



Topic: Cursive Writing is Fun!

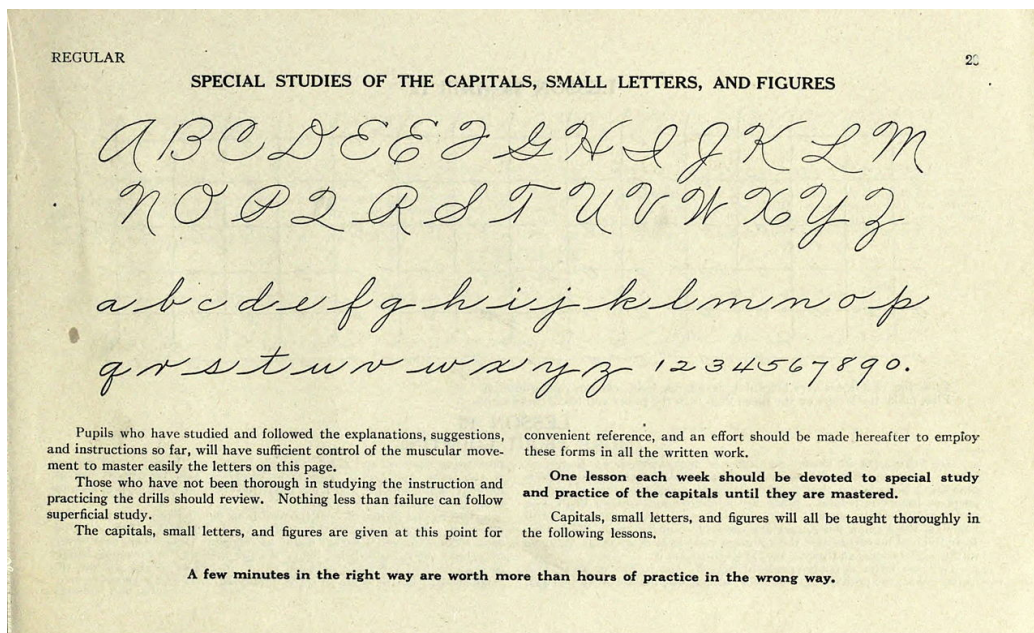
Yes, *Cursive Writing Is Fun!* It wasn't so long ago that students learned cursive writing in elementary school and used it for the rest of their lives. In fact, students often spent an hour or more in class practicing their penmanship. There were different methods for teaching how to write cursive.

The Spencerian Method was popular during the mid-1800s through the early 1900s and utilized free flowing scripts. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spencerian_script)



The Coca-Cola brand logo is an example of Spencerian Script. Image from Coca-Cola web site <https://www.coca-cola.com/>

The Palmer Method was popular during the late 1800s and early 1900s and emphasized muscle movement of the arm rather than the fingers. It was considered a simplified and faster version of the Spencerian Method. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palmer_Method).



By A. N. Palmer - The Palmer Method of Business Writing
<https://archive.org/stream/palmermethodofbu00palmrich#page/n3/mode/2up>, Public Domain,
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Copybooks were very popular during the late 1700's into the late 1900s. There was usually a heading, such as a series of letters or a short sentence, at the top of the page to be used as an example. The rest of the page was a series of blank lines. The student copied the example onto each line of the page.

Why learn cursive now when most people send emails rather than letters and use keyboards rather than pen and paper? According to studies such as the two below, learning to write cursive might help with critical reading and writing skills. Handwriting notes, rather than typing them, helps many students retain more information.

- <https://www.scholastic.com/parents/books-and-reading/raise-a-reader-blog/cursive-writing-practice.html>
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4274624/>

Some people find it to be a form of art, an expression of themselves. The shape, size, and flow of letters are unique to each person. Others enjoy the nostalgia and doing something retro. For Museums like ours, we want future generations to be able to read and transcribe all the historic documents we have in our collections!

Materials:

- Pen or pencil
- Cursive writing practice sheet available for download at:
<https://www.scholastic.com/parents/kids-activities-and-printables/printables/writing-worksheets/writing-practice-cursive-letters.html>

To further your cursive writing skills, use this lesson in conjunction with our other program "Transcribing Historical Documents" and transcribe in cursive!