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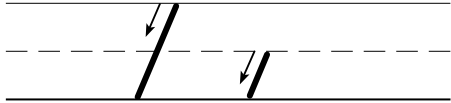
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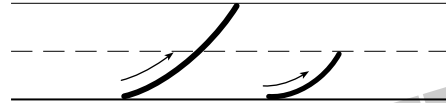
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Cursive Basic Strokes

Study the cursive basic strokes, letters, and numerals.



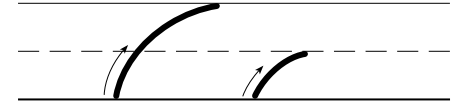
Slant



Undercurve

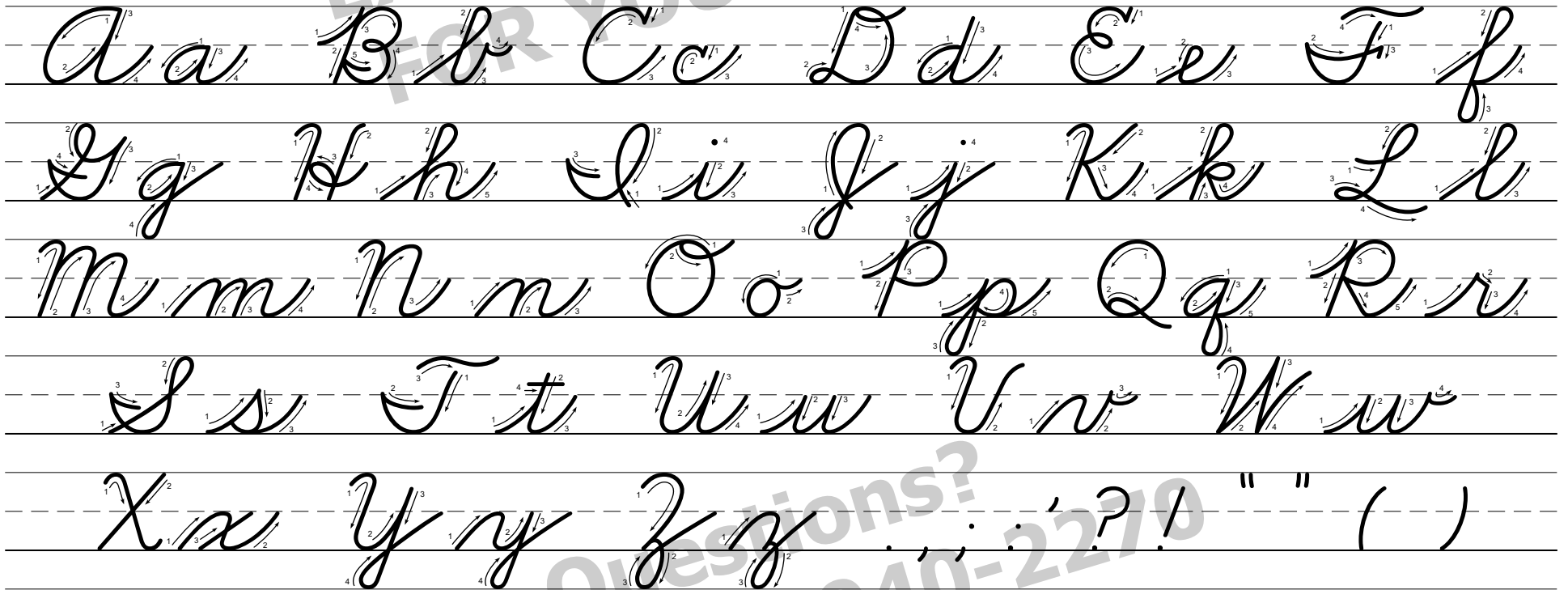


Downcurve

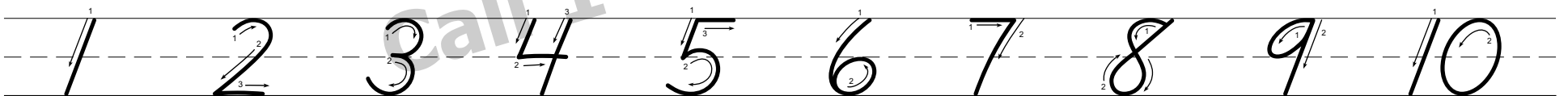


Overcurve

Cursive Alphabet



Cursive Numerals

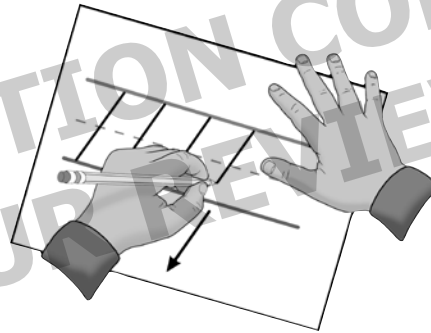


Correct Posture for Handwriting

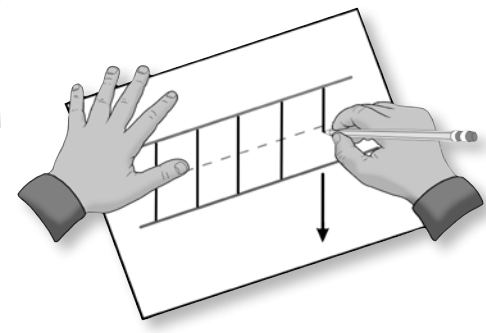


1. Both feet on the floor
2. Elbows off the edge of desk
3. Sit back in chair
4. Shoulders slightly forward
5. Proper desk height

Cursive Paper Position



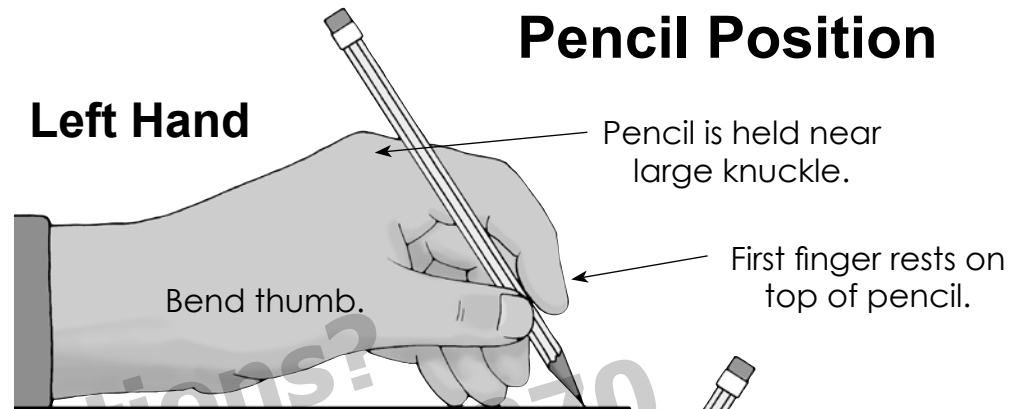
Left Hand



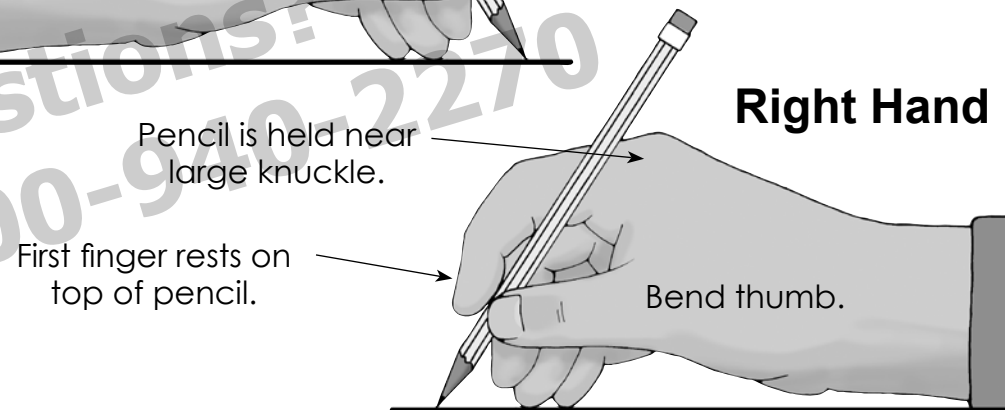
Right Hand

Pencil Position

Left Hand



Right Hand



Matching Manuscript and Cursive

Match the manuscript letters to the correct cursive letters.
Discuss how the letters are alike or different.

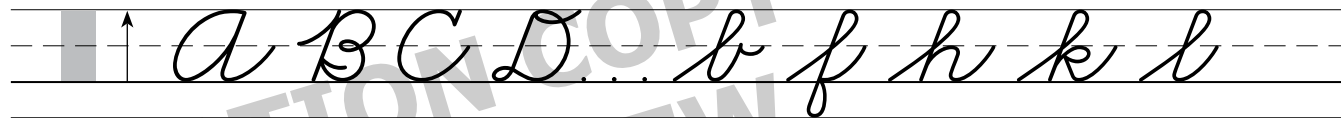
h	t
m	g
k	o
y	h
o	b
g	m
s	q
t	k
w	y
b	s
q	w

A	B
K	X
V	A
X	U
O	R
R	G
S	V
M	K
G	S
B	m
U	O

Size and Alignment

Size and Alignment refer to the height of the letters to each other and to the writing lines.

Tall Letters Letters that fill the entire writing space from bottom line to top line. All the uppercase letters and the lowercase letters **b**, **f**, **h**, **k**, and **l**.



Short Letters Letters that extend from the bottom line to the midline. Lowercase letters **r**, **s**, **v**, and **w** extend slightly above the midline.



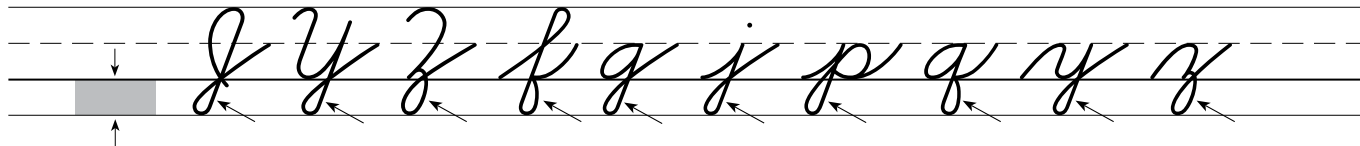
Intermediate Letters

Letters that fill three-quarters of the writing space.



Tail Letters

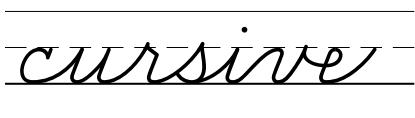
Letters that fill the space below the bottom line. The letters **f**, **g**, **j**, **p**, **q**, **y**, **z**, **J**, **Y**, and **Z** have lower-loops (tails) that fill the space below the bottom line.



Line Quality

Line quality is the smoothness, evenness, color, and thickness of the pencil line.

CORRECT



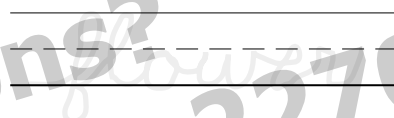
Smooth and even

UNEVEN



Holding pencil too tight,
using fingers to draw

TOO LIGHT



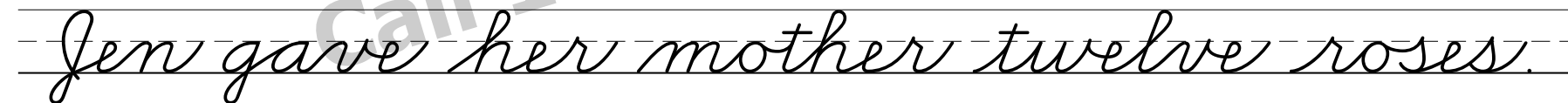
Not enough pressure on
pencil or the pencil lead
is too hard

TOO HEAVY



Too much pressure on
pencil or the pencil lead is
too soft

This sentence shows good line quality.



Letter Spacing

Letter spacing should be consistent. If your letter spacing is too tight or too open, your writing will be difficult to read.

This shows good letter spacing.

Correct Letter Spacing

letter

Too Tight

litter

Spacing Too Open

l e t t e r

Letter Spacing Varies

letter

Word Spacing

Allow enough space between words to fit a small oval. Spacing between words should be consistent. If your word spacing is too tight or too open, your writing will be difficult to read.

This shows good word spacing.

Sentence Spacing

Allow enough space between sentences to fit one large oval.

My dog is big. His name is Duke.

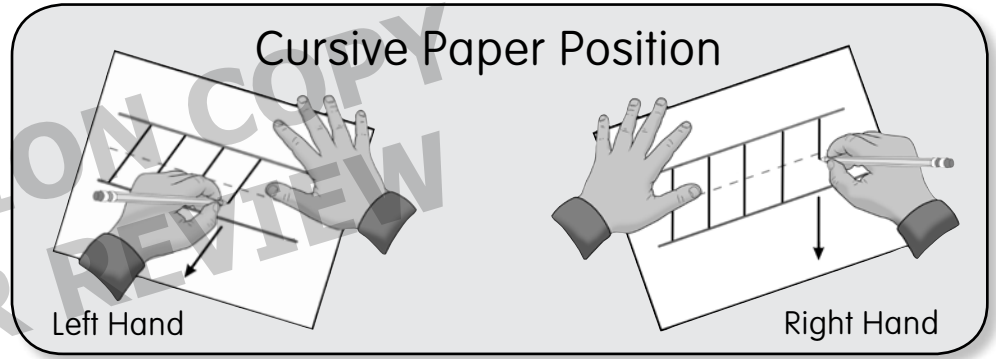
Paragraph Indent

When you indent for a paragraph, allow enough space for two large ovals. Study the example below.

This shows the correct indent for a new paragraph.

Slant of Writing

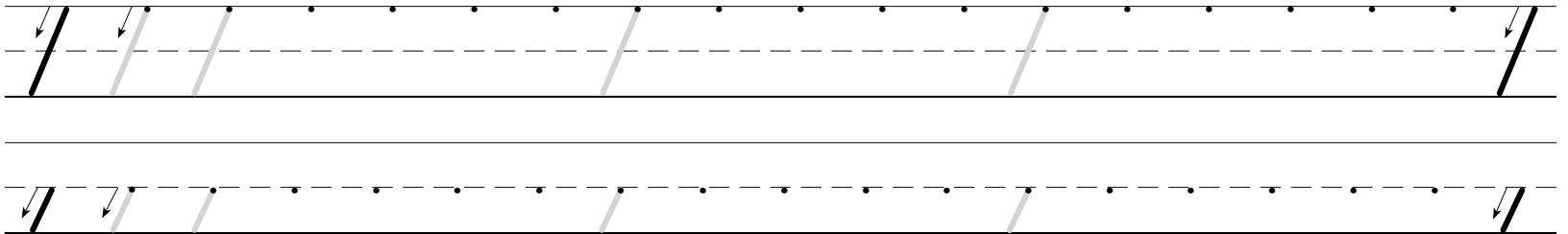
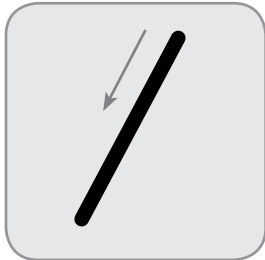
Slant is determined by the paper or book position and the direction in which the strokes are pulled. Study the examples below.



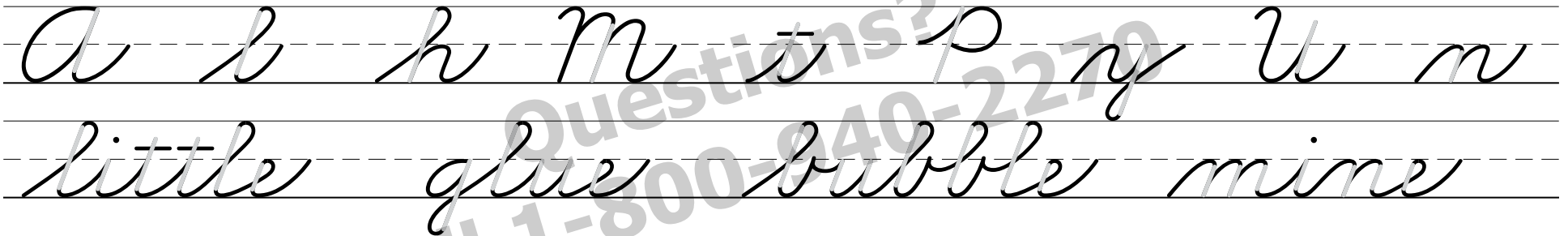
Basic Strokes

The basic strokes are the building blocks for all cursive letters. The four cursive basic strokes are: slant, undercurve, downcurve, and overcurve.

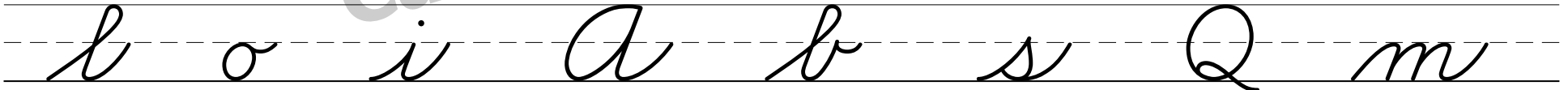
Slant Stroke - All cursive letters slant. Thirty-eight cursive letters contain one or more slant strokes. Trace and write the slant strokes.



Trace over the slant strokes in the letters and words below.

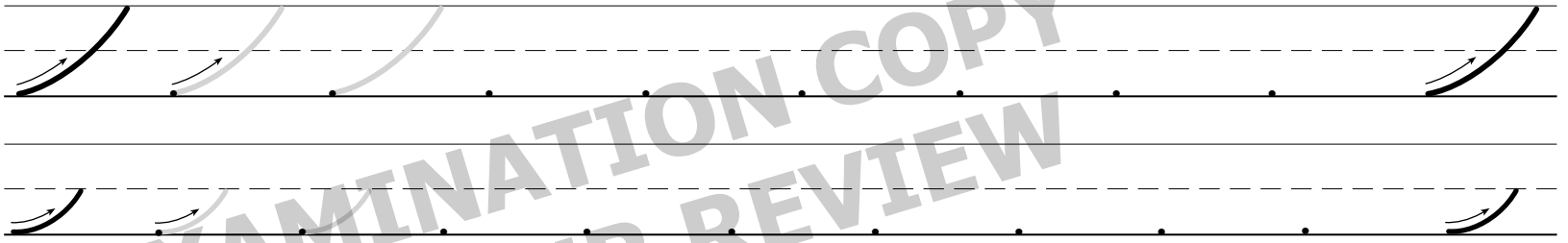
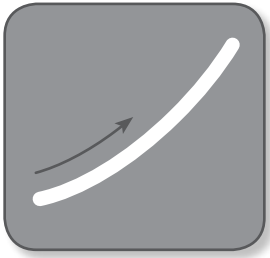


Circle the letters that have a slant stroke in them.

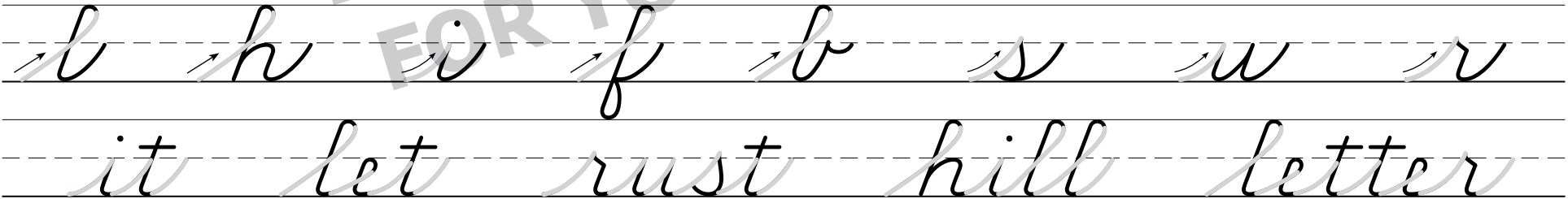


Undercurve

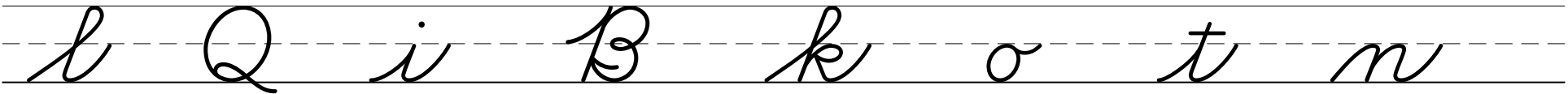
The undercurve is used to begin fourteen lowercase letters. The undercurve swings wide to the right. Do not curve up too quickly. Trace and write the tall and short undercurves.



Trace over the undercurves in the letters and words below. Be sure your book is in the correct position for cursive writing.

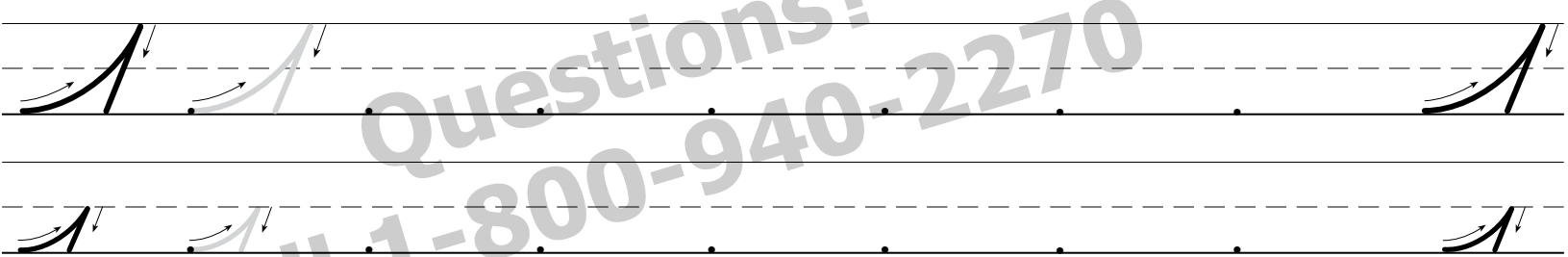


Circle the letters that have an undercurve in them.



Undercurve - Slant

The undercurve-slant motion is used very often in cursive writing. Make a wide undercurve. Trace and write the tall and short undercurve-slant strokes. Pull the slant strokes to the bottom line.

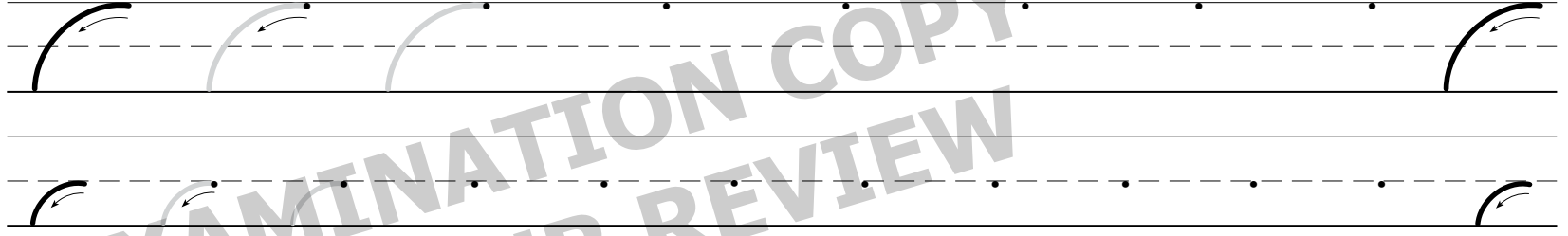
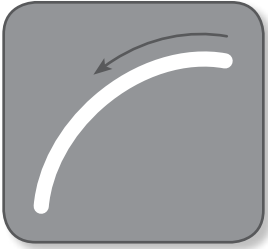


Trace and write the undercurve-slant exercise.

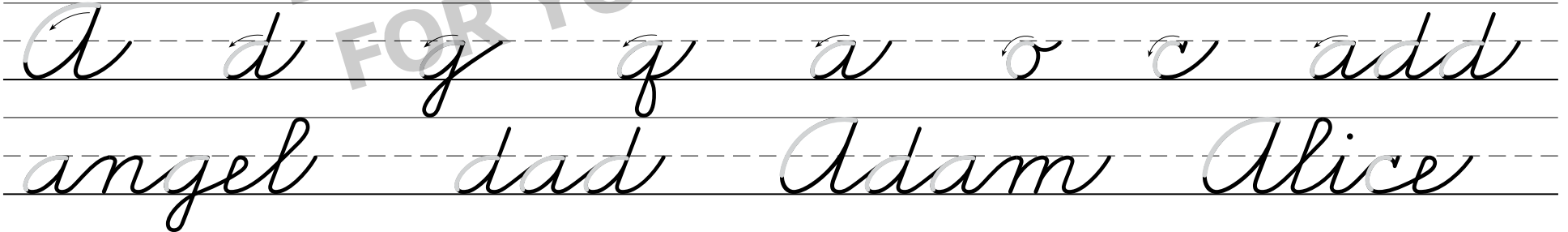


Downcurve

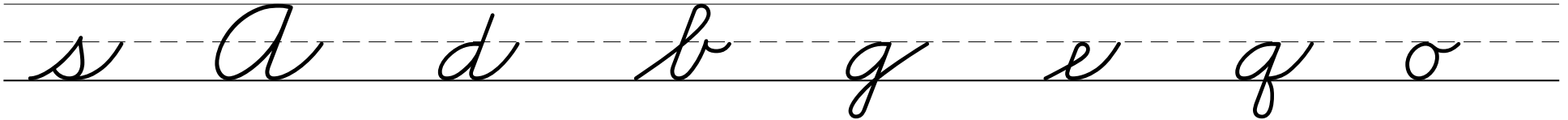
The downcurve is used to begin the lowercase letters **a**, **d**, **g**, and **q**. Begin this stroke with a slide left motion, then slowly curve down. Do not curve down quickly. Trace and write the tall and short downcurves.



Trace over the downcurves in the letters and words below. Be sure your book is in the correct position for cursive writing.

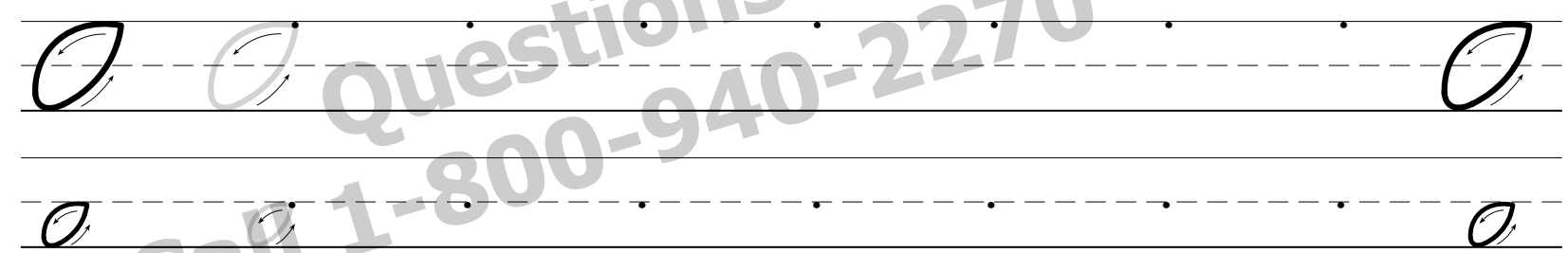
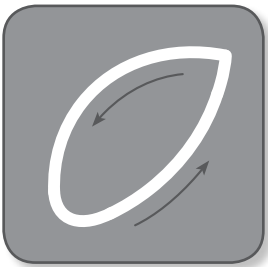


Circle the letters that have a downcurve in them.



Downcurve - Undercurve

The downcurve-undercurve motion is used very often in cursive writing. Make the downcurve wide. The undercurve swings up and connects the two strokes.

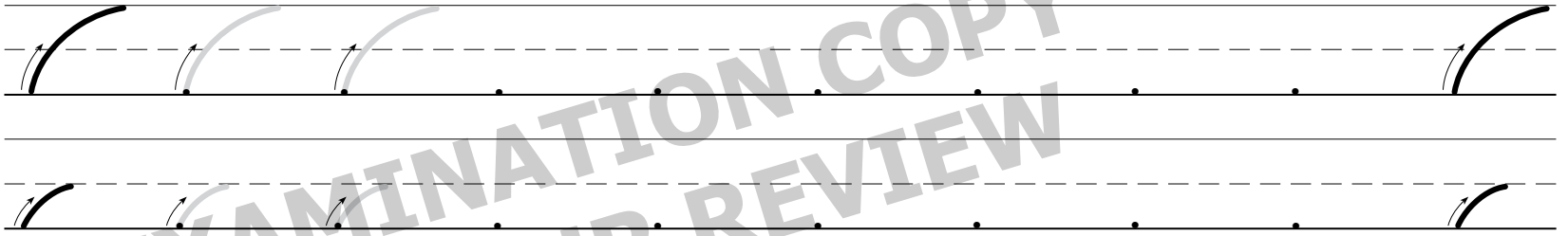


Circle the letters that have a downcurve-undercurve motion in them.

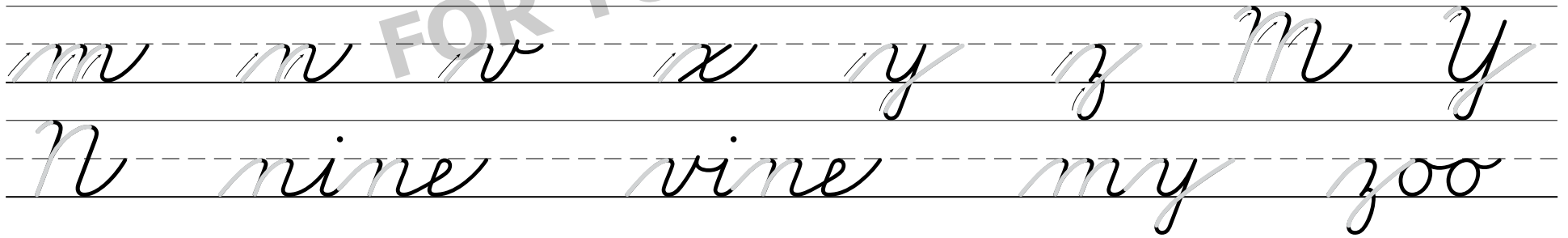


Overcurve

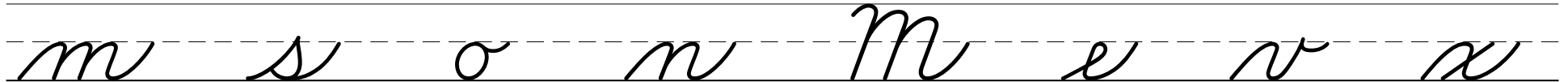
The overcurve is used to begin the lowercase letters **m**, **n**, **v**, **x**, **y**, and **z**. It curves up wide to the right. Do not curve up quickly. Make the stroke rounded and wide. Trace and write the tall and short overcurves.



Trace the overcurves in the letters and words below. The overcurve goes up and over to the right.

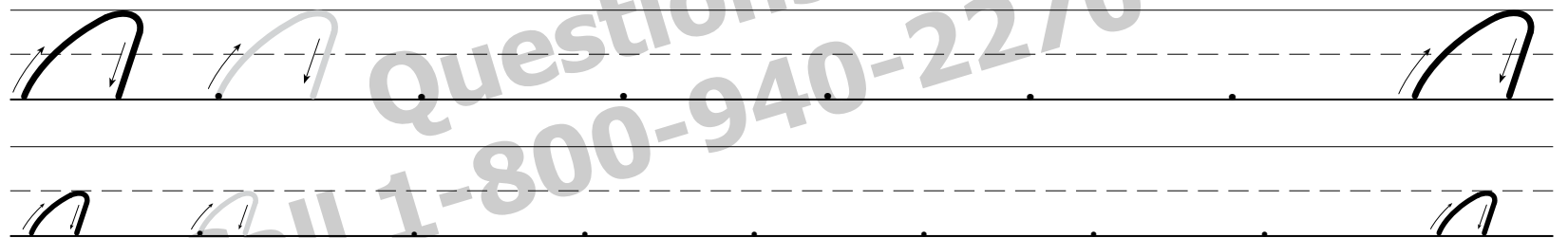
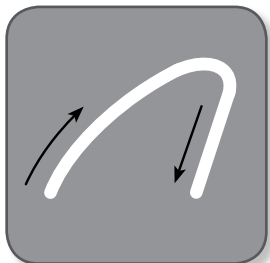


Circle the letters below that have an overcurve in them.

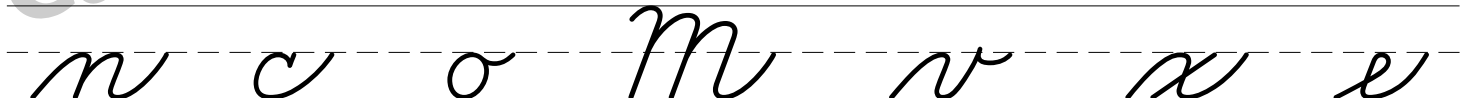


Overcurve - Slant

The overcurve-slant motion is used often in cursive writing. Make the overcurve well rounded. Pull the slant strokes to the bottom line. Trace and write the tall and short overcurve-slant motions.

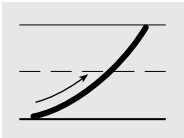


Circle the letters that have an overcurve-slant motion in them.

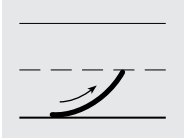


Review of Basic Strokes

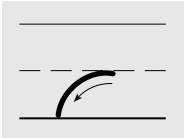
Match each stroke to the letter it begins.



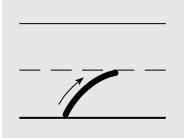
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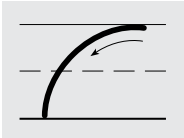
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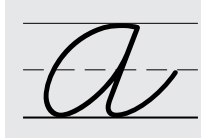
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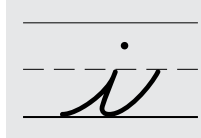
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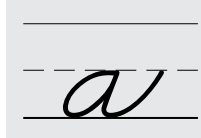
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•

Match the name to the correct basic stroke.

Undercurve •

Slant •

Overcurve •

Downcurve •



How Many?

Count all of the undercurves in the word **little**.

Write the number in the box.

little

Count all of the downcurves in the word **add**.

Write the number in the box.

add

Count all of the overcurves in the word **nine**.

Write the number in the box.

nine

Count all of the slant strokes in the word **letter**.

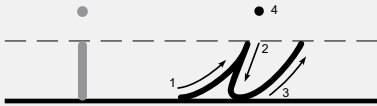
Write the number in the box.

letter

Name the stroke the arrow is pointing to in each letter below.

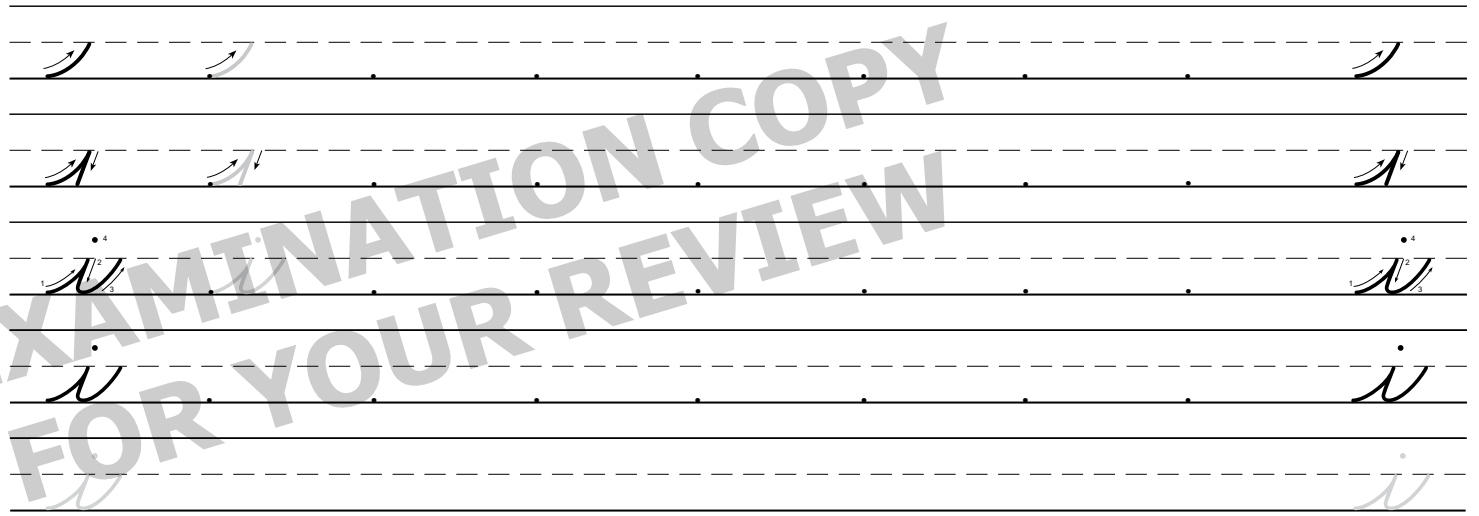
n a h o w

Lowercase i



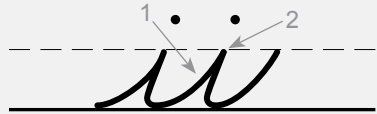
1. Undercurve
2. Slant
3. Undercurve
4. Dot

Trace and write the strokes and letter.



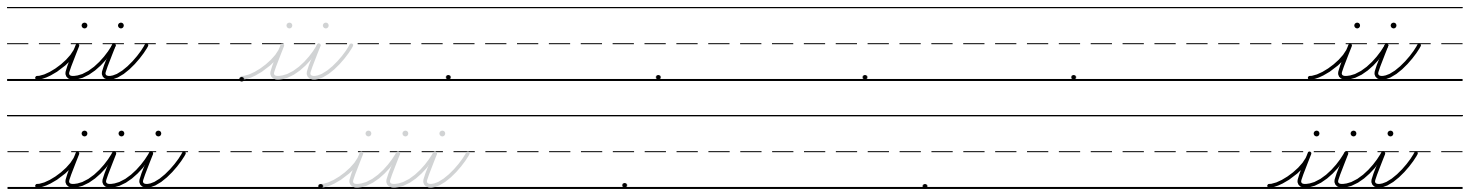
JOINING

Undercurve to Undercurve

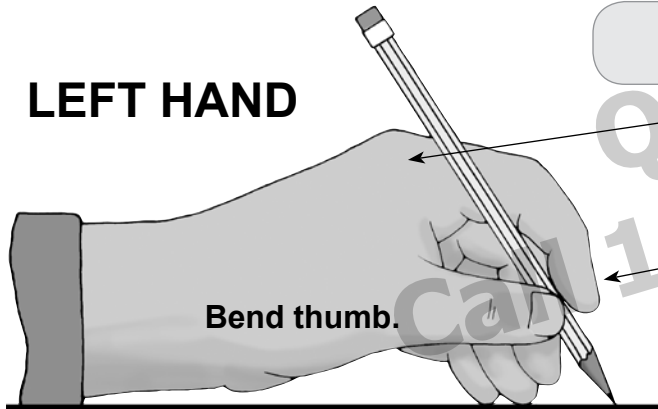


1. The undercurve ending swings up wide into the second letter *i*.
2. Pause, then slant.

Trace and write the joinings.



LEFT HAND



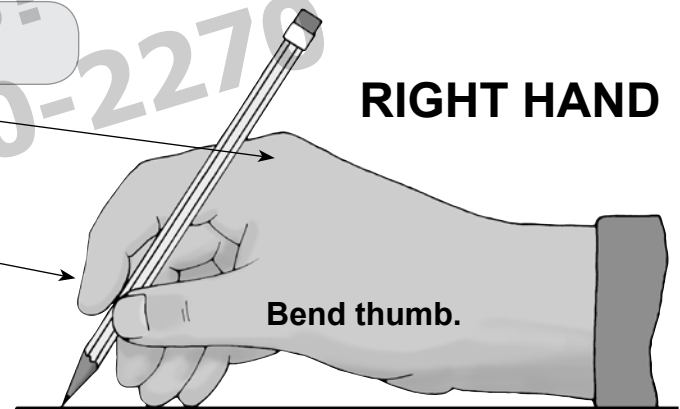
Bend thumb.

Pencil Position

Pencil is held near large knuckle.

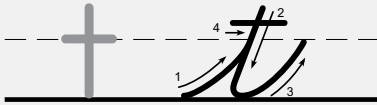
First finger rests on top of pencil.

RIGHT HAND



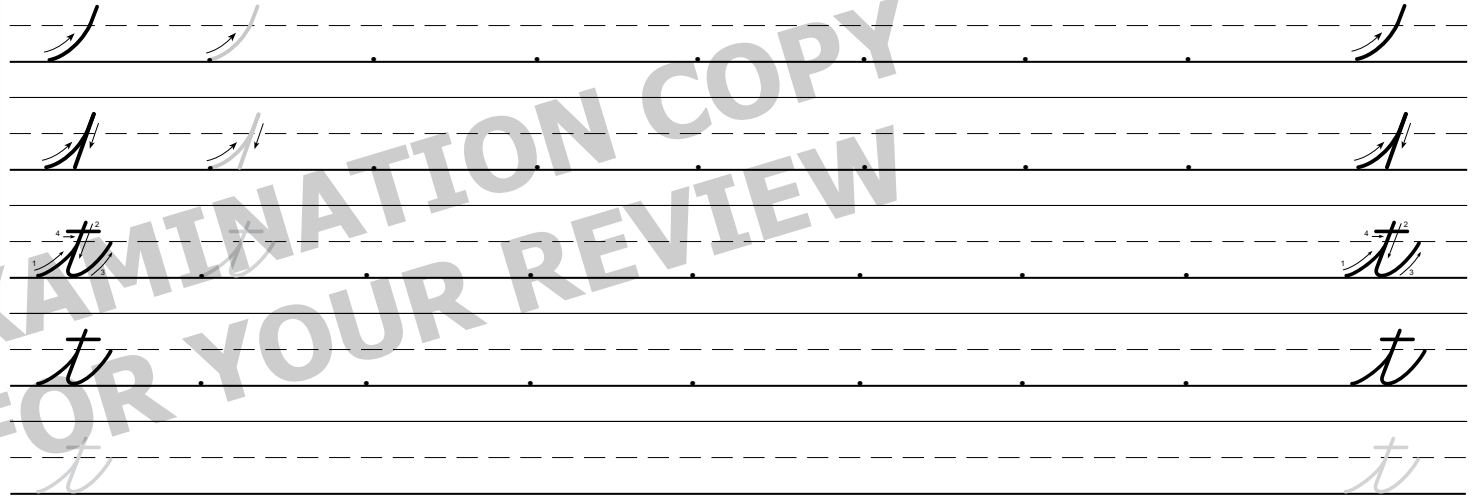
Bend thumb.

Lowercase t



1. Undercurve
2. Slant
3. Undercurve
4. Cross

Trace and write the strokes and letter.



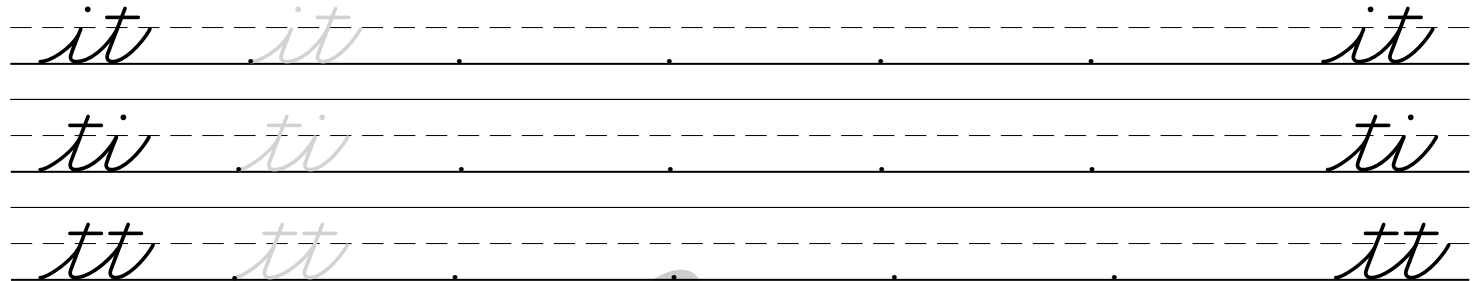
JOINING

Undercurve to Undercurve

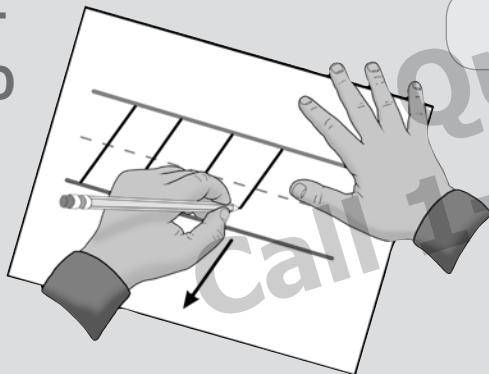


1. The undercurve ending swings up wide into the letter **t**.
2. Pause, then slant.

Trace and write the joinings.

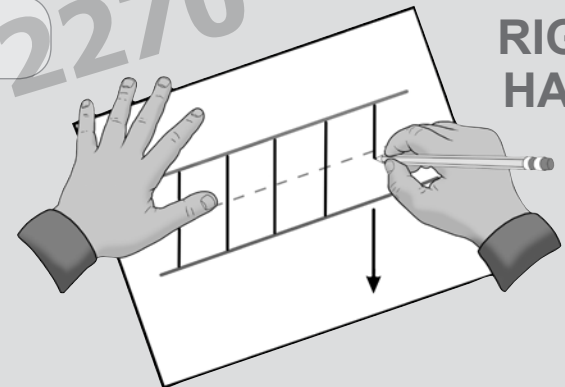


LEFT
HAND



Paper Position

Correct paper position will help you maintain good slant in your cursive writing. Study the paper position examples.



RIGHT
HAND