

Mastering Handwriting with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To practice correct letter formation, spacing, and the use of lead-in strokes to meet Grade 1 handwriting expectations.

Read the front of each card to learn a handwriting rule. Practice writing the letters or words on a piece of lined paper before checking the answer on the back.

What is an 'ascender' in handwriting?

An ascender is the part of a letter that goes up above the main line of writing, like the tall part of 'b', 'd', 'h', or 'k'.

Which letters are 'descenders' because they go below the baseline?

Descenders are letters that have a tail dropping below the line, such as 'g', 'j', 'p', 'q', and 'y'.

What does Max the Monkey say is the 'baseline'?

The baseline is the imaginary or physical line that all your letters should sit on so your writing is straight.

Why do we use a 'lead-in stroke'?

A lead-in stroke is a small flick at the start of a letter that helps you join your letters together smoothly.

How much space should you leave between words?

You should leave a 'finger space' between each word to make your writing easy to read.

What is 'letter formation'?

Letter formation is the way you move your pencil to create the shape of a letter, starting and ending at the correct points.

True or False: All capital letters are the same size as lowercase letters.

False. Capital letters are always taller and do not usually join to the next letter.

Which letters are 'curly caterpillars'?

These are letters that start with a 'c' shape, such as 'c', 'a', 'd', 'g', 'o', and 'q'.

What is the purpose of 'ascender' height?

All your tall letters (ascenders) should be the same height to keep your writing neat and tidy.

Should you elevator your pencil between letters when using cursive script?

No, the goal of joined handwriting is to keep your pencil on the paper as much as possible.

How do you sit when writing to get the best results?

Sit up straight with both feet apart on the floor and your paper tilted slightly for comfort.

What should you do if you make a mistake?

Put a single neat line through the word and write it again next to it, rather than scribbling it out.