

Letter-join 

Cursive Handwriting

HOME USERS' GUIDE



HOME USERS' GUIDE

Welcome to Letter-join!

Inside this guide you'll find all the help your children need to get the most out of Letter-join at home.

Schools that subscribe to Letter-join are able to provide their pupils with log-in details to use Letter-join at home.

Inside this guide you'll find Letter-join's resources matched to each Key Stage to help improve your child's handwriting.

Letter-join 



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Log in and get started with Letter-join at home

Schools with a Letter-join subscription will issue you log-in details to use at home.

Letter-join
Cursive handwriting made easy!

Dear Parents,
We are now part of the Letter-join handwriting scheme and any of our pupils wishing to practice their handwriting at home can now log in to the Letter-join website on iPads and tablets as well as desktop and laptop computers. There you will find the same, easy-to-use handwriting resources as we use at school.

How to log in to Letter-join

DESKTOP AND LAPTOP LOG-IN
Simply go to www.letterjoin.co.uk and log in, using the Desktop log-in boxes, with these details:
User name:
Password:

Letter-join will work on the following browsers on PCs:
• Google Chrome • Firefox
• Safari • Opera
We cannot recommend using Internet Explorer for Letter-join.

On a desktop computer please log-in here

Letter-join is an on-line resource for teaching cursive handwriting at school and at home. It uses interactive animations to demonstrate joined-up letter formation and hundreds of worksheets for real handwriting practice.

FREE TRIAL!
Try Letter-join now for 30 days

Buy one year's instant access

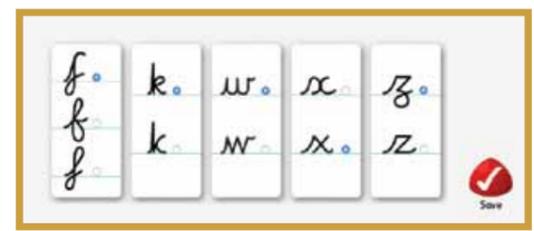
Letter-join SCHOOL EDITION with whiteboard facility
from £28 per class p.a.*

Calculate cost for my school

*Based on 7 classrooms. £100 one-off registration fee also

On an iPad or tablet please log-in here

YOUR SCHOOL'S PREFERRED LETTERFORMS



Your school will have chosen their preferred letterforms for f, k, w, x and z which will be used on when you log in to the Home Edition.

TIP! Always ensure that you practise writing the same letterforms that your school has chosen.

CHOOSE A RECOMMENDED BROWSER

- Google Chrome
- Mozilla Firefox
- Apple Safari

Letter-join is an advanced web site that is compatible with most internet browsers on desktop computers as well as on iPads, Windows and Android tablets.

We recommend Google Chrome, Firefox and Safari.

Because of issues with script fonts please do not use Internet Explorer.

At a glance: the Letter-join menu



You can access Letter-join on PCs and tablets



Touch-screen activities for iPads and tablets



Watch animations with spoken instructions



Practice worksheets accompany all sections

Early Years, Foundation Stage

Patterns and pre-cursive shapes can be challenging for young children. To support what children are learning at school, Letter-join has all the resources parents and children will need to continue practise at home.

Letter-join's animations present pre-cursive patterns with fun sounds that can be copied by air-writing or by tracing on tablets and, most importantly by practising with a pencil on printed worksheets.

This naturally leads on to the introduction of real letters, reinforcing at home what your children are learning at school.

Watching and copying the shapes of letters and the various joining techniques as presented on the Letter-join animations, will enable children to learn to write simple words in the correct cursive style at this early stage.

Why not try..

DRAWING PATTERNS ON SCREEN AND PAPER

You can practise Letter-join touch-screen activities on iPads and tablets. Back up formative fun on screen with print-out sheets for real handwriting practice. This chapter will show you lots of ideas for younger children.



Early Years, Foundation Stage

Develop writing skills with Pre-cursive Patterns

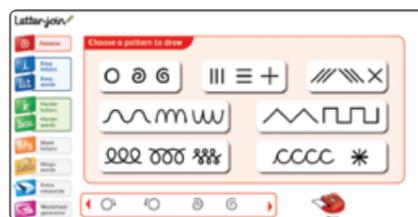
Choose interactive/touch-screen activities and printed worksheets as a foundation to handwriting.



Letter-join provides a selection of fun pre-cursive patterns for EYFS children that cover all handwriting movements. These encourage fine and gross motor skills as a foundation to cursive handwriting.

Letter-join's pre-cursive patterns are grouped into logical sets of similar shapes, and each pattern is animated, accompanied by exciting sounds.

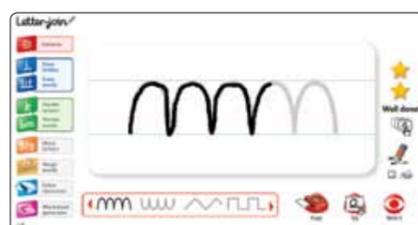
Fine motor control can be gained by finger writing on tablets or with a pencil using the worksheets. Worksheets consist of lines of patterns for tracing using a pencil or crayon and a simple drawing which can be 'coloured-in' using the patterns of that group.



Pre-cursive patterns cover all writing shapes.



Watch patterns, such as jellies, with fun sounds.



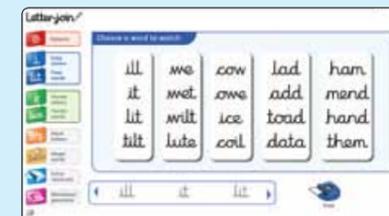
Practise tracing patterns on IWBs or tablets.



Fun worksheets are available for all the pattern sets for handwriting practice using pencils and crayons.

Letters and Words made simple

Watch, practise, trace and copy - the easy way to learn cursive handwriting.



Word animations cover all the joining methods between characters.



Watch how each of the letters are written and joined.



You can control the speed of 'word' animations.

Magic Words palettes



Example of an Easy word typed into the Magic Words section. Letter-join uses the correct joins between letters ready to be practised on a tablet or printed out for real handwriting practice.



Rainbow



Blackboard

Magic Words includes colourful palettes where words can be typed onto the screen and then written over using a finger or a stylus for practice and fun. For more interaction it also features a simple star rated scoring system.



Excellent!

Tailor-made Worksheets

Use the Worksheet Generator to create cursive worksheets quickly in different formats. See page 18.



Key Stage 1

At home, Letter-join is the perfect handwriting companion for KS1 children with easy access to the same resources as school.

With gentle encouragement children will be aiming to produce neat handwriting with consistent spacing and letter sizes.

Practicing handwriting exercises both on tablets and with pencils on worksheets can be fun with real improvements achieved surprisingly quickly.

The following KS1 pages cover a variety of Letter-join resources to achieve this including speedy 'on the go' iPad activities and a multitude of worksheets for real handwriting practice. When using Letter-join at home parents can be sure that they are using the same letterforms and resources as chosen by school.



Why not try...

NEW CHARACTERS

KS1 is the time to introduce new characters; capital letters, numbers, printed letters, mathematical symbols and punctuation. Letter-join animates all of these to show the correct formation and provides ready-made worksheets. This chapter covers a large array of Letter-join activities to give a real boost to children's handwriting skills.



Developing children's handwriting skills

Use Letter-join to teach harder letters and words to help children gain confidence in their handwriting.



Letters and Words cover all the joining techniques between cursive characters.

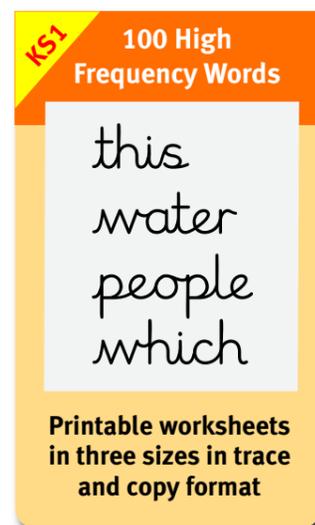
Letter-join's animations of letters and words make it easy to learn and write the letters of the alphabet. The words used in the examples have been carefully selected to cover all cursive joining methods enabling children to quickly become more natural with the variety of strokes between different letter shapes.



After watching the animations, it's easy to use an iPad or tablet using a finger or stylus to familiarise and practise the letter shapes and joining techniques. The pre-prepared worksheets, which are available in three different sizes, can be easily printed for that all too important real handwriting practice.

Practice worksheets

Letter-join's worksheets for KS1 include practice sheets for all of the animated letters and words, word lists, high frequency words and sequencing sentences. See page 18 for a full listing of Extra Resources.



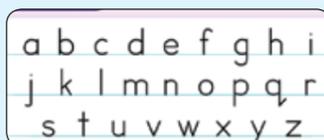
New worksheets are regularly added to the Letter-join web site.

At school KS1 children will be learning:

- The correct methods for writing upper and lower case letters with the correct joins.



- How to form numerals of the same size that sit on the base line.
- How to write printed letters and use Letter-join's animations and worksheets to practise how they are used.



- To leave the correct space between words.
- To write longer passages of text to build up endurance using the Dictation Exercises.
- That letters sit on the base line and are consistent in size with correctly formed ascenders and descenders.



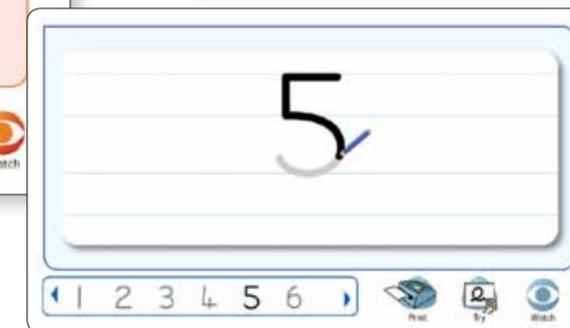
Capital and Printed Letters, Numbers and Punctuation - all have animations and practice worksheets at the ready!



Animations for Capitals, Printed Letters, Numbers, Punctuation and Symbols can be found under the 'More Letters' menu tab.



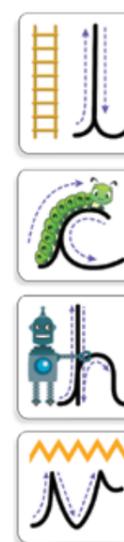
5 times table		
Look	Trace	Copy
0 x 5 = 0	0 x 5 = 0	
1 x 5 = 5	1 x 5 = 5	
2 x 5 = 10	2 x 5 = 10	
3 x 5 = 15	3 x 5 = 15	
4 x 5 = 20	4 x 5 = 20	
5 x 5 = 25	5 x 5 = 25	
6 x 5 = 30	6 x 5 = 30	
7 x 5 = 35	7 x 5 = 35	
8 x 5 = 40	8 x 5 = 40	
9 x 5 = 45	9 x 5 = 45	
10 x 5 = 50	10 x 5 = 50	
11 x 5 = 55	11 x 5 = 55	
12 x 5 = 60	12 x 5 = 60	



Times tables worksheets are available in the Extra Resources section to help with number writing.

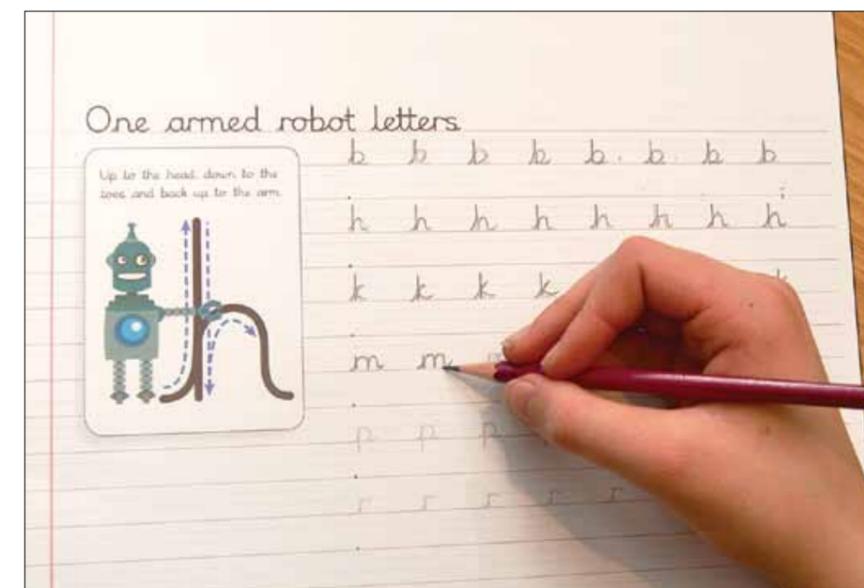
Try Letter Families worksheets

Help children familiarise similar letter shapes and become confident at writing differently formed characters.



Using the familiar format of long ladders, curly caterpillars, one-armed robots and zig-zag letters, Letter-join's worksheets can be printed out for tracing and copying the different letter families.

Vibrant graphics add to the recognition of each letter family and your school's alternative letterforms are automatically used.



Letter Families worksheets can be found under Extra Resources -> Printouts, Handouts and Posters -> Supplementary Worksheets.

Letter-join's Magic Words – touch-screen activities

The Magic Words section is a great way for Key Stage 1 children to type in their own words and practise handwriting using the touch-screen

capabilities of iPads and tablets. With five exciting backgrounds to choose from and a simple star reward function, children will enjoy using

Letter-join on their tablets at school and at home.



Practise number writing with times tables printouts

Letter-join includes a full set of times tables worksheets from 2 through to 12 times tables which are great for practising number writing. They are provided in look, trace and copy format which are ideal for homework sheets!

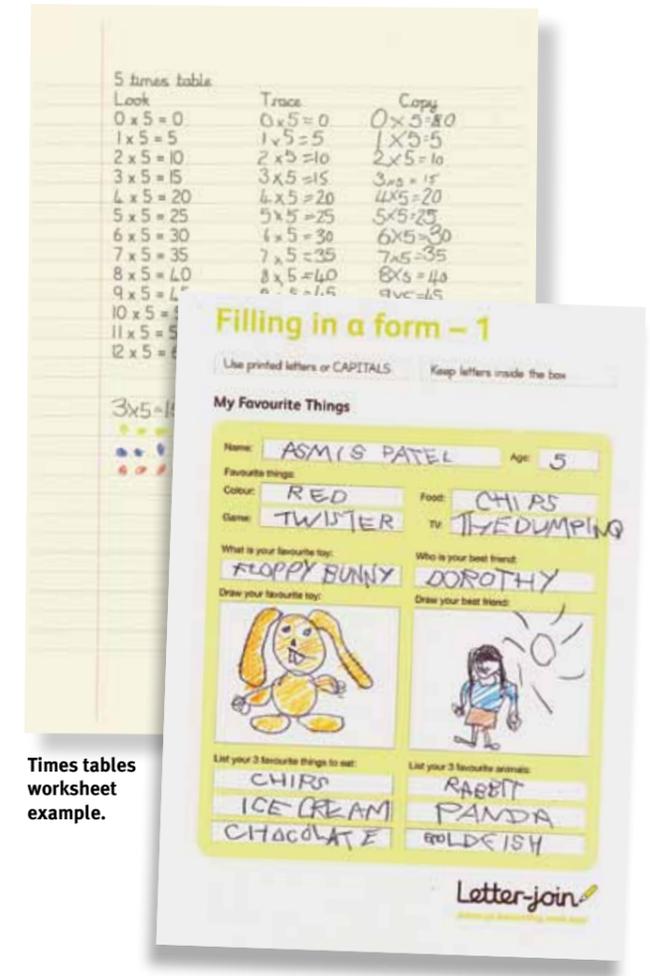
Introduce form-filling

Children can learn how to write within the constraints of a form using printed and capital letters. Letter-join includes a selection of forms for Key Stages 1 and 2.

Handwriting worksheets

Handwriting and spelling go together and Letter-join provides many spelling worksheets for practising cursive handwriting. These include:

- Pangram sentences using all the letters of the alphabet.
- High frequency words for Key Stage 1.
- Sequencing sentences.
- Cloze exercises.



Times tables worksheet example.

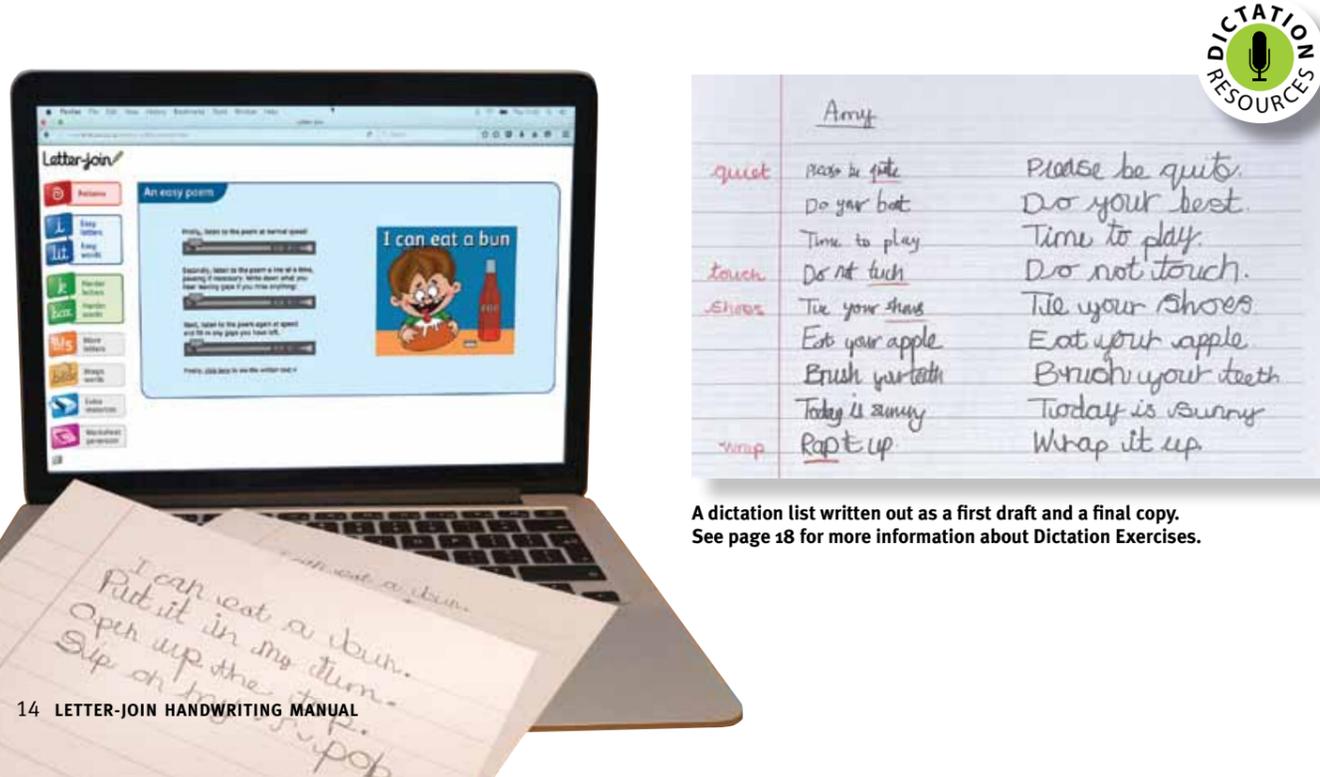
Key Stage 1 form-filling example.

Practise Speedy Writing with Dictation Exercises

Letter-join's Dictation Exercises are a great introduction to speedy writing and help build up writing stamina.

They also help in learning how to produce a first draft, proof checking and writing out a final copy.

The dictation exercises for KS1 include a simple spelling list, a list of 2 digit numbers and an easy poem.



Pangram sentences using all the letters of the alphabet

High frequency words for Key Stage 1

Key Stage 1 Cloze Exercises

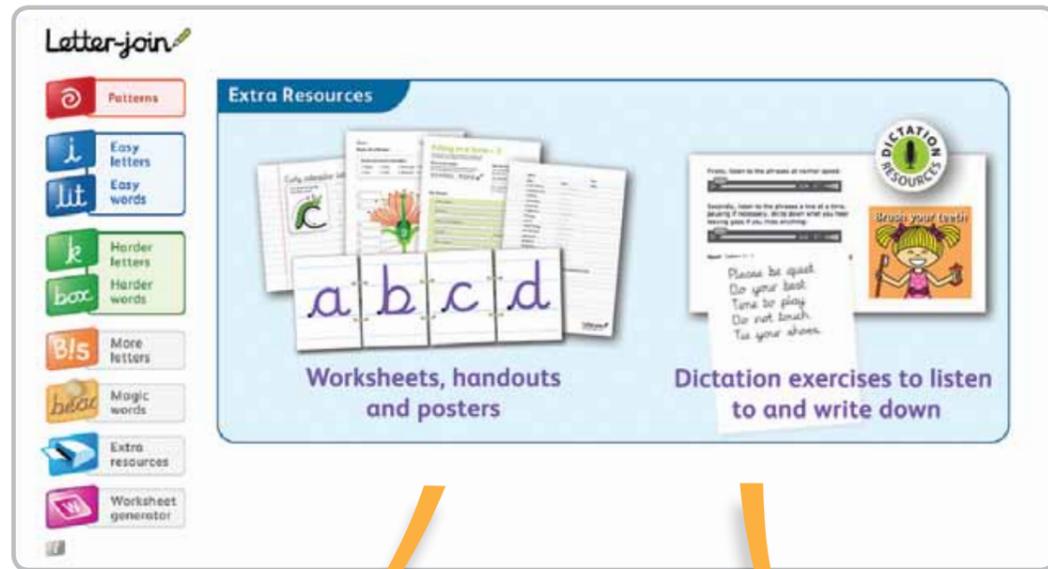


Extra Resources

Find your way around Letter-join's ever-growing list of worksheets and handwriting exercises.

Letter-join contains a large variety of worksheets and printouts to help with learning and practising handwriting.

These will all use your school's preferred letterforms for cursive f, k, w, x and z.



Worksheets, handouts and posters

CURSIVE WORKSHEETS

- High frequency words
- Letter families
- Sequencing sentences

Simple for years 1-2 and harder for years 2-3

Word lists

Lists for years 3-4 and years 5-6

Cloze sentences

Pangrams

Worksheets of sentences using all the letters of the alphabet

PRINTED WORKSHEETS

Labelling exercises

Topic worksheets for labelling using printed letters

Form-filling exercises

Easy form, harder form and a form with boxes

Times tables

For number practice

POSTERS AND HANDOUTS

A4 Alphabet printouts

Classroom banner

Lined writing paper

Dictation exercises

To help promote neatness, speedy handwriting and proof-checking

EASY PRACTICE

Word list, number list and simple poem.

HARDER EXERCISES

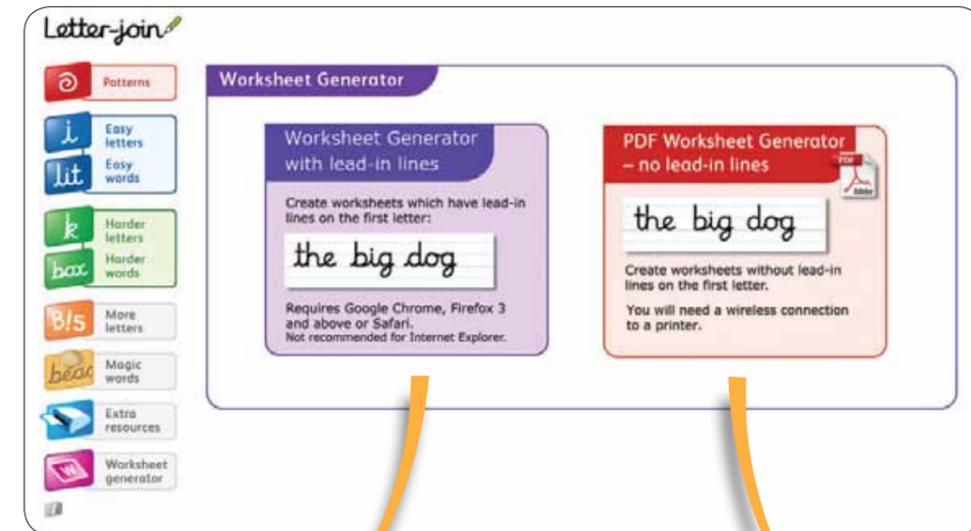
List of simple phrases, simple additions and a harder poem.

MORE CHALLENGING

Shopping list, challenging numbers and a written passage.

Worksheet Generator

Create your own cursive handwriting worksheets for spelling lists, sentence sheets and posters.



Worksheets with lead-in lines

The on-screen Worksheet Generator with lead-in lines uses your internet browser to publish your own fully-cursive worksheets using the Letter-join typeface. There are options to include guidelines or just print the baseline. Your school's choices of preferred letterforms for f, k, w, x and z will be used.

PDF Worksheet Generator (with no lead-in lines)

Initially, some schools prefer to teach their children to write their cursive letters with a lead-out line, but no lead-in line. The PDF Worksheet Generator allows you to create worksheets using this format.

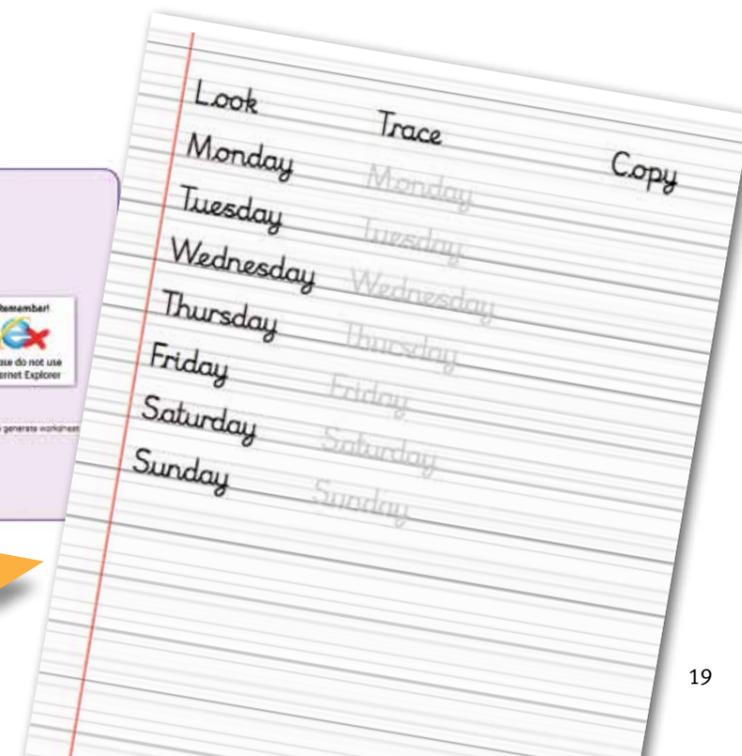


What is a lead-in-line?

Most schools will teach cursive handwriting with lead-in lines and we advise using them when practising at home. Pupils will be able to confirm the preferred option with their school.



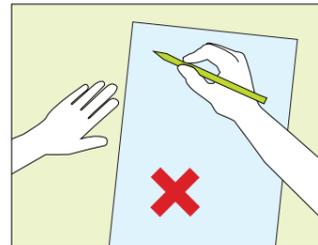
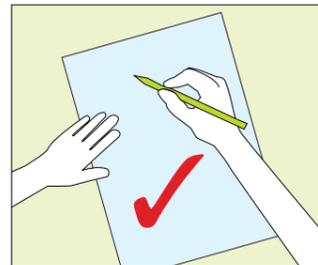
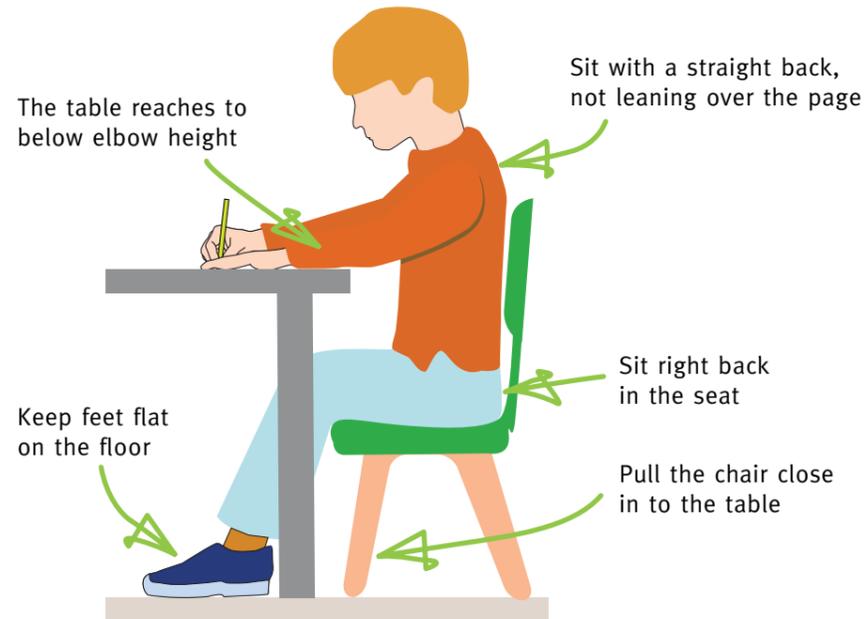
A spelling list showing days of the week created on the Worksheet Generator with lead-in lines.



Correct Posture for Handwriting

Sitting comfortably and holding the pencil correctly will aid neater handwriting and help children write for longer periods.

How to sit comfortably

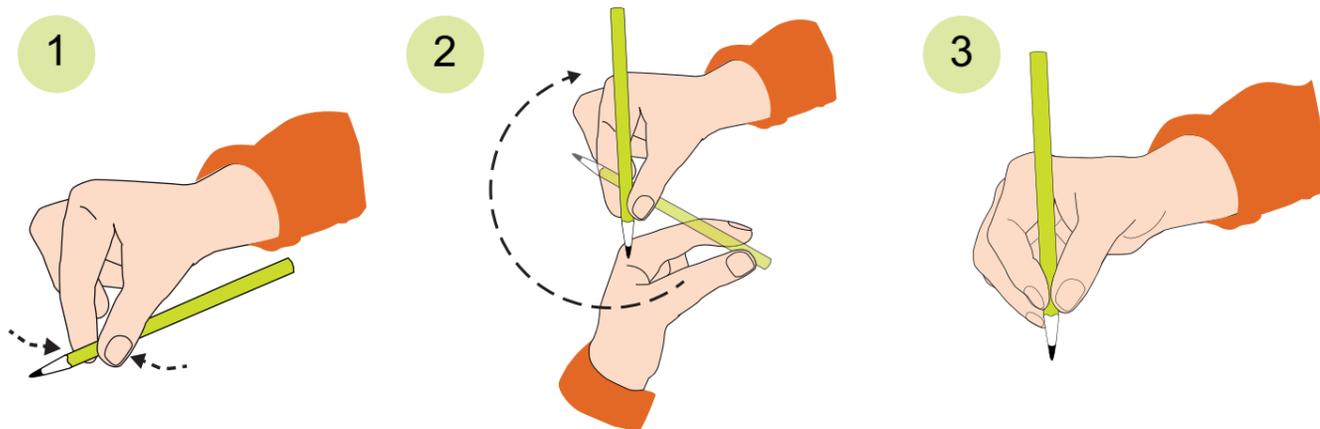


Paper positioning for right-handed children.

How to hold a pencil correctly using the tripod pencil grip

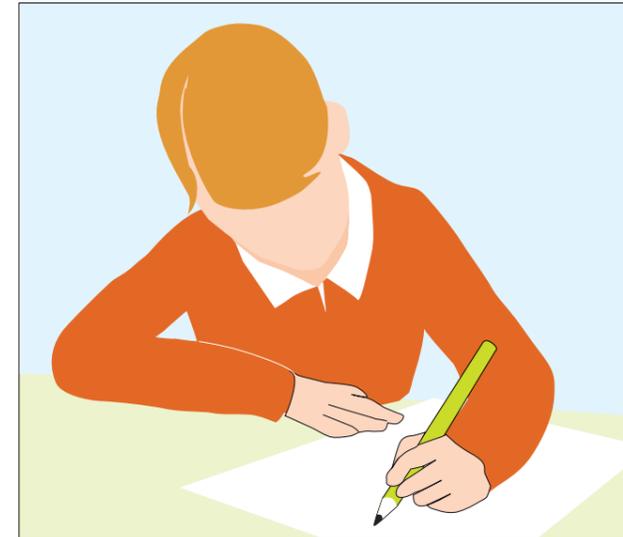
Both right and left handed children should be encouraged to use the tripod grip which allows the pen/pencil to be held securely whilst allowing controlled movements of the pen/pencil nib.

- 1) Grip the pencil with your index finger and thumb with the nib pointing away.
- 2) With your free hand, spin the pencil from underneath.
- 3) Use your middle finger to support the underside of the pencil.

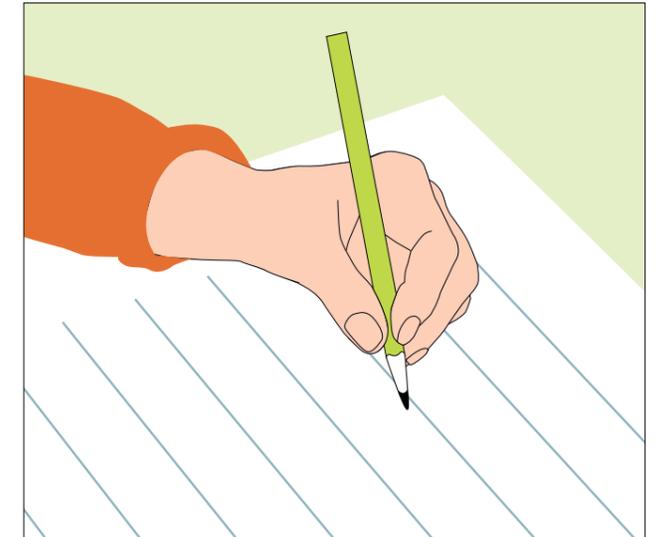


Seating and handwriting positioning for left-handed children

Left-handed children may find it difficult to follow right-handed teachers as they demonstrate letter formation (and vice versa). Teachers should demonstrate to left-handers on an individual or group basis.

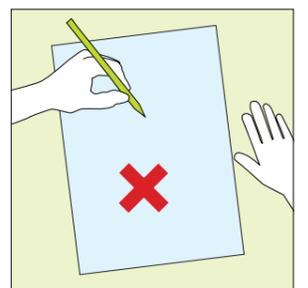
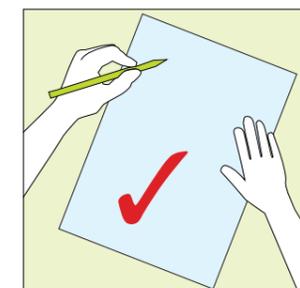


Paper positioning for left-handed children.



Tripod grip for left-handed children.

- Left-handed children should sit to the left of a right-handed child so that they are not competing for space.
- Children should position the paper/book to their left side and slanted, as shown.
- Pencils should not be held too close to the point as this can interrupt children's line of vision.
- Extra practice with left-to-right exercises may be necessary before children write left-to-right automatically.



Paper position for left-handed children.

Inclusion

Children whose handwriting is limited by problems with fine motor skills, including left-handed children, and children with special educational needs, should be given one-to-one tuition to help achieve their optimum handwriting level.

Pens and pencils

Children are encouraged to start handwriting using a soft pencil. When fine motor skills have been established a handwriting pen can be used. More competent children can use a ballpoint pen.

Letter-join FAQs

LOGGING IN TO LETTER-JOIN

I have forgotten/lost my home log-in details.

Please contact your school for confirmation of your school's home user name and password.

I would like Letter-join to remember my User name and Password.

Most browsers have an option where user names and passwords can be remembered. Please see your browser's preferences.

PRINTING WORKSHEETS

The worksheets are printing very faint and the guidelines are not showing.

Some laser printers can struggle to print from a web page. Save the worksheet as a PDF (see above) and print from the PDF.

The tracing words are printing in black when I generate a worksheet.

If you are using Firefox as your browser, in order to print the tracing words in grey you need to select the 'Print Background' option from Page Setup.

Firefox: File > Page Setup > tick Print Background.

WORKSHEET GENERATOR



The font is not joining correctly on the Worksheet Generator.

Do not use Internet Explorer for Letter-join! The Worksheet Generator will produce the font correctly if using Google Chrome, Firefox or Safari internet browsers. Internet Explorer, as yet, does not have the advanced font features for cursive script. If using Internet Explorer you can use the PDF Worksheet Generator but this will not show the lead-in lines.

How do I save worksheets created using the Worksheet Generator?

The Google Chrome browser has a facility to save pages as PDF files. Create your worksheet as normal using Google Chrome and select Ctrl P then change 'Destination' to 'Save as PDF'.

The lines are over-running when I print a generated worksheet.

We recommend a maximum number of letters/words/lines for each character size on the Worksheet Generator. If you reach these recommendations the lines may over-run. Try reducing the number of words per line.

Letter-join 

www.letterjoin.co.uk