Shortcut to Cursive

The Cursive Road to

Expressive Handwriting
Fluent Reading
Excellent Spelling
High Comprehension
Enhanced Composition

www.donpotter.net

Lesson 1. a aa A

Lesson 2. ab ba B Ab Bab ab

Lesson 3. c cab C Cab abc

Lesson 4. d dab dad bad cad D Dac abcd

Lesson 5. e ee be bee bed cede deed ace ebb E Ed abcde

Lesson 6. f fed feed fade deaf beef face F Fab abcdef

Lesson 7. g bag bagged gab age caged gaff egg G Gaff abcdefg

Lesson 8. h had head heed hedge H Hebb abcedfgh

Lesson 9. i big hid hide if fib ice dice chief fife I Ida abcdefghi

Lesson 10. j jag jig jab jade J Jade abcdefghij

Lesson 11. k kid back kick deck khaki K Kidd abcdefghijk

Lesson 12. l lad led lid black bell fled ball ill bill glad lake lace lilac hail eagle L Lee abcdefghijkl

Lesson 13. m mad made ham lamb blame M Mac abcdefghijklm

Lesson 14. n name hand fan fine knee glean mine N Nan abcdefghijklmn

Lesson 15. o on mom of off ok oh coal goad goal old hole cob job joke odd oil foil hoe book ocean log local O Oden abcdefghijklmno

Lesson 16. p pan pen pig pond lamp happen lip pill phone hope mapped plane opened pal P Pam abcdefghijklmnop

Lesson 17. q See Lesson 21 (u) abcdefghijklmnopq

Lesson 18. r ran brand grand friend car rag red for from hard error roar fire fir firm robe garage more R Ronald abcdefghijklmnopqr Lesson

19. s sad sadness mass hose glass labs flags science occasion ship push S Sam abcdefghijklmnopqrs

Lesson 20. t tan tape past potter other fit bright get giant tasted tattle debt ghost projector station T Ted abcdefghijklmnopqrst

Lesson 21. u up but rubber putter tube blue outside use bud suit judge guard quick quack quit quiet unplugged could cloud put fur nurse push U Unice Queen abcdefghijklmnopqrstu

Lesson 22. v vat van love vine valve vote V Victor abcdefghijklmnopqrstuv

Lesson 23. w we wet win walk write cows saw was lawn woke work strewn what swinging whole W Walter abcdefghijkmnopqrstuvw

Lesson 24. x ax axes tax taxes wax waxes box boxes fox foxes X Xavier abcdefghijklmnopqurstuvwx

Lesson 25. y yawn yes by buy bylaws cry baby navy yearly you yip vinly boys toy cherry Y Yolanda
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxy
Lesson 26. z jazz zoo zebra lazy crazy buzz puzzle cozy zucchini zephyr Z Zeke abcdefghijklmnoopqrstuvwxyz

Capital Letters

A Albert Anna
C Cathy Carmen
E Erica Esther
G George Georgia
I Imogene Inez
K Karen Ken
M Mary Mark
O Oscar Orson
Q Quincy Queen
S Sarah Shawn
U Ulysses Upton
W Waltar Wilma
Y Yolanda Young

B Beatrice Benny
D Dennis Donald
F Fred Francis
H Helen Henry
J Jean John
L Leonard Linda
N Nancy Neil
P Penny Paul
R Rita Ron
T Terry Troy
V Victor Valorie
X Xavier
Z Zach Zeke

Sentences Containing all the Letters of the Alphabet: Pangrams

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

2. How quicky daft jumping zebras.

3. The five boxing wizards jump quickly.

4. Heavy boxers 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 pluck and zeal from every young wage earner.

8. Crazy Frederica 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.

Beginning Strokes

Downcurve: a c d g o q

Overcurve: m n v x z

Undercurve: b e f h i j k l p r s t u w y

Midline Joining Strokes

ba be bi bo bu bl br bs bt bc

oa oe oi ou ow oy ob oc od of og oh oj ok ol om on oo op or
os ot ov ox oz

wa we wi wo wh wr ws ‾wn

va ve vi vo vu vy

Below Line Joining Strokes

ja je ji jo ju   qu
ga ge gi go gu gl gr gs gg gh

ya yi ye yo yu ys yl yr

za ze zi zo zu zy zz

Every possible midline joining strokes and below-line joining strokes are represented in the words in *Shortcut to Cursive*. It is important to teach all beginners explicitly and directly all joining strokes. This document was typed with software by Educational Fontware, Inc. www.educationalfontware.com

Shortcut to Cursive
Instructional Words in Alphabetical Order
232 Words – Covering all Joining Strokes

a, ace, age, ax, axes

baby, back, bad, bag, bagged, ball, be, bead, bed, bee, beef, bell, big, bill, black, blame, blue, book, box, boxes, boys, brand, bright, bud, but, buy, buzz, by, bylaws

cab, cad, caged, car, cede, cherry, chief, cloud, coal, cob, could, cows, cozy, crazy, cry

dab, dad, deaf, debt, deck, deed, dice

eagle, ebb, egg, error

face, fade, fan, fed, feed, fib, fine, fir, fire, firm, fit, flags, fled, foil, for, fox, foxes, friend, from

gab, gaff, garage, get, ghost, giant, glad, glass, glean, goad, goal, grand, guard

had, hail, ham, hand, happen, hard, head, hedge, heed, hid, hide, hoe, hole, hope hose

ice, if, ill

jab, jade, jag, jazz, jig, job, joke, judge

khaki, kick, kid, knee

labs, lace, lad, lake, lamb, lamp, lawn, lazy, led, lid, lilac, lip, local, log, love

mad, made, mapped, mass, mom, more,

name, navy, nine

occasion, ocean, odd, of, off, oh, oil, ok, old, on, opened, other, outside

pal, pan, past, pen, phone, pig, pill, plane, potter, pond, projector, push, put, putter, puzzle,

quack, quick, quiet, quit,

rag, ran, red, roar, robe, rubber

sad, sadness, saw, science, ship, station, strewn, suit, swinging

tan, tape, tasted, tattle, tax, taxes, toy, tube,

unplugged, up, use

valve, van, vat, velvet, vine, vinyl, vote

walk, was, wax, waxes, we, wet, what, whole, win, woke, works, write,

yawn, yearly, yes, yip, you,

zebra, zoo, zucchini, zephyr

The goal was to develop a cursive instruction program that would be **short but comprehensive**. It is streamlined without sacrificing any midline joining stroke or below-line joining stroke. On 1/10/15 Mr. Potter updated the document from 216 to 232 words in an effort to include all the spelling patterns for basic phonics in order that the teacher can combine cursive and phonics instruction in each handwriting lesson. The program has proven very effective with students from kindergarten up. This alphabetical word list was prepared by Donald L. Potter on 5/4/13. Updated 3/18/15.

Shortcut to Cursive
Instructional Words in Alphabetical (Instructional) Sequence
259 Words – Covering all Possible Joining Strokes and All Common Spelling Patterns

Group 1: *abcd* (8 words)
 Lesson 1. **a**: a A
 Lesson 2. **b**: b Ab Bab
 Lesson 3. **c**: cab Cab
 Lesson 4. **d**: dab dad bad cad Dac
Group 2: *efg* (23 words)
 Lesson 5. **e**: be bee bed cede deed ace ebb Ed
 Lesson 6. **f**: fed feed fade deaf beef face Fab
 Lesson 7. **g**: bag bagged gab age caged gaff egg Gaff
Group 3: *hijk* (26 words)
 Lesson 8. **h**: had head heed hedge Hebb
 Lesson 9. **i**: big hid hide if fib ice dice chief fife Ida
 Lesson 10. **j**: jag jig jab jade Jade
 Lesson 11. **k**: kid back kick deck kaki Kidd
Group 4: *lmnop* (68 words)
 Lesson 12. **l**: lad led lid black bell fled ball ill bill glad lake lice lilac hail eagle Lee
 Lesson 13. **m**: mad made ham lamb blame Mac
 Lesson 14. **n**: name hand fan fine knee glean mine Nan
 Lesson 15. **o**: on mom of off ok oh coal goad goal old hole cob job joke odd oil foil hoe book ocean log local Oden
 Lesson 16. **p**: pan pen pig pond lamp happen lip pill phone hope mapped plane opened pal Pam
Group 5: *qrs* (28 words, 2 names)
 Lesson 17. **q**: See Lesson 21 (**u**)
 Lesson 18. **r**: ran brand grand friend car rag red for from hard error roar fire fir firm robe garage more Ronald
 Lesson 19. **s**: sad sadness mass hose glass labs flags science occasion ship Sam
Group 6: *tuv* (48 words)
 Lesson 20. **t**: tan tape past potter other fit bright get giant tasted tattle debt ghost projector station Ted
 Lesson 21. **u**: up but rubber putter tube blue outside use bud suit judge guard quick quack quit quiet unplugged
            could cloud put fur nurse push Uncle Queen
 Lesson 22. **v**: vat van love vine valve vote Victor
Group 7: *wxyz* (54 words)
 Lesson 23: **w**: we wet win walk write cows saw was lawn woke work strewn what swinging whole Walter
 Lesson 24. **x**: ax axes tax taxes wax waxes box boxes fox foxes Xavier
 Lesson 25. **y**: yawn yes by buy bylaws cry baby navy yearly you yip vinyl boys toy cherry Yolanda
 Lesson 26. **z**: jazz zoo zebra lazy crazy buzz puzzle cozy zucchini zephyr Zeke

Introduction to Shortcut to Cursive

By the Author: Donald L. Potter

Work on *Shortcut to Cursive* was started on April 24, 2013. I designed it to be used to teach cursive in an expeditious and comprehensive manner to students new to the Odessa Christian School in Odessa, Texas. I was the Spanish teacher, reading tutor, and cursive handwriting specialist at the school. The school is a cursive-only school. All students from kindergarten up are expected to do all their work in cursive. This program has proven exceptionally effective in helping students new to the school to master fluent cursive in a matter of a few weeks instruction. I was a public school teacher for the Ector County ISD for 21 years, teaching elementary bilingual, secondary Spanish, Amateur Radio (NG5W), and dyslexia. I retired from the Christian school on May 31, 2019 to devote my time to tutoring and to promoting the scientific approach to teaching reading, spelling, and handwriting.

Special attention was paid to all joining strokes so the program would truly comprehensive. The "Alphabet Letter String" was created so students could establish a daily practice of writing the alphabet from *a* to *z*. I teach in the following groups or strings of letters: 1. *abcd,* 2. *efg,* 3. *hijk,* 4. *lmnop,* 5. *qrs,* 6. *tuv,* 7. *wxyz.* Each string is taught by connecting the letters of each string and then adding next string until all seven-strings have been mastered. At that time, the students will begin writing the entire alphabet in connected cursive letters every day. This daily practice will inevitably lead to high levels of letter writing and identification fluency. Alphabet fluency is the necessary foundation for fluent reading, accurate spelling, and high reading comprehension.

On January 10, 2015, I carefully reviewed the words I had chosen to teach all the strokes to see what phonetic elements might be missing. I determined which phonics patterns were missing and added words to make sure that every basic spelling pattern was included. This makes the program a convenient and effective tool for teaching elementary phonics and spelling: coupling instruction in fluent cursive handwriting with fluent word reading. I used the *Phonovisual Charts* as my phonics standard.

Dr. Bob Rose's work with alphabet fluency was a primary motivation behind the work. See his book, *Forget the Bell Curve*, which is available for free down from my website. Mr. Randy Nelson of *Peterson Directed Handwriting* has generously shared his knowledge of motor learning and cognitive development, as well as offering encouragement through the project. I especially appreciate the list of joining strokes that Mr. Nelson shared with me. This assures that the program is the most comprehensive possible.

Special thanks to all the many tutoring students who have helped me refine this method into a proven shortcut for teaching cursive. The student written classwork in cursive is irrefutable evidence of the effectiveness of the program.

Cursive Handwriting

Certificate of Mastery

Congratulations to _____ for successfully completing Mr. Donald L. Potter's Shortcut to Cursive Handwriting Program. You have demonstrated the writing skills necessary to write every letter in the English alphabet and every connecting stroke in the English cursive writing system. Now you are prepared to do all your writing in cursive and experience the awesome educational advantages of connected letter handwriting.
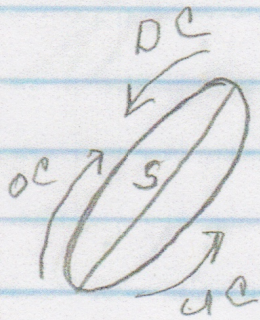
Master Handwriting Teacher _____

School: _____

Date of Completion _____

Shortcut to Cursive

Written and Copyright by
Donald L. Potter 5/27/2013, 10/4/2017

Oval Terminology: Language of Movement

Strokes

Under-Curve ↗ UC

Down-Curve ↙ DC

Over-Curve ↗ OC

Slant ↙ S

Connect-Stroke ⌣ CS

Loop Back LB

Loop Forward LF

Hook ⌇ H

Breakdown of Lowercase Strokes

a : $\swarrow$ + $\nearrow$ + $\downarrow$ + $\nearrow$ = _a_ _a_ _aa_
   DC UC S UC   HHook

b : $\int$ $\int$ $\downarrow$ $\nearrow$ = _b_ _b_ _ba_
   UC LB S UC CS   H

c : $\swarrow$ $\nearrow$ = _c_ _c_ _cc_
   DC UC   H

d : $\swarrow$ $\int$ $\downarrow$ $\nearrow$ = _d_ _dd_
   DC   UC S UC S-Right-UC HHook

e : $\nearrow$ $\downarrow$ $\int$ = _e_
   UC LB S UC

f : $\int$ $\downarrow$ $\nearrow$ = _f_
   UC LB S LF UC

g : $\swarrow$ $\downarrow$ $\nearrow$ = _g_ _g_ _gg_
   DC UC S LB OC   H

h: ↗ ↻ ↓ ↗ ↓ ↗ = h

UC   LB S OC S UC

i: ↗ ↓ ↗ • = i bi

UC S UC Dot

j: ↗ ↓ ↻ ↗ • = j

UC S LB OC DOT j

k: ↗ ↻ ↓ ↗ ↻ ↓ ↗ = k

UC   LB S OC LOOP AROUND S-Right UC

l: ↗ ↻ ↓ ↗ = l

UC   LB S UC

m: ↗ ↓ ↗ ↓ ↗ ↓ ↗ = m

OC S OC S OC S OC

n: ↗ ↓ ↗ ↓ ↗ = n

OC S OC S UC

o: ↙ ↗ ˘ = σ σ σ ool
   DC UC CS   H
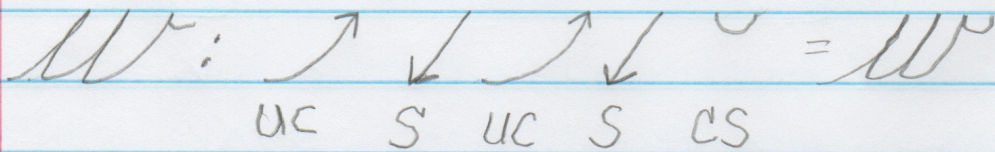
p: ↗ ↓ σ ↗ ᴐ ↗ = p
   UC S LB OC curve UC
            Around

q: ↙ ↗ ↓ σ ↗ = q q qq
   DC UC S LF OC   H

r: ↗ ↘ ↓ ↗ = r br
   UC S-Right S UC

s: ↗ ↙ ↗ = s bs
   UC curve UC
      Down

t: ↗ ↓ ↗ → = t ot
   UC S UC Cross

w: ↗ ↓ ↗ ↓ ↗ = w
   UC S UC S UC

v: ↗ ↓ ↗ ˘ = v
   OC S UC CS

$\mathcal{W}$: ↗ ↓ ↗ ↓ ∪ = $\mathcal{W}$

UC S UC S CS

$\mathcal{X}$: ↗ ↓ ↗ ↓ = $\mathcal{X}$

OC S UC Slant

$\mathcal{Y}$: ↗ ↓ ↗ ↓ ↗ = $\mathcal{Y}$

UC S UC S LB OC

$\mathcal{Y}$: ↗ ↓ ↗ ↓ ↗ = $\mathcal{Y}$

OC S OC S LB OC
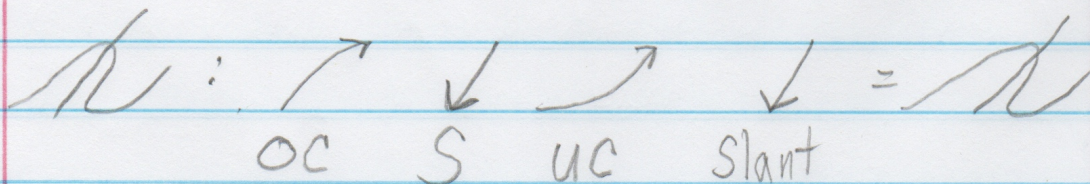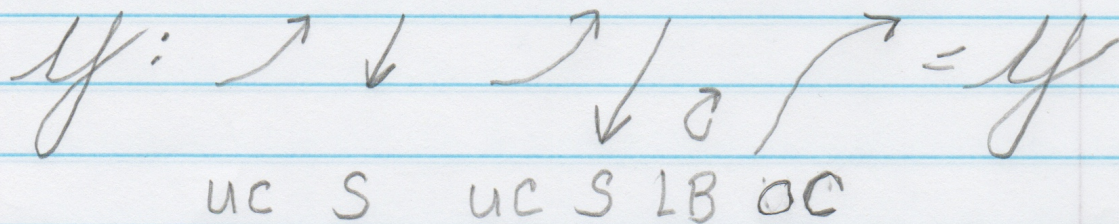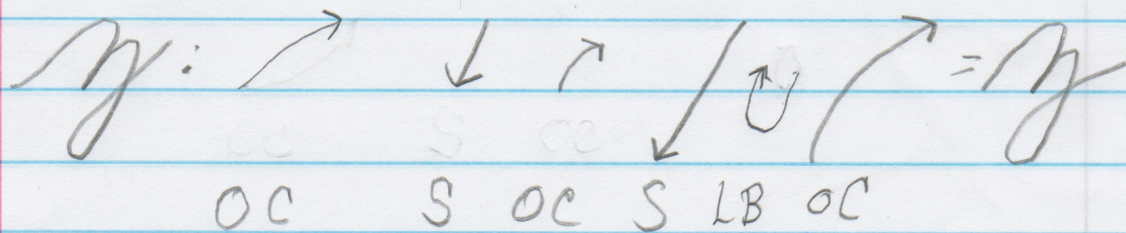
Alternative Strokes

a c d g o q y

Alphabet String for Daily Fluency Practice

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz