

PAPER  SOURCE™

DO SOMETHING CREATIVE EVERY DAY®

Creative Hand Lettering Workbook

Introduction

What is lettering?

Lettering is the art of drawing letters. Lettering can be as simple as adding a few additional strokes to your natural hand writing to make it look like calligraphy—or it can be as involved as a full-page word art design that takes several passes to complete.

How does lettering compare to calligraphy?

Calligraphy is the art of creating lettering in one smooth stroke with a pen or brush, requiring little to no retouching. With lettering, the words are *drawn*, but in calligraphy they are *written*.

What is lettering good for?

Lettering allows you to be creative with your words. You have the freedom to be imaginative with your message and achieve beautiful results without having to be an expert calligrapher.

Try lettering for:

- Handmade cards
- Envelope addressing
- Word art posters
- Illustrations

Building your lettering skills

This workbook will give you a foundation for building your skills with tips, prompts and practice sheets. As you get started, your letters and words may be awkward but the more you practice, the better you will get! Be sure to relax and have fun as you learn and develop your own, unique lettering style.

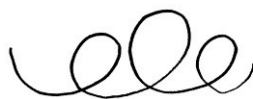
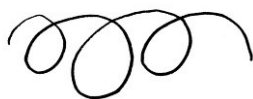
The Basics

These simple practices are essential to building your lettering skills:

- Relax and get comfortable—set up your work space so that it is conducive to good posture and everything is within easy reach
- Create fluid, open strokes by leading with your elbow and not your hand
- Take your time
- Apply pressure on the downstrokes, gently glide with almost no pressure on the upstrokes
- Pull your pen (or pencil) for curved lines and push it to make straight lines

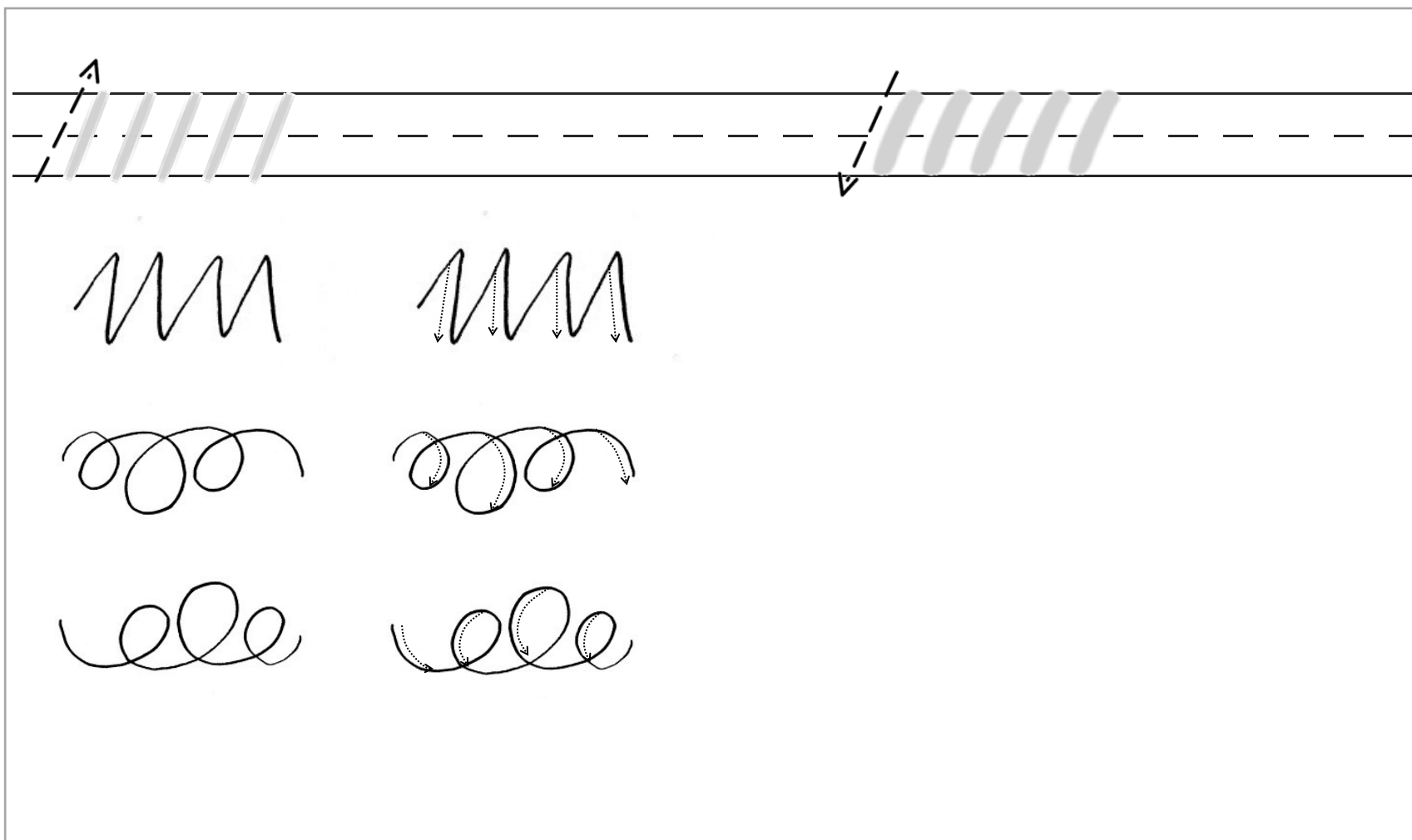
Warm Up

Practice making simple strokes, applying the tips above.



PEN STROKES:

- Upstrokes = light pressure (thin line)
- Downstrokes = apply second line and fill (thick line)



Letter Proportions

There is a lot of room for creativity in lettering, but proportions are important to make sure your words have impact and can be easily read. Using lettering lines will help you form your letters to the right proportions and keep your lettering level.

Here are some other tips on proportions:

- Proportions: M & W are wider than they are tall, BEFJ & L are half as wide as they are high
- The crossbar of an E should be slightly shorter than the top bar



Ascender Line (or t height) : this is a guide for your capital letters or letters with ascenders like l or h

Midline (or x height): your lower case letters should not reach higher than this line unless they have a stem (or ascender)

Baseline: your letters should sit on this line

Descender Line: This line acts as a guide for your descenders, or the bottom stems of letters like y or decorative fs.

There are lettering guidelines throughout this workbook, including several extra sheets at the back. When working on a project, you can create these lines with a pencil and ruler, then erase them when you are done.

Script

Scripts are much like cursive or calligraphy, with most of the letters connected by fluid lines. The script personality tends to be romantic, artistic, expressive or elegant. Try your hand at a script font.

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

a a a a

b b b b

c c c c

d d d d

e e e e

f f f f

g g g g

h h h h

i i i i

j j j j

k k k

l l l l

m m m m

n n n n

o o o o

p p p p

q q q q

r r r r

s s s s

t t t t

Handwriting practice lines for cursive letters. Each row contains a dashed cursive letter followed by three solid cursive letters for tracing. The letters are: u, v, w, x, y, and z. Below the first row of letters, there are four additional rows of empty handwriting lines (solid top and bottom lines with a dashed middle line) for independent practice.

A A A

B B B

C C C

D D D

E E E E

F F F F

G G G

H H H H

I I I I

J J J J

K K K K

L L L L

M M M M

N N N N

O O O O

P P P P

Q Q Q Q

R R R R

S S S S

T T T T

g g g g

Connecting letters to make words

Traditional calligraphy is lettering in one smooth stroke with a pen or brush, requiring little to no retouching. With lettering, the words are *drawn*, therefore, it is okay to lift your pen in between letters.

1. Choose a word or expression to write
2. As you transition from one letter to another, lift your pen after the final upstroke
3. Begin to draw the next letter and connect it to the previous letter
4. When your word is complete, fill in your downstrokes

1

thank you

2

thank you

3

thank you

4

thank you

thank you

hello

cheers

to

from

Handwriting practice lines consisting of solid top and bottom lines with a dashed middle line. The page contains 10 sets of these three-line guides for practice.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of solid top and bottom lines with a dashed middle line. There are 10 sets of these lines across the page.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of solid top and bottom lines with a dashed middle line. There are 10 sets of these lines across the page.