

Hey, cool kids, we are ready for cursive lesson 8! This is the paper you're going to need, so grab it, and we will get busy making some fabulous cursive f's and some beautiful cursive b's.

Alright! We are taking a look at this fine little printed 'f' here and if you'll notice in this printed 'f', we actually start at the top and come down. Well, when we're in cursive, all lowercase letters start at the baseline because it's got to connect to something else. So, we've got to figure out a way to get our pencil up here to start, and the way that we do this, ahhhh....looks a little different. Definitely doesn't fit as well as some of the others, but if you'll take a look at it, it does make sense. So, we start down here and we go up just like we're making an 'l' and this gets our pencil up to the top where it needs to be for an 'f' and then we just loop it back and then come down. But if we stopped there, it would just look like an 'l'. So, we come down below the line and then we kind of make the bottom tell of a 'q'. So, we loop forward here and then this is our release stroke that goes into the next letter. So, it's a little unusual looking. Definitely doesn't look as much like the printed version as some letters do, but it's definitely something familiar. We've got an 'l' on top and a 'q' on the bottom. So, let's get to writing.

We are ready to code our little 'f' up here. So, this is an under-curve that gets us up to that top line. Then we are going to loop backwards just like we did with the 'l', and we are going to do a slant line down. Then we are going to loop forward. I guess we could say this is kind of like a little under-curve, but it is going to connect here. So, we're looping forward and touching, just like we do with the bottom of a 'q'. And then we have our under-curve release stroke right there. So, we're going to get started making some of these f's. Just go slow and pause as needed, so that you can do your very best. So, we're going to start right here. Go up, loop back, slant line down, loop forward, and release. All the way up, loop back, forward and release. Okay. There's your 'l', there's the bottom of your 'q', and there's your release stroke. There we go. And then we're going to connect it to an 'a'. Okay, now we're going to connect this again and we're going to do it on our own. Down below the line, and then go right into your 'a'. And then we're going to actually spell a word right here. f.. a.. t.. Now I have a cat who is really skinny, and I have a cat who is really fat. And some of it is fluff that makes him look so chubby, but some of it is just kitten fat, and he's cute. Okay. This 'f' got a little big, got a little fat down there, but that's okay. Yeah. This letter is kinda fat, but that's okay. We'll keep going. Okay. Now we're gonna go up, down, loop at the bottom, right into that 'e', and then another 'e', up into the 't', trace it down and release, cross your 't'. Okay. Now we're going to write it on our own. feet. f... e... e... t. Just go slow.

Oops. I came down below the line a little bit. That's not supposed to, but that's okay. Just go slow and steady. Okay. Now we're doing an 'l', and a 'u', and then into this 'f', and another 'f'. fluff. That is definitely something my kitty has a lot of. Lots of fluff. Okay. Into that 'f', 'l', up, down, up, down for the 'u', and then into that next 'f', bring it down below the line, right here below the line and release. So, I can see that not all my f's are the same. This one is leaning way more than this one is, but that's okay. They don't look exactly the same, but just keep practicing and they will get better and better. Okay. Now we're going to write flip. 'f', up for that 'i', trace it back down, now the 'p'. Remember go down, loop back, curve up and around, connect it and release. Okay. 'f', down below the line, connect it, go into that 'l', 'i', 'p'. Go down, loop back, curve around, and release, dot that 'i'. Oops, I didn't dot that one either. I was so focused on writing, I forgot to dot those i's. Okay. Now we're going to make another 'f', here into an 'l', 'o', and then stay at the top for the 'o', connect to that 'p', loop back, curve around, and release. So, we've got flop. We got flip flop. We could wear some shoes. Okay. Loop, loop below, go right into that 'l', curve over for that 'o', keep it at the top, make your 'p', loop back, around, in and release. Looks pretty good. Okay. Now gift. 'g' and then we loop just like we do for other letters and then the 'i', 'f' and then 't' right there, and then dot your 'i' and cross your 't'. The 'g' is actually looping backwards and the 'f' loops forward, so they have like an opposite loop direction that they're going. Okay. 'g', 'i', 'f', bring it down and loop forward, go into that 't' and release, dot that 'i', cross that 't'. And then here, we are going to write fold. Go into that 'o', keep it at the top, make your 'l'. It's kind of different. Go right into that 'd' and then release. Okay. So next one. f... o... l... d. There we go. And I'm going to look for my best 'f', and this one really is really wide right here. And these got a little funny. I actually think it might be this one. I always make my very best ones at the top. Okay. We are ready to start rocking and rolling with 'b'.

Here is our perfectly wonderful 'b'. This is our printed 'b'. And when we make a printed 'b', we start at the top and we come down. We know that in cursive we're going to start at the bottom, so we've got to come up with a way to get our pencil up there. So, let's take a look at how that is going to happen. So here we go. We are going to start at the bottom just like we did with an 'f', just like we do with an 'l', and our lead-in comes up here and then it loops back and that makes our straight line down there for the 'b', and then we curve up and come up to here. This is the circle part. We don't close it all the way, but we come up to here to kind of create this circle here, but we can't come back down because then it would look kind of like an 'l' and an 'i'. So, we actually use this little mark right here. Do you remember what this is called? It is a check-stroke. Just like we used at, on an 'o' and a 'w', because this keeps our line up at the top to connect to the next letter so that we can tell the difference between this and an 'l' and other letters. It would get confusing if we brought it down to the bottom. So, since this is cursive, this is going to be slanting a little bit, so it

actually goes like that when you write it, but we can definitely see that this lines up. It does look a little bit unusual. It's definitely not one that's super easy to recognize if you're not familiar with cursive. But, we can see that it fits and that it does make sense when we stop and think about it. So, let's get ready to writing these beautiful b's.

Okay. So, a 'b' starts just the same way the 'f' did, and it's really just kind of like an 'l'. We're doing an under-curve all the way up to that top line. Then we are going to loop back and make a slant line down. And then we are going up into an under-curve. We don't connect it, it kind of looks connected on here because this is a puffy letter, but it's not going to be connected when you write it. So, this is our under-curve. And then we've got our little check-stroke that we leave up at the top to connect to the next letter. So, let's actually practice some now. We're just going to make this line up, loop back, go down, under curve up, and then check stroke. Okay. Loop up, up to the line, and then release with your check-stroke. Okay. So, there's our 'l', and go up, and then release. Now we're going to connect it to an 'e', so keep it at the top and this is just going to make the little line of the 'e' right there. So, we've got 'b'. Alright. Now we're ready to do one on our own. Loop up to make that 'l', come up and release. Okay? Loop up to make that and then up and then 'e'... 'e'. Now we've got bee, like a bumblebee. This is 'be' like I want to be... This is bee, like a bumblebee. Here we go. We're going to make it again... 'b'. Alright. Very good. So really seeing this right here and making sure this is clearly there, is going to keep people from thinking this is an 'l', because if this is not obvious and it blends in with the 'e'. It's going to look like lee. It's not going to look like 'b'. So, you've really gotta be careful. This really has to come up and then you've got to move on to the next letter. You can't squish it up in here or they won't be able to read it.

Okay. Now we're going to write bell. Up, loop back, up, make your 'e' into that next 'l' and then the next 'l'. We're making a lot of those loops for the 'l' because it's in the 'b' too. Okay. Now we're going to do it on our own. Okay. There's your 'b' and then your 'e' and then loop up to make that 'l' and release. Okay. Now we're going to do bib, like a baby bib. So, we're going to start with a 'b' and end with a 'b'. Up, check stroke, connect to that 'i' and then go down, loop, and then up, and then check-stroke and then dot your 'i'. Okay, there you go! Make that 'i' come down, loop release. There we go. Okay. Now we can spell able. I'm going to make my little lead-in. There's the 'a', 'b', connected up high to that 'l'. And then the 'e'. There we go. Okay, try that one on our own. Loop back. There's your 'b', 'l', 'e'. Okay, now we can spell bull. It seems like there's a lot of l's in all of these words. So, we're making the loop for the 'b' and the loop for the 'l'. Okay. 'b' connected up high for the 'u', 'l', 'l'. There we go. And one more time on our own, loop back and release. Okay. Now we're going to spell a little bit longer word here. We're going to spell bubble, and we've got lots of b's in here. So, loop up. Okay, keep it up high for the 'u', loop back, keep it up high to connect to the next 'b',

and then keep it up high for the 'l'. Okay. So that one's kind of funny. You can tell that this is a 'b' though, because it's connected up high to the 'u'. You can tell this is a 'b' because if it was an 'l', it would just go right into the next one. Okay. And then you can tell this is 'b' because it's up high. So, this little point that you make up here where you go off of it with your check-stroke. You really have to make sure you make that, or it is going to look like l's and it's going to be confusing. Alright. So, let's try. You might want to stop and trace over this one a couple more times. Just kinda practice connecting because it's so many connected up high. So, you can pause it and do that if you need to. Okay. 'b' into that 'u', next 'b', next 'b', 'l', 'e'. And you know what? I think I can fit it again. So, I'm going to practice again because that one's pretty tricky. 'b', check-stroke into that 'u', 'b', into that next 'b'. You might have to kind of stop and think about it, because it's a lot of similar loops, but they're not the same. They're not all the same. You have to connect them differently. Okay. That was really good. That one was kind of tricky. Let's see if I can find my best 'b'. You know, I think they all actually look pretty good. I like this one. As usual, if you have some more time, you can go through and trace and just kind of get that movement. And you might really want to practice some of these where you're connecting these b's up high, because that is something you're really going to have to think about, because if you bring it down to the line, it will not look like the right word, okay? So be careful on that. Go back and practice if you if you have time, and I will see you in lesson 9.