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**Grade 3**

Beginning Cursive

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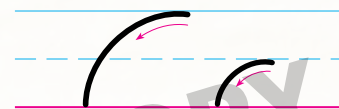
## Cursive Basic Strokes



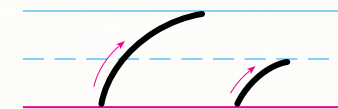
Slant



Undercurve

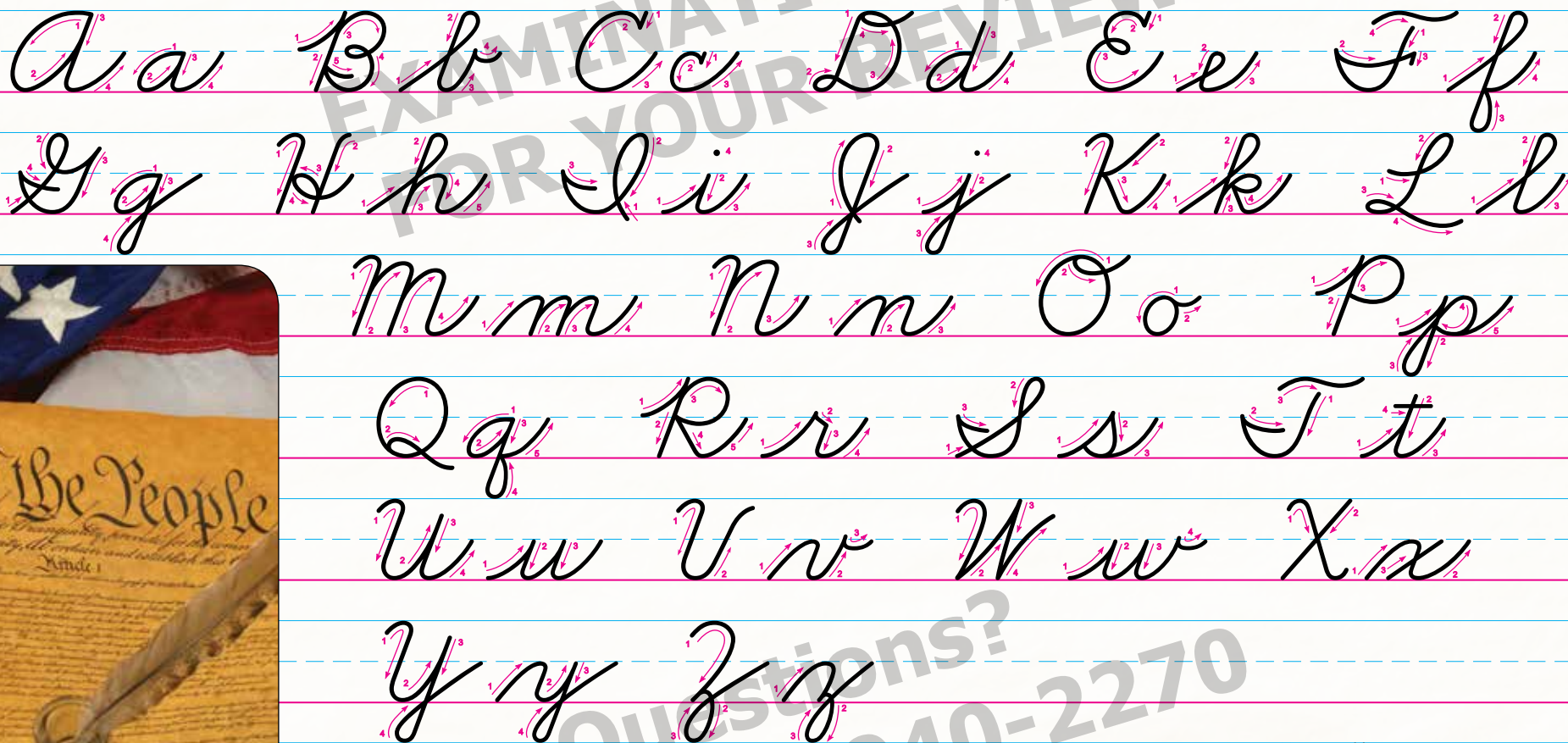


Downcurve

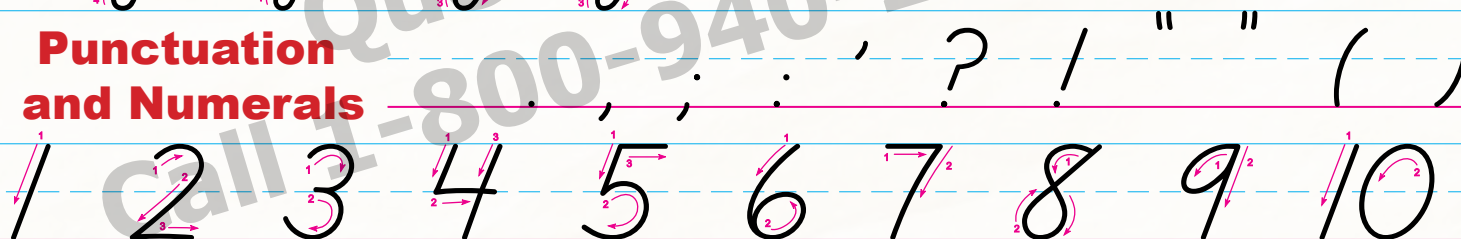


Overcurve

## Cursive Alphabet



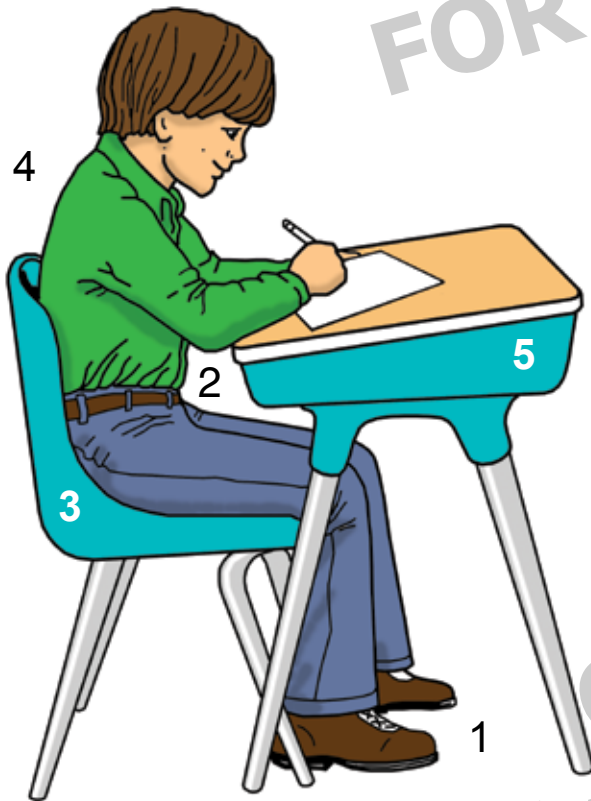
## Punctuation and Numerals





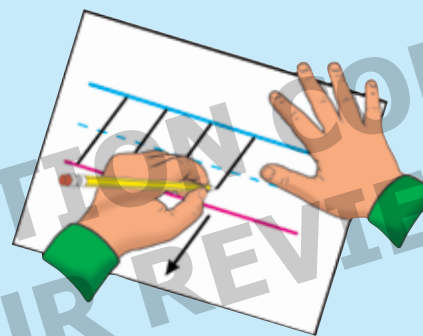
# GOOD POSTURE

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

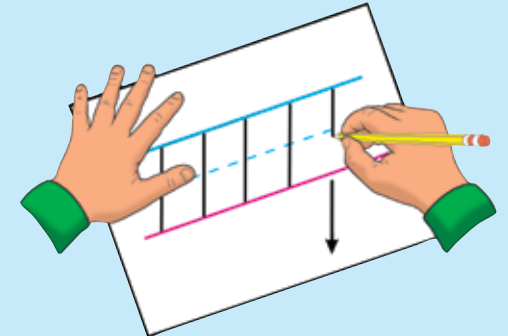


# GOOD HANDWRITING

## Cursive Paper Position

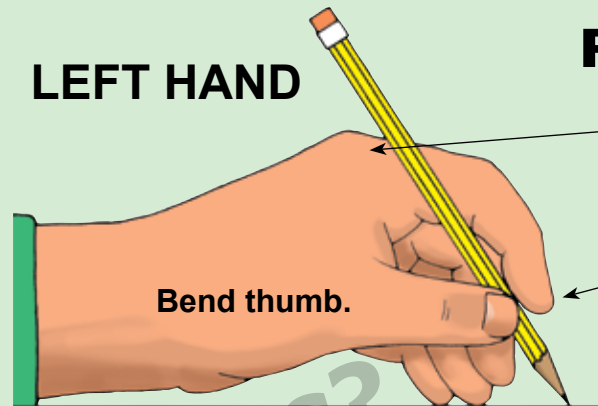


LEFT HAND



RIGHT HAND

## LEFT HAND



Bend thumb.

Pencil is held near large knuckle.

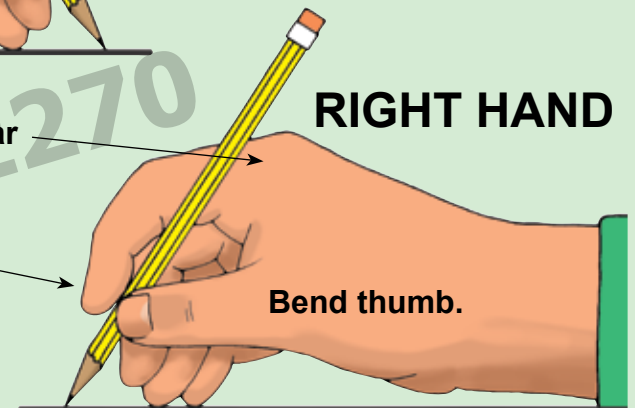
First finger rests on top of pencil.

## Pencil Position

Pencil is held near large knuckle.

First finger rests on top of pencil.

## RIGHT HAND



Bend thumb.

## Matching Manuscript and Cursive

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

h •

m •

k •

y •

o •

g •

s •

t •

w •

b •

q •

• t

• g

• o

• h

• b

• m

• q

• k

• y

• s

• w

A •

K •

V •

X •

O •

R •

S •

M •

G •

B •

U •

• B

• X

• a

• u

• R

• g

• v

• K

• s

• m

• o

## Size and Alignment

Size is the height of the letters within the writing lines. Alignment is the evenness of the letters on the bottom line and along their tops, with all letters of the same size even in height.

**Tall Letters** Tall letters fill the entire writing space between the bottom line and the top line.



All the uppercase letters and the lowercase letters **b, f, h, k, and l** are tall letters.

**Short Letters** Short letters fill the space between the bottom line and midline. Notice the **r, s, v, and w** extend slightly higher.



### Intermediate Letters

Intermediate letters fill three-quarters of the writing space.



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



## Line Quality

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

### CORRECT

*cursive*

The lines are smooth and even.

### UNEVEN

*cursive*

Holding pencil too tight, using fingers to "draw."

### TOO LIGHT

*cursive*

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

### TOO HEAVY

*cursive*

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

This sentence shows good line quality.

*Jen gave her mother twelve roses.*

## Letter Spacing

Letter spacing should look 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*

Spacing Too Tight

*letter*

Spacing Too Open

*letter*

Spacing Varies

*better*

## Word Spacing

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

*This is good word spacing.*

## Sentence Spacing

Allow enough space between sentences to fit one large oval.

*I like cats. My cat is brown.*

## Paragraph Indent

When you indent for a new paragraph, allow enough space for two large ovals.

*This shows the correct indent for a new paragraph.*



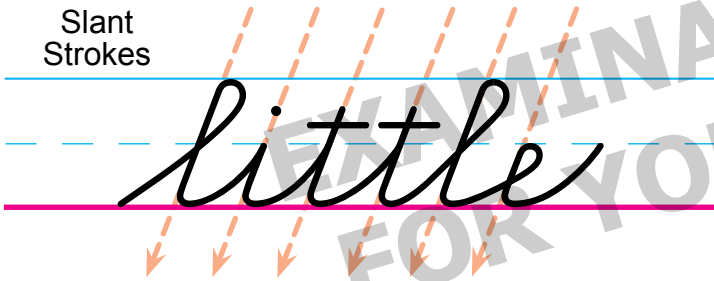
# Cursive Basic Strokes

The basic strokes are the building blocks for all cursive letters.  
The four cursive basic strokes are: Slant, Undercurve, Downcurve, and Overcurve.

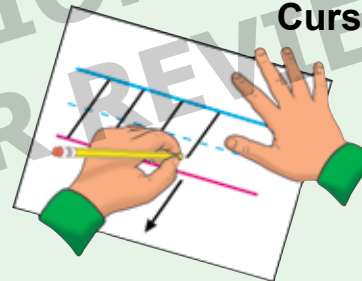
## Slant

Slant is determined by the paper position and the direction the slant stroke is pulled.  
Thirty-eight letters contain one or more slant strokes.

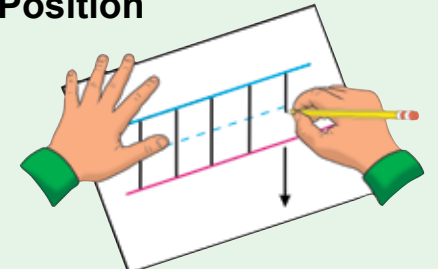
Slant  
Strokes



Cursive Paper Position

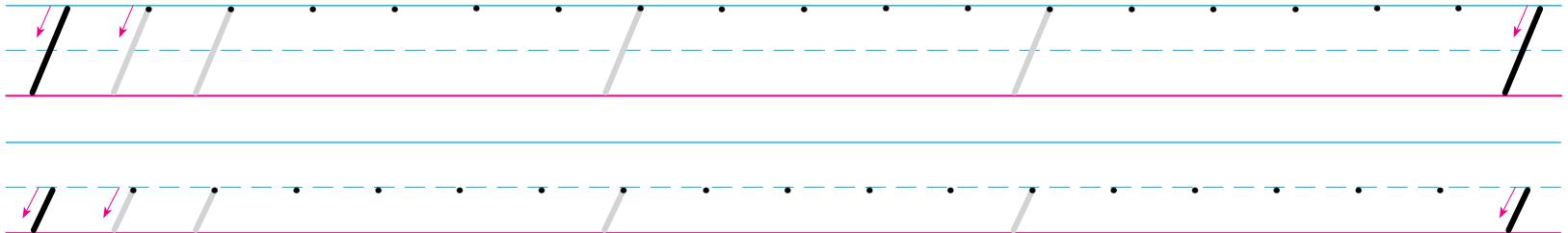
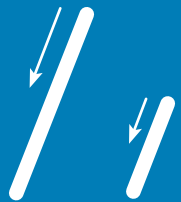


LEFT HAND

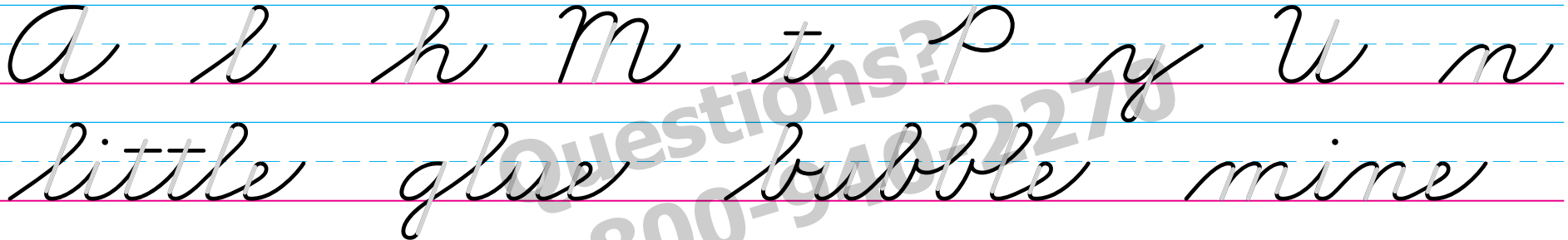


RIGHT HAND

Trace and write the slant strokes.



Trace the slant strokes in the letters and words below.

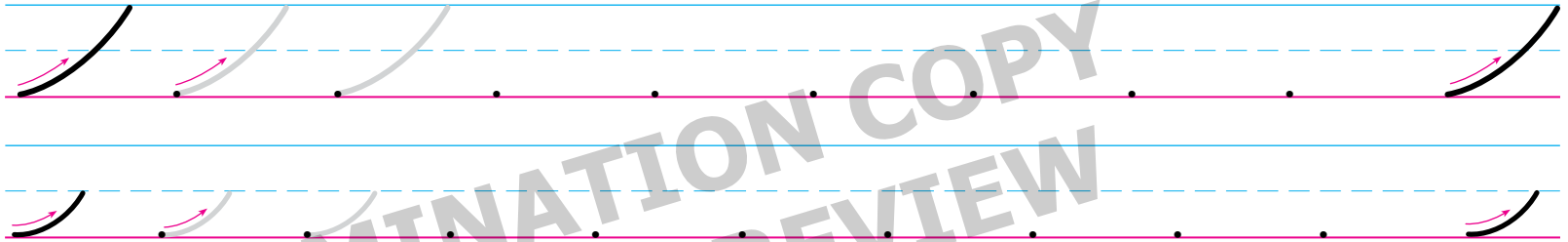
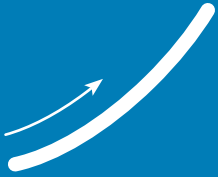


Circle the letters that have one or more slant strokes in them.

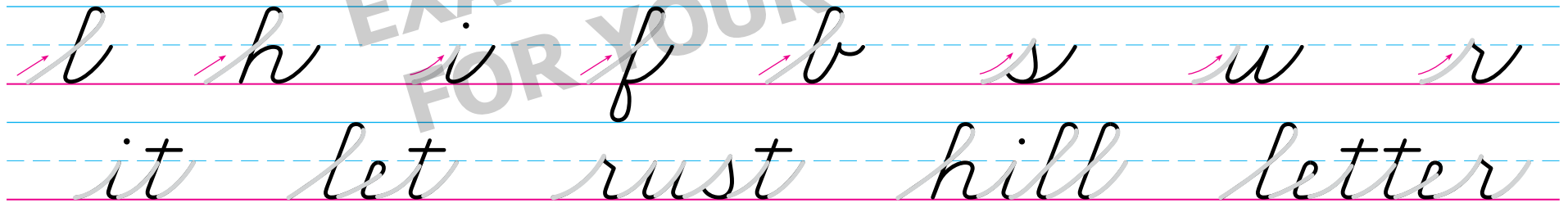


## Undercurve

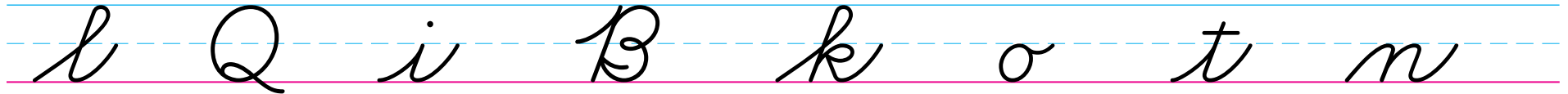
The undercurve is used to begin fourteen lowercase letters. The undercurve swings wide to the right. Trace and write the tall and short undercurves.



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

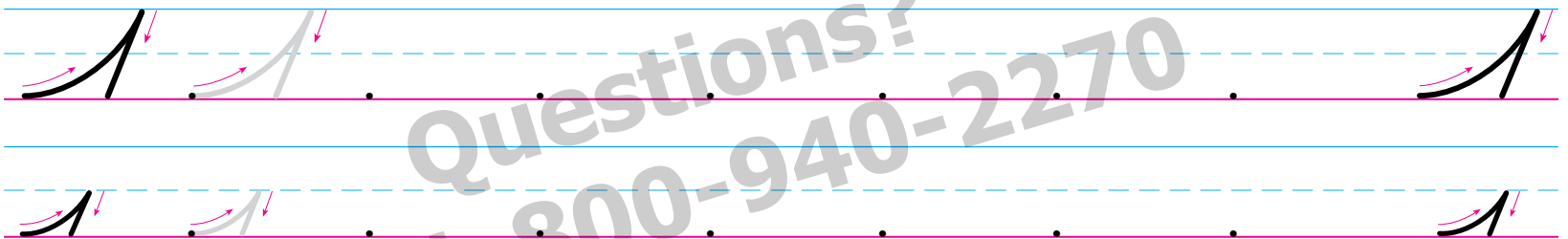


Circle the letters that have an undercurve in them.

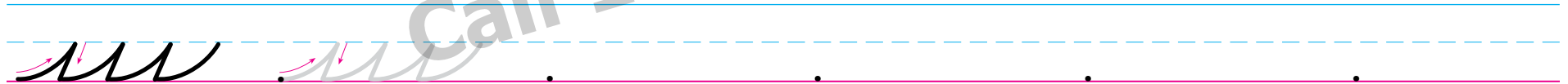


## Undercurve-Slant

The undercurve-slant motion is used often in cursive writing. Be sure you pull the slant strokes to the bottom line. Trace and write the undercurve-slant strokes.



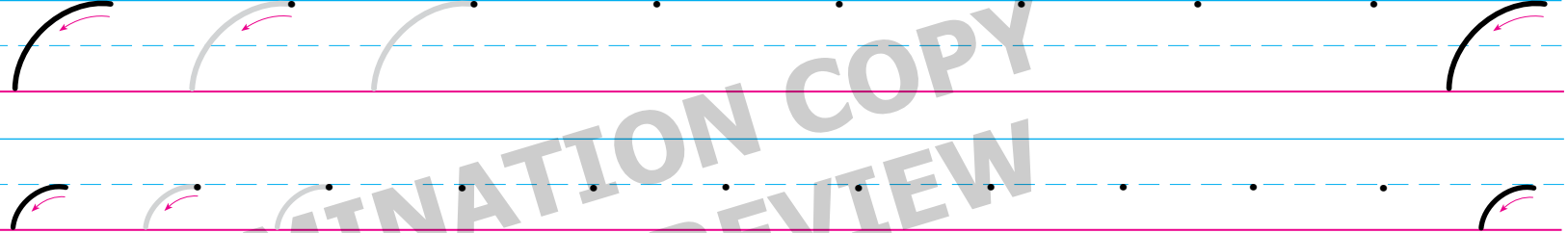
Trace and write the undercurve-slant exercise.



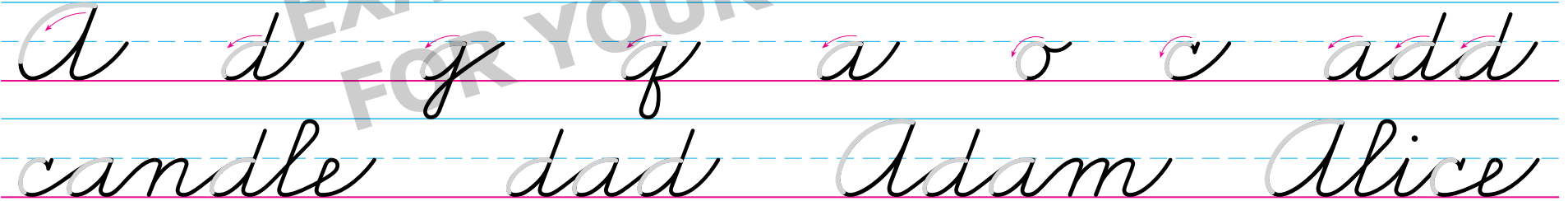


## Downcurve

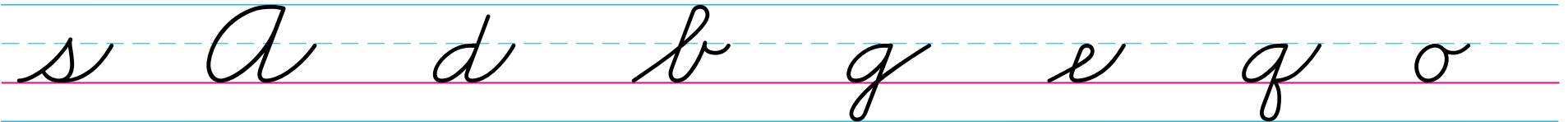
The downcurve is used to begin the lowercase letters **a**, **d**, **g**, and **q**. Slide wide to the left and slowly curve down. Trace and write the tall and short downcurves.



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

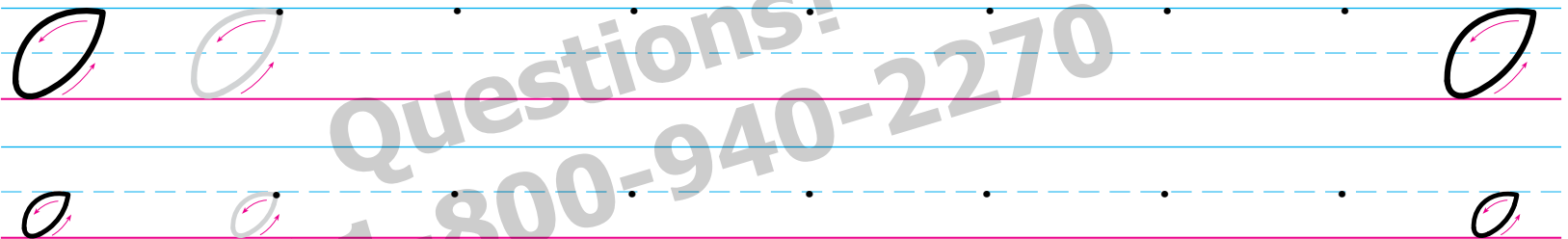


Circle the letters that have a downcurve in them.



## Downcurve-Undercurve

Be sure to make the downcurve stroke wide. The undercurve swings up and closes the two strokes. Trace and write the downcurve-undercurve strokes.

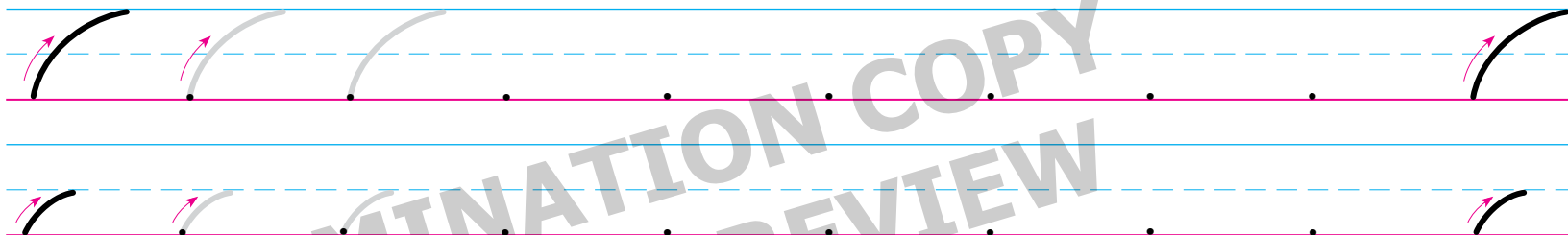


Circle the letters that contain downcurve-undercurve strokes.

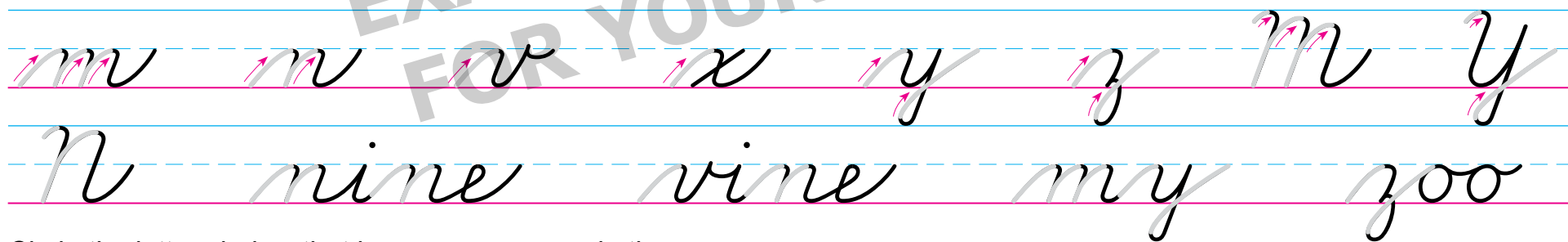


## Overcurve

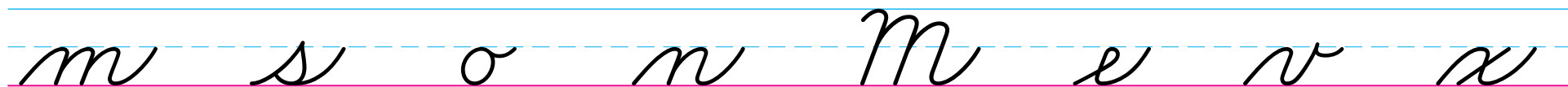
The overcurve is used to begin the lowercase letters **m**, **n**, **v**, **x**, **y**, and **z**. This stroke curves up, wide to the right. Trace and write the tall and short overcurves.



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

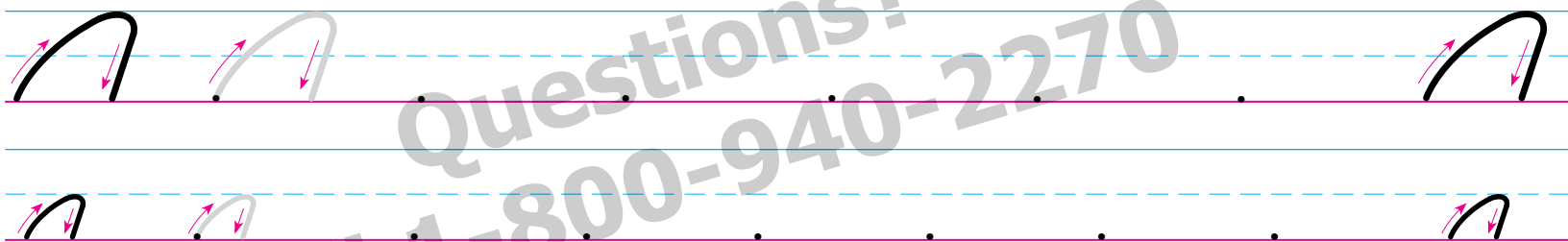


Circle the letters below that have an overcurve in them.



## Overcurve-Slant

Be sure to make the overcurves rounded. Pull the slant strokes to the bottom line. Trace and write the overcurve-slant strokes.

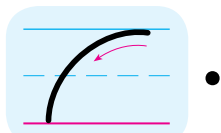
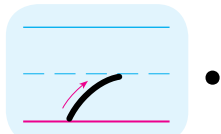
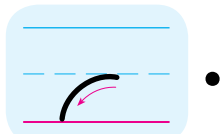
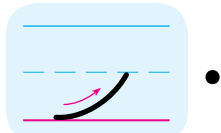
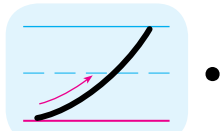


Circle the letters that contain overcurve-slant strokes.



## Slant, Undercurve, Downcurve, and Overcurve

Match each stroke to the letter it begins.



Match the name to the correct basic stroke.

Undercurve •

Slant •

Overcurve •

Downcurve •



## How Many?

Count all the undercurves in the word **little**.  
Write the number in the box.

little

Count all the downcurves in the word **add**.  
Write the number in the box.

add

Count all the overcurves in the word **nine**.  
Write the number in the box.

nine

Count all 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.

r a h o v