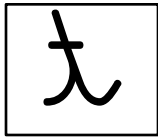


Swing up and back down, end with a smile, then add the dot

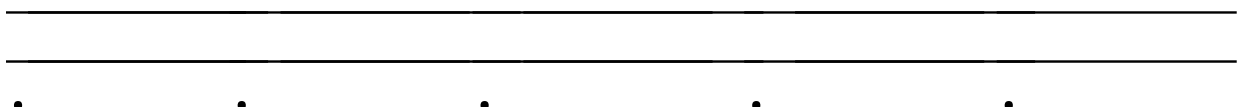
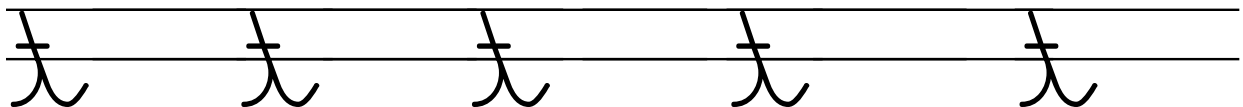
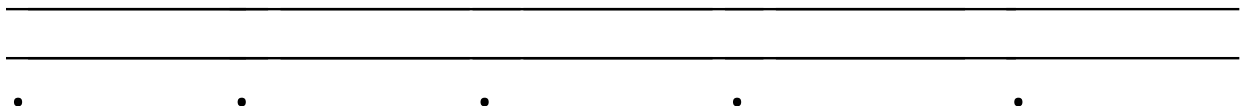
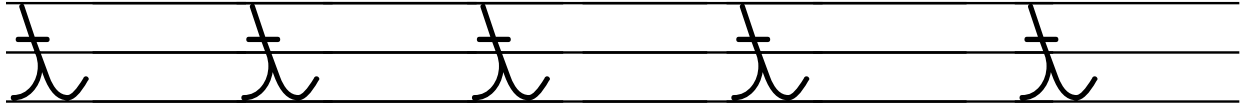


Eyes closed





Swing up, back track down, end with a smile and add the cross



Eyes closed



We never lift up the pencil when writing a word

it it it it

it it it it

it it it it

it it it it

it it it it

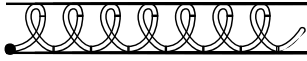
it it it it



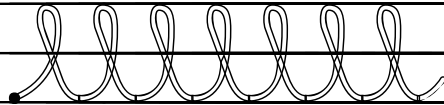
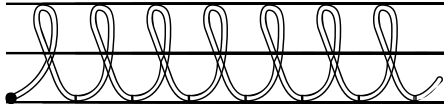
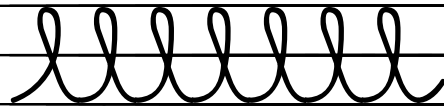
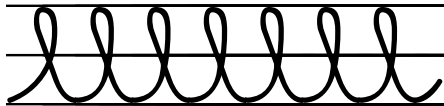
Eyes closed



Small loops

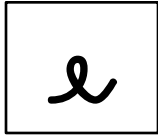


Tall loops

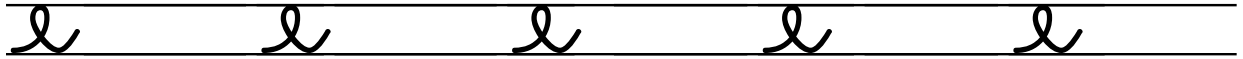
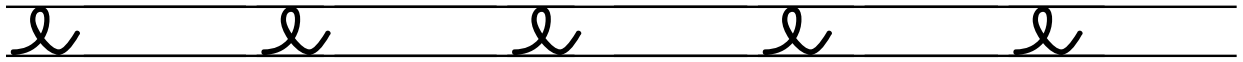
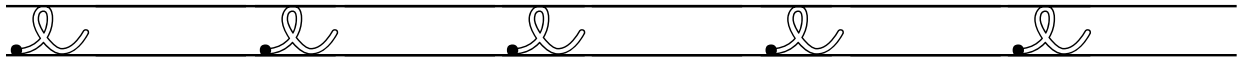
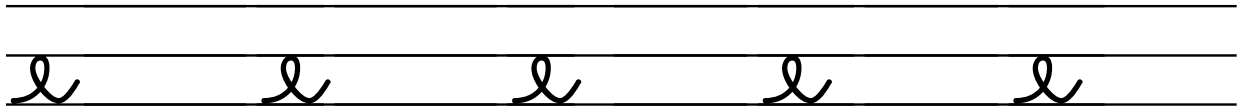


Eyes closed



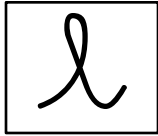


Start on the line and make a little loop

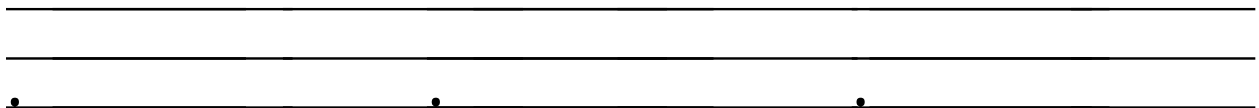
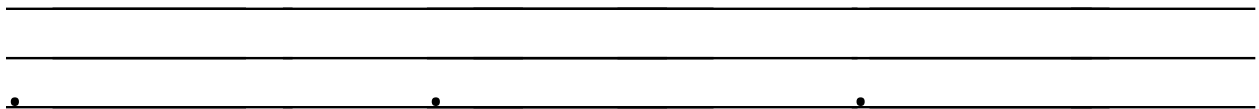
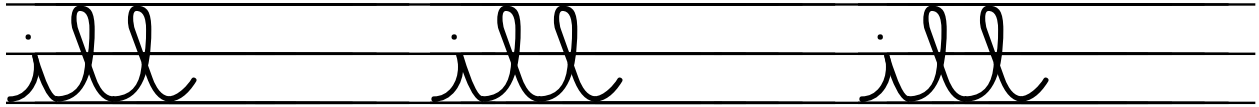
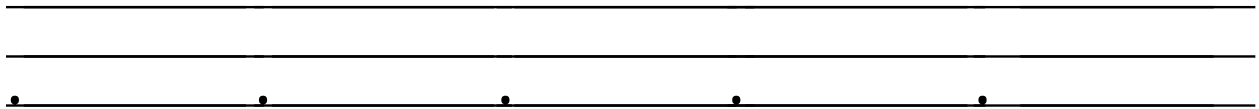
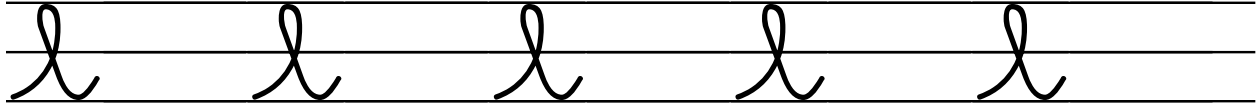


Eyes closed





Swing up and make a tall skinny loop



Eyes closed



Practice writing words

till till till

• • •

tilt tilt tilt

• • •

lit lit lit

• • •

Write one word with your eyes closed

Practice writing words

let let let

. . .

tell tell tell

. . .

tile tile tile

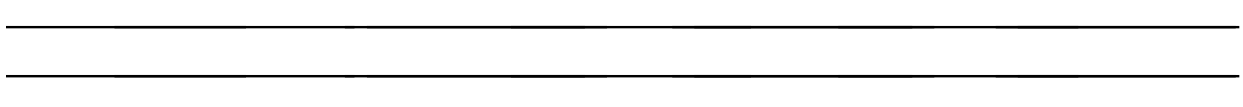
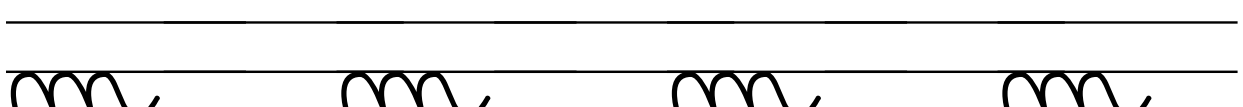
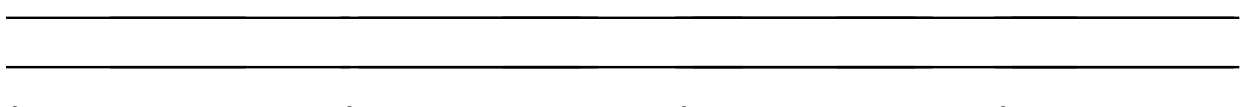
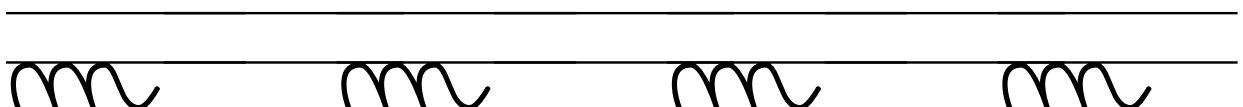
. . .

eel eel eel

. . .



Start on the line, make 3 humps, and end with a smile



Eyes closed



Practice writing words

mill mill mill

. . .

met met met

. . .

mit mit mit

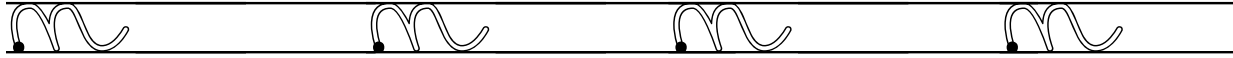
. . .

mile mile mile

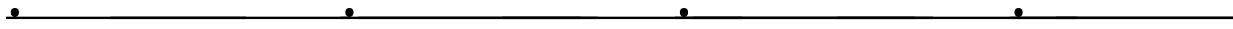
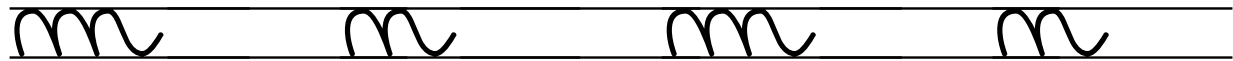
. . .



Start on the line, make 2 humps, and end with a smile



Practice both *m* and *n*



Eyes closed



Practice writing words

in in in

.

tin tin tin

.

met met met

.

mill mill mill

.

Review (6 letters)

i t e l m n

.

i

t

e

l

m

n

Practice writing words

in in in

.

tin tin tin

.

met met met

.

mill mill mill

.

Practice writing words

ten ten ten

.

met met met

.

let let let

.

men men men

.

Practice writing longer words

team team team

time time time

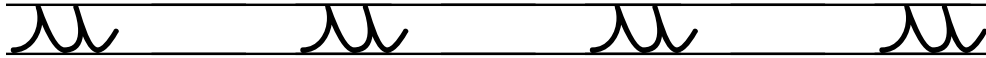
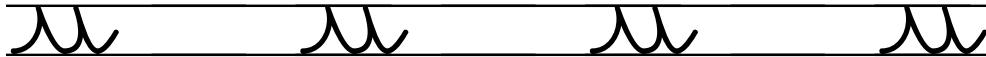
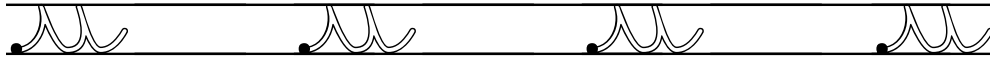
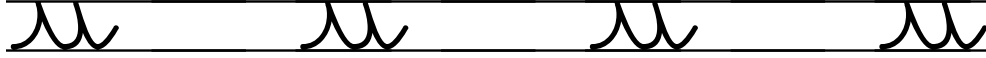
meet meet meet

mile mile mile

inn inn inn



Swing up as for *λ*, do it again, and end with a smile



Eyes closed



Practice writing words

nut nut nut

.

mull mull mull

.

mule mule mule

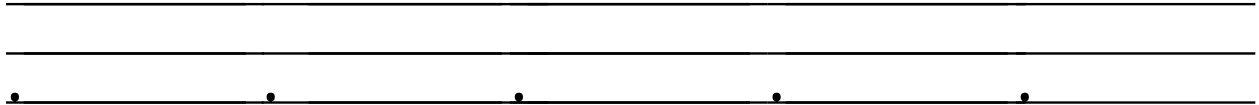
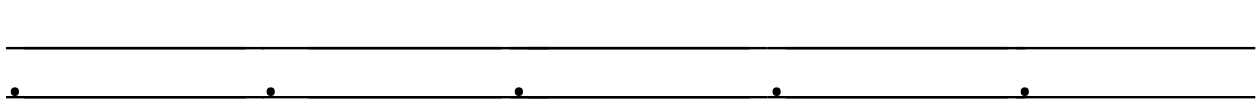
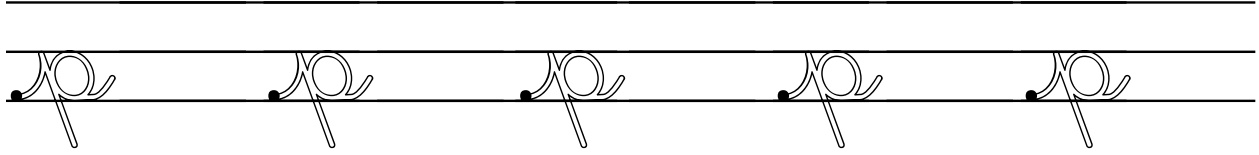
.

mute mute mute

.



Swing up, go all the way down, backtrack up and circle round, end with a smile



Eyes closed



Practice writing words

up up up

.

put put put

.

pur pur pur

.

tip tip tip

.

Practice writing words

pull pull pull

.

pill pill pill

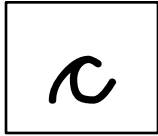
.

lip lip lip

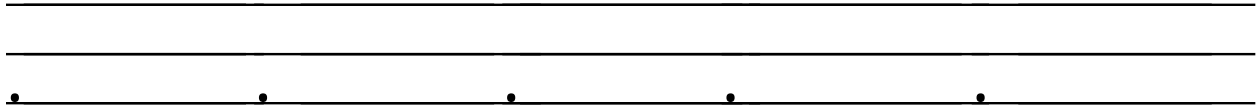
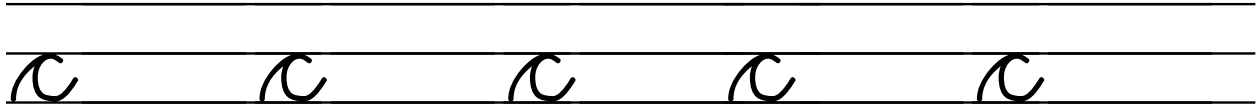
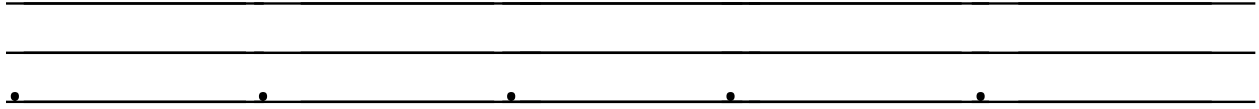
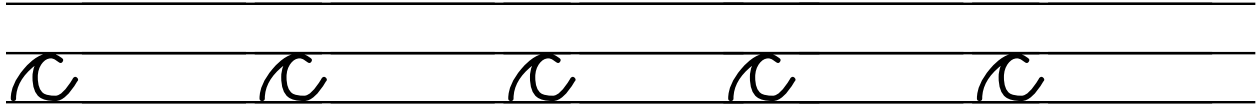
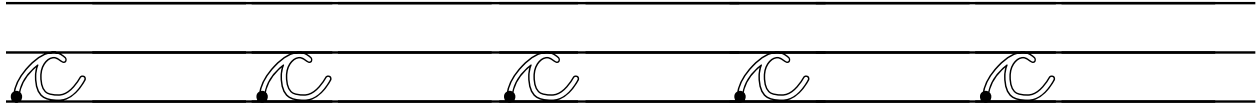
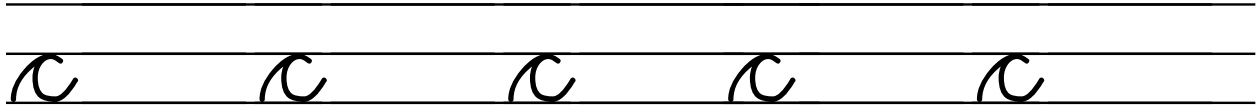
.

pile pile pile

.



Go up around the clock to 2 o'clock,
backtrack and swing forward

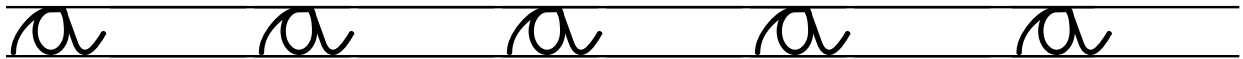
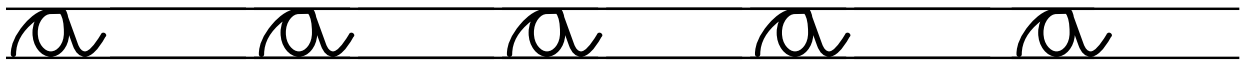
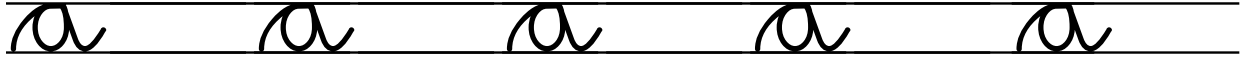


Eyes closed





Start like *c*, backtrack, swing up to close the gap, backtrack down to end with a smile



Eyes closed



Practice writing words

can can can

cap cap cap

act act act

came came came

Practice writing words

tall tall tall

.

tap tap tap

.

pat pat pat

.

tame tame tame

.

Practice writing words

pact pact pact

lump lump lump

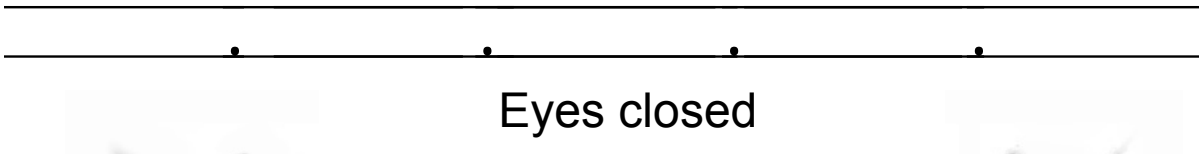
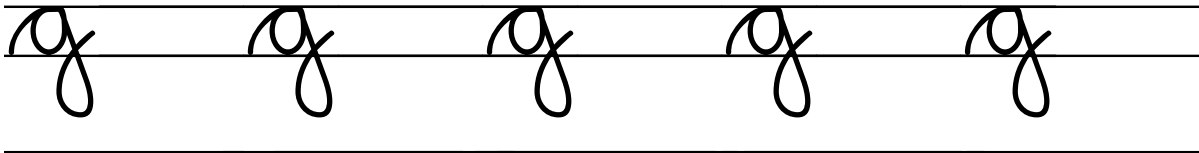
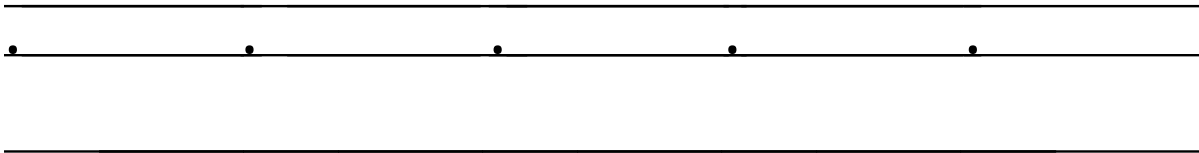
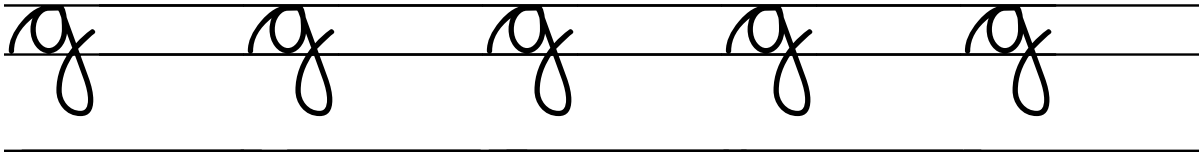
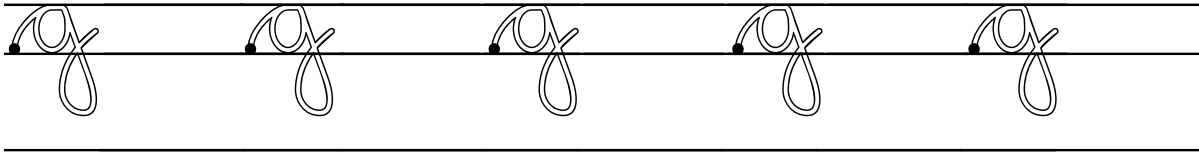
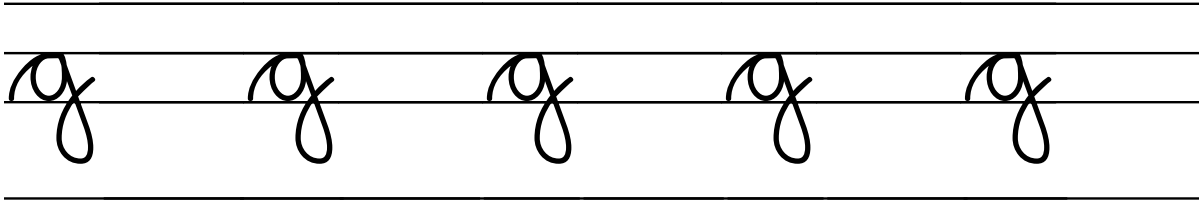
limp limp limp

plump plump plump

plume plume plume



Start like *a*, go down and make a loop



Eyes closed



Practice writing words

game game game

.

age age age

.

page page page

.

gum gum gum

.

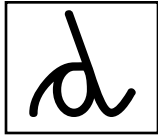
Practice writing words

gate gate gate

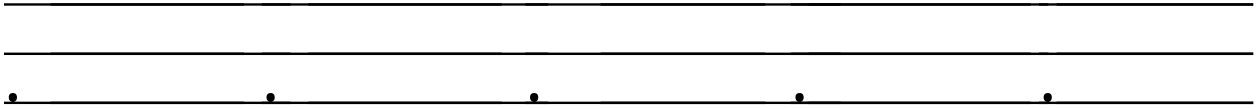
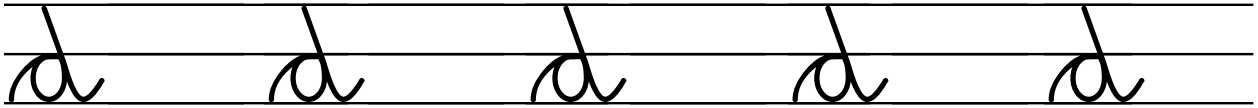
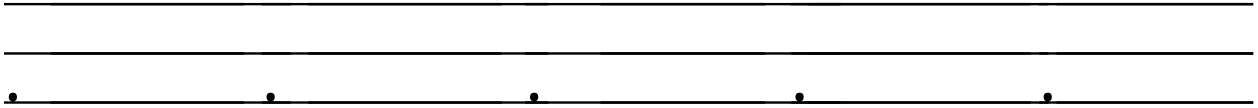
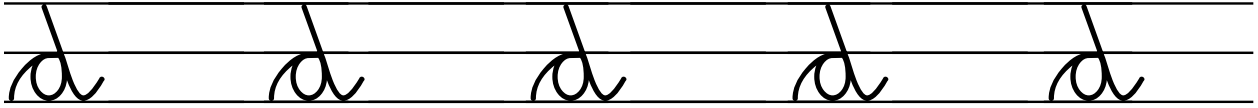
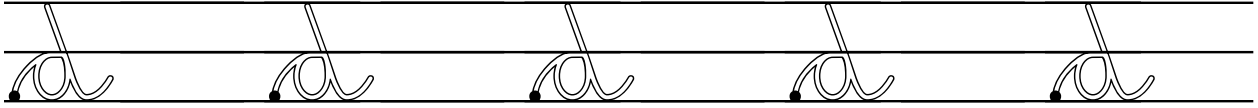
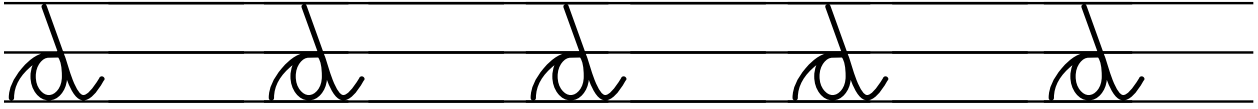
leg leg leg

get get get

tag tag tag



Start like *a*, go up tall, backtrack and end with a smile



Eyes closed



Practice writing words

dad dad dad

dam dam dam

deep deep deep

dug dug dug

Practice writing words

lid lid lid

.

mud mud mud

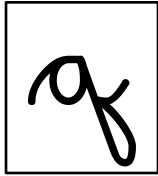
.

lead lead lead

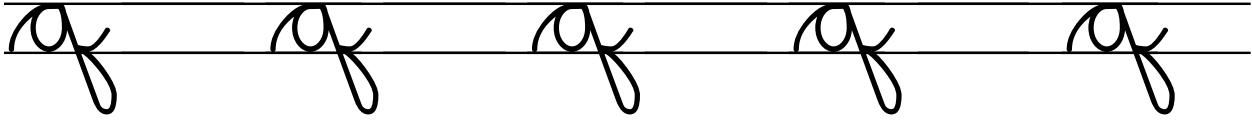
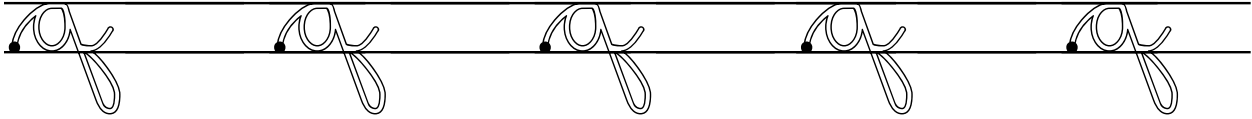
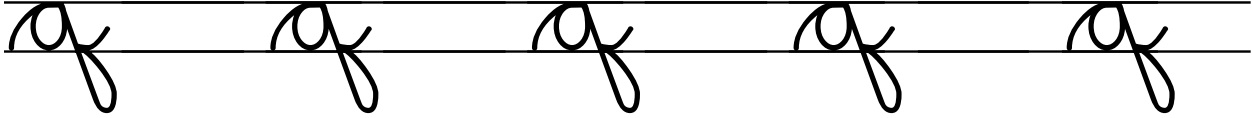
.

deal deal deal

.



Start like *a*, go down and come forward to loop (like *f*), end with a smile



Eyes closed



Practice writing *qu* and some words

qu qu qu qu

. . . .

quit quit quit

. . . .

quiet quiet quiet

. . . .

queen queen queen

. . . .

Review (12 letters)

a

.

.

.

c

.

.

.

d

.

.

.

e

.

.

.

g

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i

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l

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m

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m

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p

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.

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q

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.

.

u

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.

.

Practice writing words

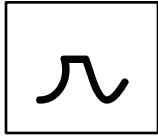
gem gem gem

gulp gulp gulp

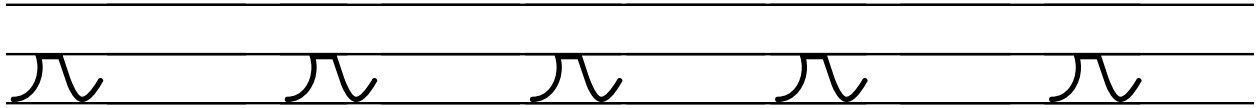
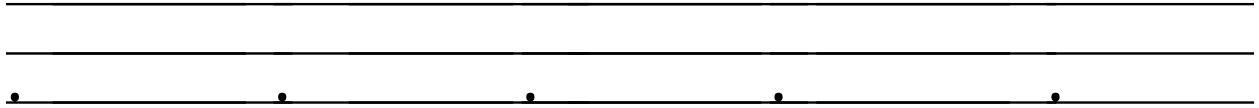
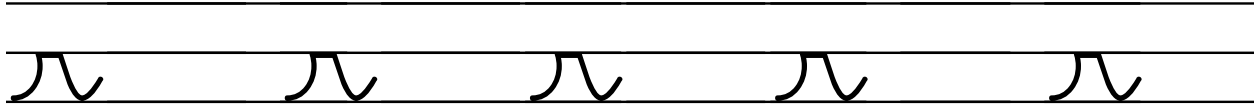
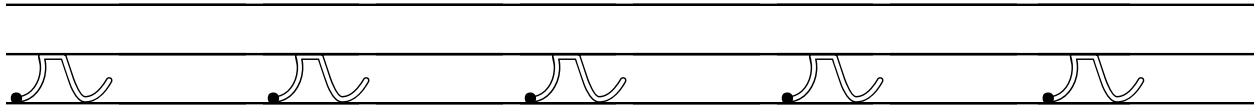
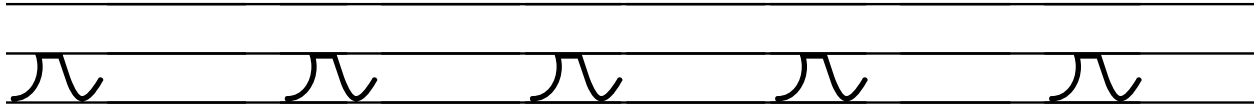
add add add

dome dome dome

quill quill quill



Swing up, make a flat table, and come down to end with a smile



Eyes closed



Practice writing words

run run run

.

car car car

.

ripe ripe ripe

.

part part part

.

arm arm arm

.

Practice writing words

ear ear ear

tree tree tree

green green green

gum gum gum

rage rage rage

Practice writing phrases

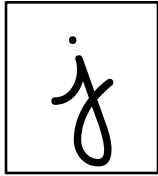
a car part

a rat can run

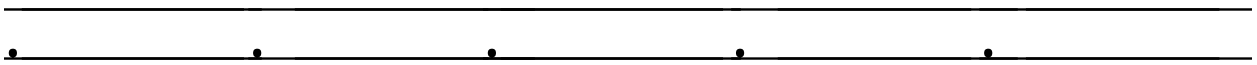
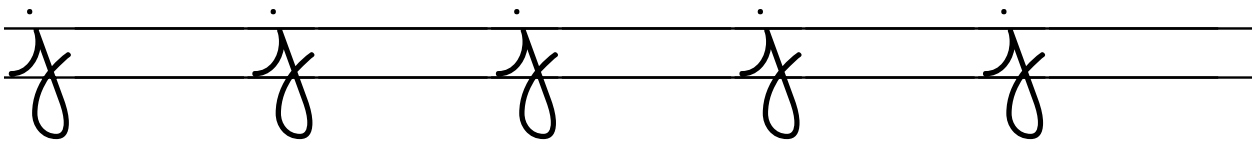
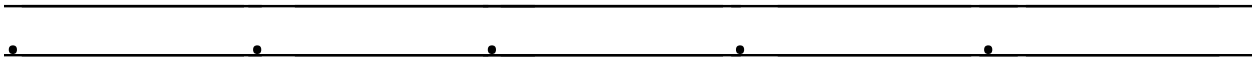
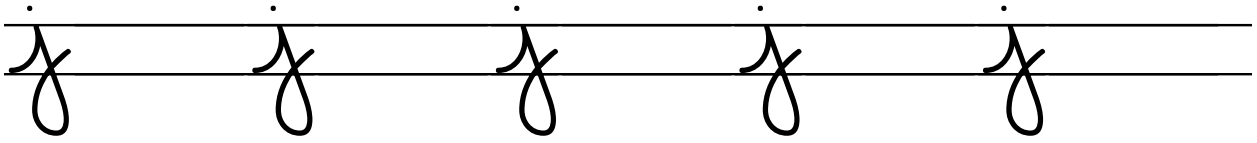
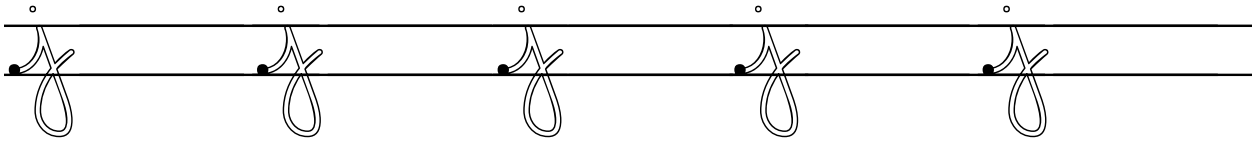
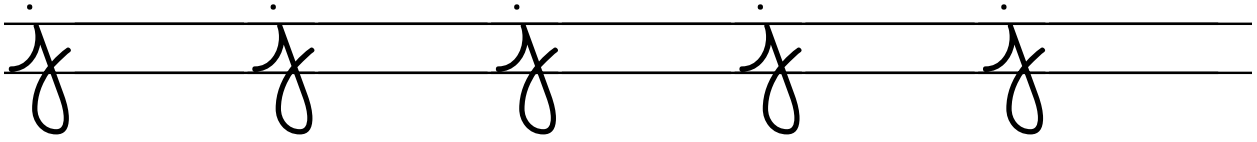
great art

large green tree

gim at a partner



Start like *j*, end like *g* with a loop,
then make the dot



Eyes closed



Practice writing words

jar jar jar

jam jam jam

jug jug jug

jump jump jump

jeep jeep jeep

Practice writing phrases

jam in a jar

put it in a jug

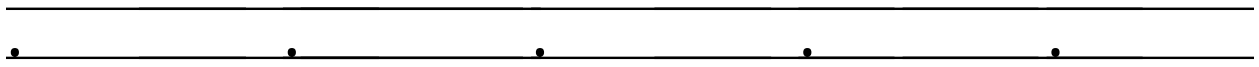
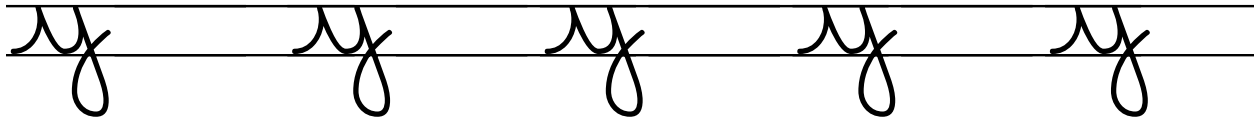
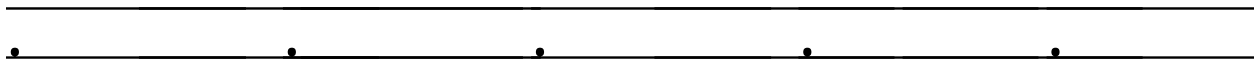
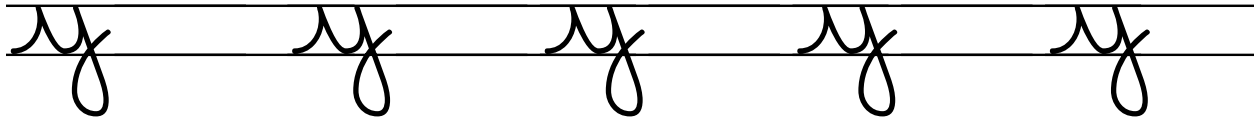
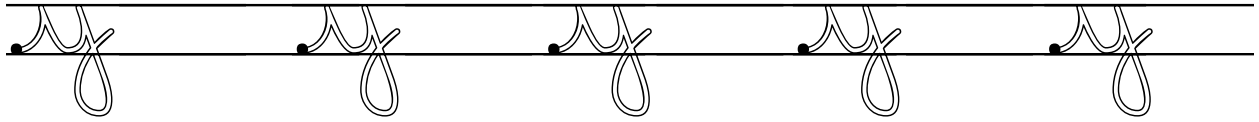
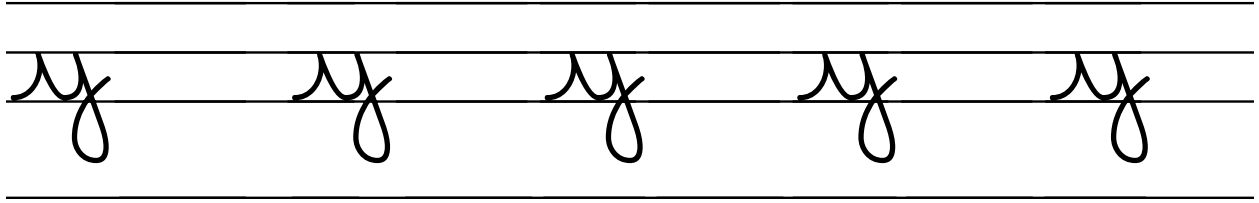
quit jumping

tell a judge

danced a jig



Start like *u*, and end like *j* but without the dot



Eyes closed



Practice writing words

yet yet yet

.

yell yell yell

.

yam yam yam

.

gym gym gym

.

Practice writing words

my my my

oy oy oy

ty ty ty

dy dy dy

py py py

Practice writing phrases

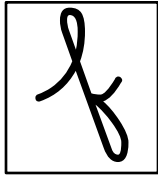
yelling at a cat

in my gym

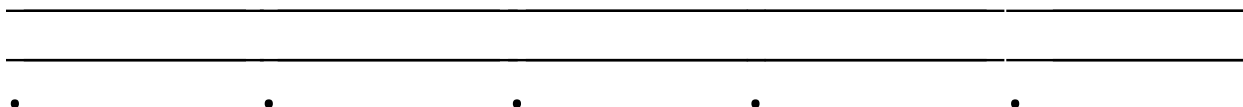
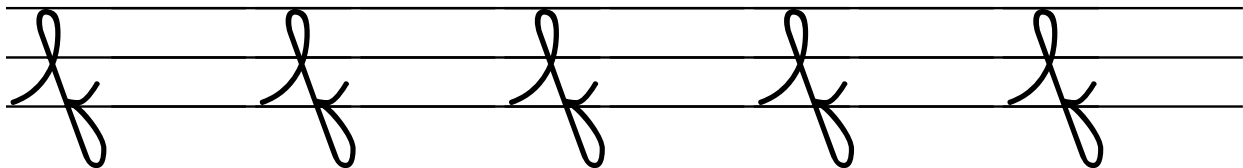
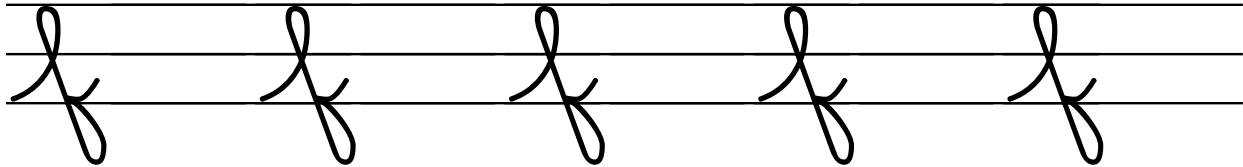
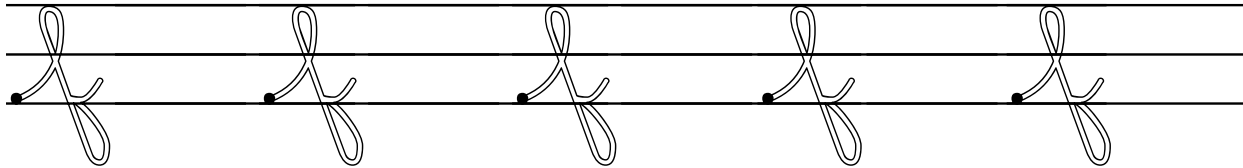
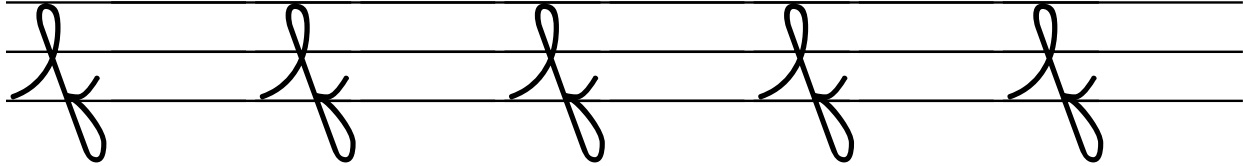
ate a yam

came in a year

yipped and yapped



Start like *l*, go down and make a loop forward - this is the only letter that goes above the line and down to the basement



Eyes closed



Practice writing words

if if if

fun fun fun

fill fill fill

fine fine fine

stuff stuff stuff

Practice writing words

flip flip flip

fall fall fall

guff guff guff

feeling feeling

funny funny

Practice writing phrases

feeling quite fine

a funny man

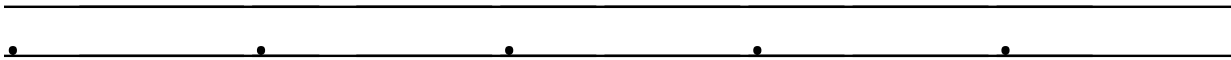
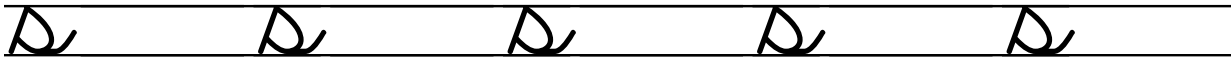
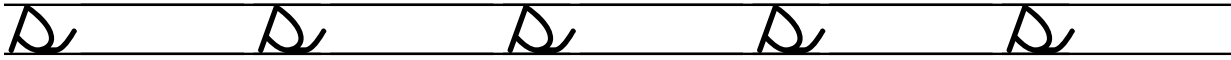
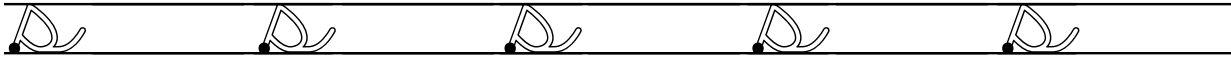
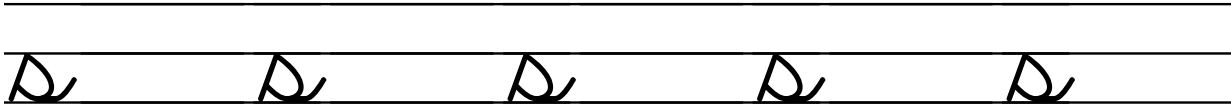
if it came here

stuff it in later

a ripe fig fell



Swing up, come down to make a fat tummy, and end with a smile



Eyes closed



Practice writing words

is is is

.

as as as

.

safe safe safe

.

same same same

.

sing sing sing

.

Practice writing words

mist mist mist

last last last

fast fast fast

pass pass pass

sipping sipping

Practice writing phrases

pass me a glass

•

sing all night

•

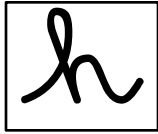
a glass slipper

•

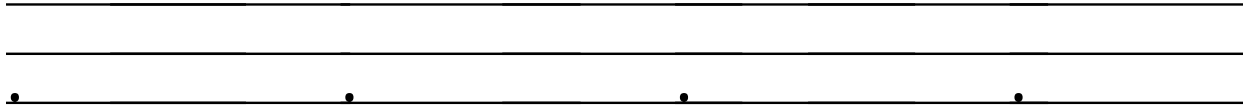
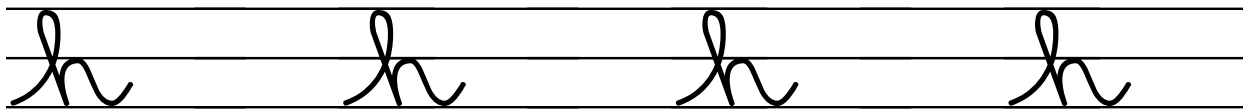
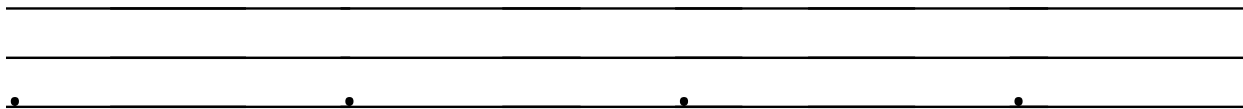
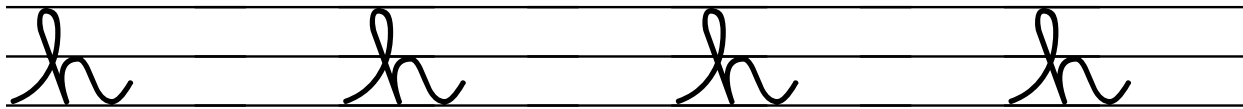
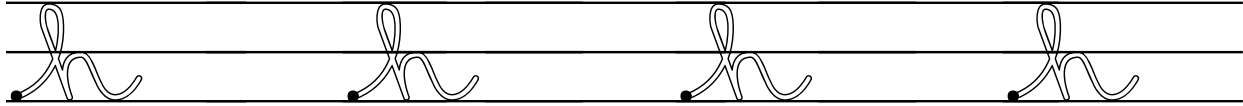
in a safety net

•

missed the train



Start with a loop, come down straight, make a hump and end with a smile



Eyes closed



Practice writing digraph sh and words

sh sh sh

she she she

ship ship ship

fish fish fish

shut shut shut

Practice writing digraph th and words

th th th

the the the

this this this

they they they

them them them

Practice writing digraph ch and words

ch ch ch

chim chim chim

chest chest chest

rich rich rich

much much much

Practice writing phrases

such a rich queen

they sailed at last

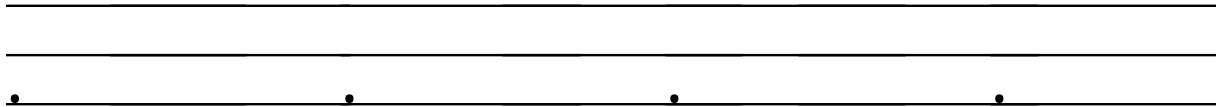
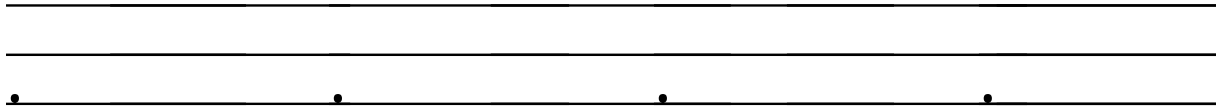
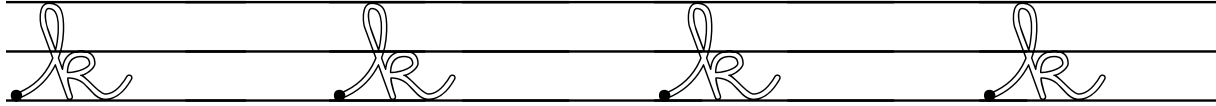
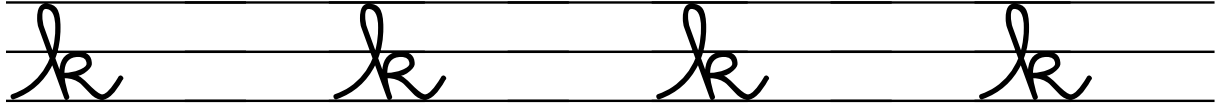
catch a big fish

see the fish in the sea

a tug pulled the ship



Start like *h*, but the bottom part looks like capital *R*; end with a smile



Eyes closed



Practice writing words

kite kite kite

kiss kiss kiss

take take take

make make make

like like like

Practice writing digraph ck and words

ck ck ck

luck luck luck

milk milk milk

truck truck truck

smack smack smack

Practice writing phrases

take the snake

keep the kites here

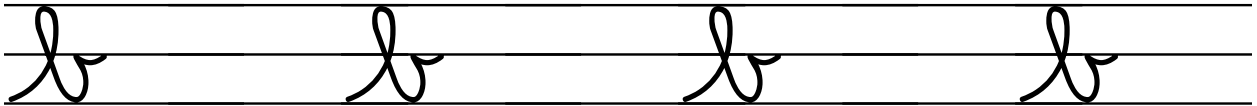
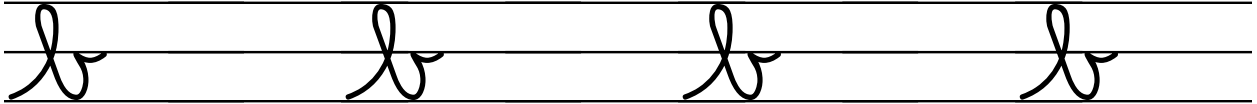
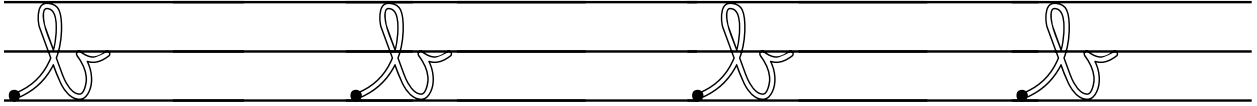
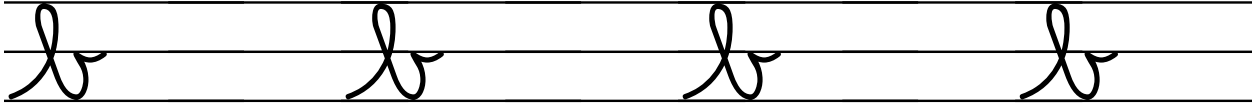
red lucky charm

liked the snack

drink all the milk



Start like *l*, and finish with a bridge



Eyes closed



Practice writing words

but but but

ball ball ball

bus bus bus

bit bit bit

back back back

Practice writing words

be be be

bell bell bell

bet bet bet

been been been

been been been

Practice writing bridge letters and words

br br br

brim brim brim

bram bram bram

bs bs bs

cabs cabs cabs

Practice writing phrases

a bat and ball

by the big bridge

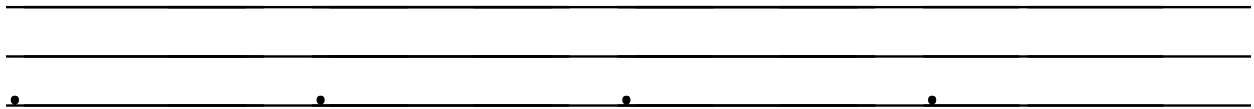
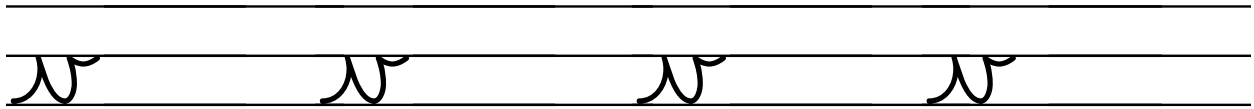
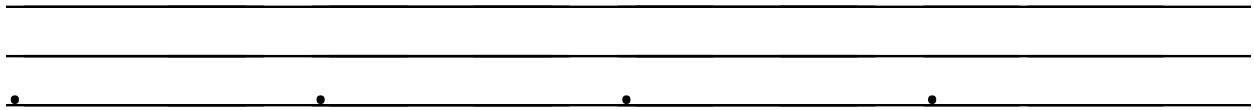
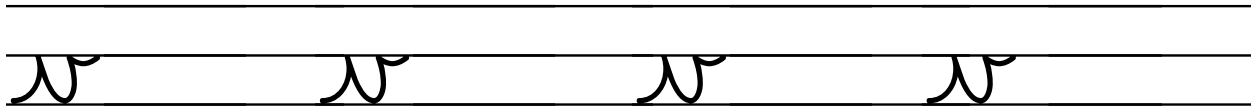
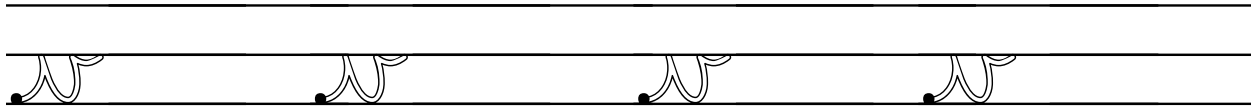
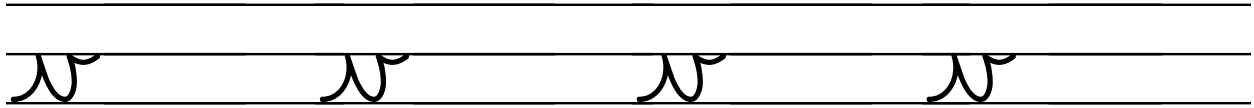
bite the burger

bread and butter

bring my best dress



Swing up as for *λ*, do it again, and end with a smile



Eyes closed



Practice writing words

van van van

vet vet vet

vest vest vest

have have have

been been been

Practice writing words

give give give

save save save

very very very

never never never

every every every

Practice writing phrases

driving very far

gave me the keys

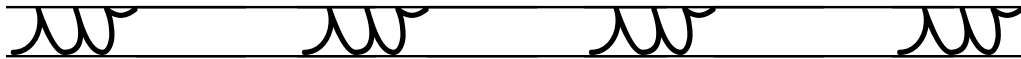
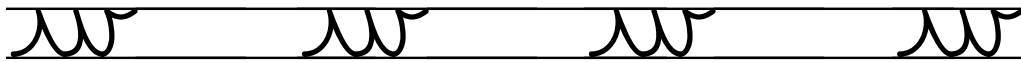
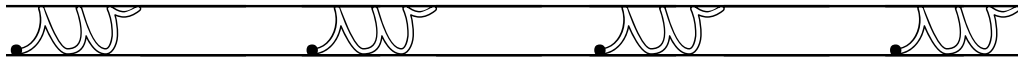
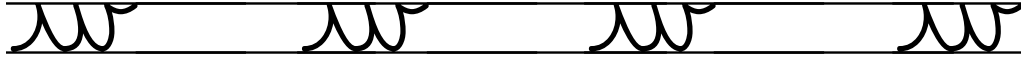
have a nice day

living by the lake

the vet in the valley



Make a *w*, go up again and make a bridge



Eyes closed



Practice writing words

we we we

was was was

when when when

went went went

what what what

Practice writing bridge letters and words

warm warm warm

water water water

wr wr wr

write write write

wrench wrench wrench

Practice writing phrases

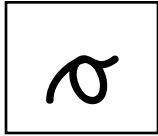
the right wrench

they went west

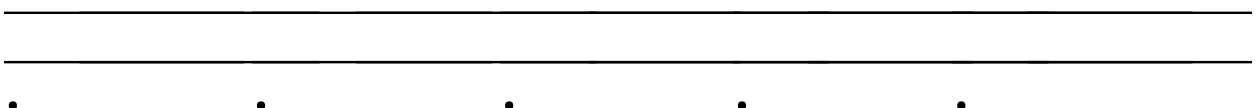
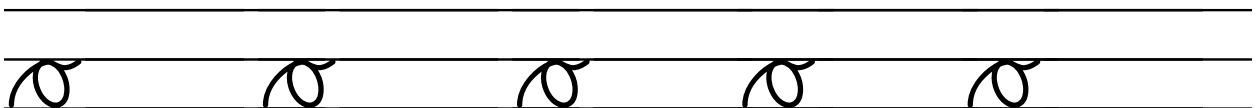
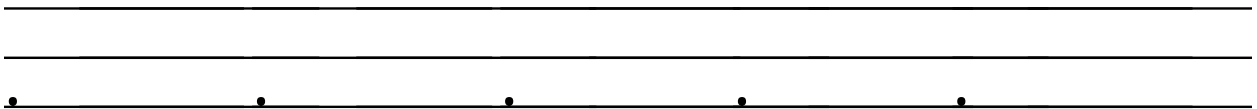
a few fir trees

wash in warm water

where and when we met



Start like *o*, but stop at 12 o'clock and make the bridge shaped like a dish



Eyes closed



Practice writing words

so

so

so

not

not

not

out

out

out

of

of

of

loud

loud

loud

Practice writing words

or or or

for for for

corn corn corn

moss moss moss

more more more

Practice writing phrases

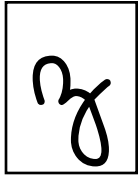
more or less


he shouted loudly

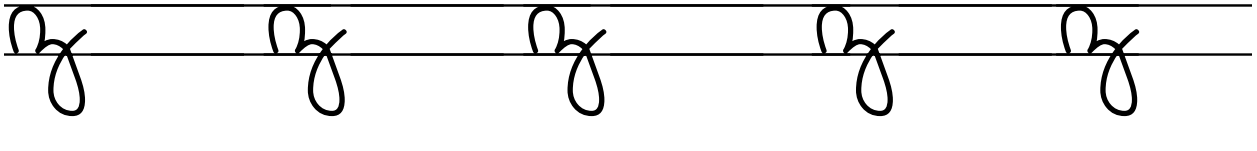
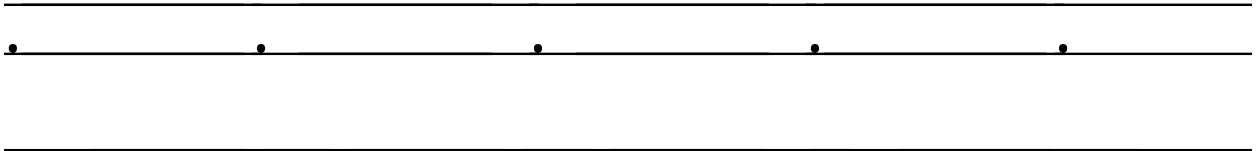
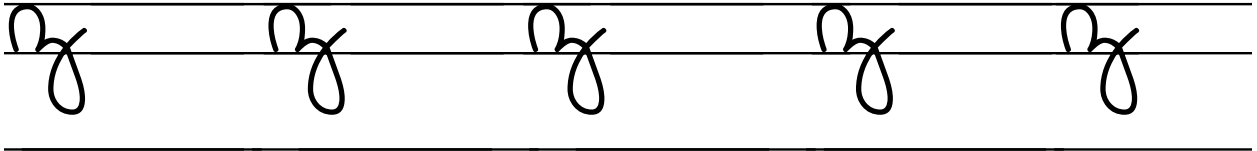
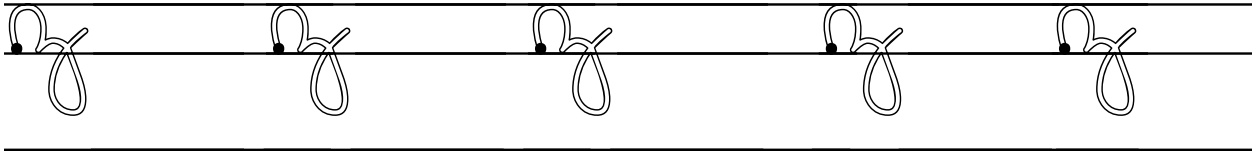
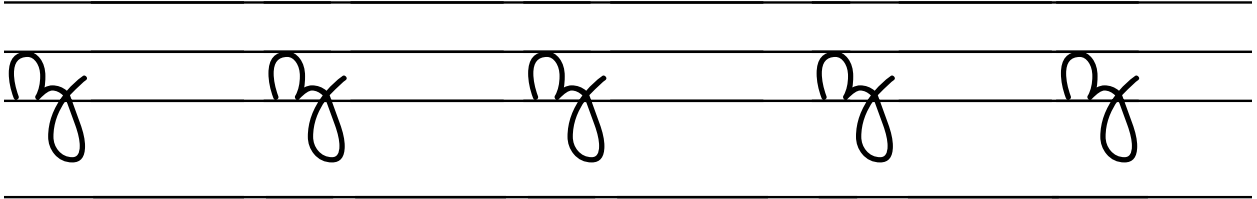
on top of the pool

the boy in the pool

pound of ground beef



Make a curvy hump, stop, then a tiny hump, and into a loop like 



Eyes closed



Practice writing words

zoo zoo zoo

zip zip zip

zany zany zany

zero zero zero

zebra zebra zebra

Practice writing phrases

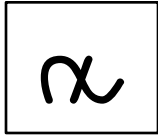
a fuzzy soda

an easy quiz

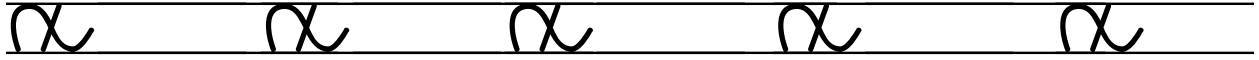
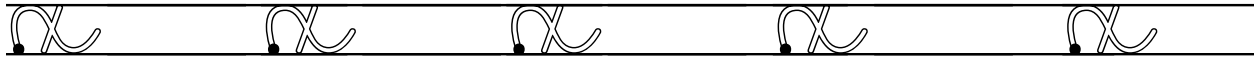
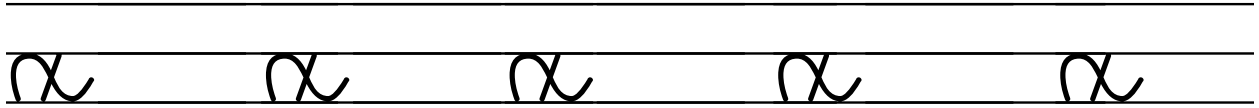
a jazz concert band

the zebras at the zoo

zoom into the clouds



Start on the line, make a snake, go back and cross it



Eyes closed



Practice writing words

axe

axe

axe

oxen

oxen

oxen

exit

exit

exit

fox

fox

fox

fix

fix

fix

Practice writing phrases

pay the tax

an extra dollar

wax the floor

the sly brown fox

fixed the exit sign

4 Bridge Letters

h

o

n

w

7 Finish-Late Letters

t

i

j

x

7 Tall Letters

t

l

d

f

h

k

b

7 Basement Letters

p

q

g

j

y

f

z

Practice Writing the Alphabet

a b c d e f g h i j k l m

n o p q r s t u v w x y z

a b c d e f g h i j k l m

n o p q r s t u v w x y z

a b c d e f g h i j k l m

n o p q r s t u v w x y z