



*Creative
Calligraphy*

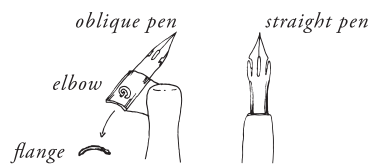
PRACTICE DRILLS

Creative Calligraphy

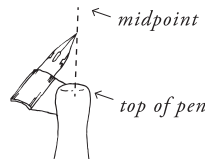
How to use these Worksheets

<i>Step 1</i>	Make sure that you have all the tools you need to write. You'll at least need a calligraphy pen, pointed nib, paper and the printed worksheets. For guidance on what tools to get, visit our resource guide here . Print this worksheet on copy paper. We recommend printing them on the HP Premium 32lb paper, this paper is smooth and takes inks very well!
<i>Step 2</i>	Turn on some of your favourite music, and start to write. Start with Practice Drill Sheet 1 (page 4) and trace the strokes. Once you feel comfortable with the strokes, go on to Practice Drill Sheet 2 (page 5) where you will start making the strokes on your own. The Blank Practice Sheet (page 6) is for practice freeform strokes with a grid.
<i>Step 3</i>	Equally important to practicing is resting. While waiting for the ink on your sheet to dry, it's a great time to pause and stretch your hands, neck and shoulders, before you continue. Take breaks every 20-30 minutes. We have some stretching exercises available here for inspiration.

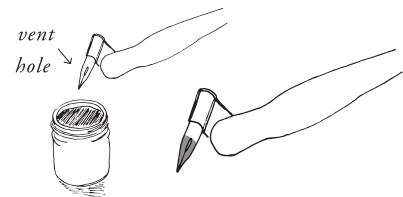
Preparing to write & How to write



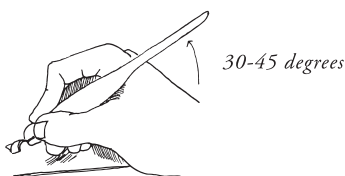
Install the nib into the pen. Hold the nib with the curve facing down, and insert it into the flange of the pen. For oblique right-handed people, the elbow piece needs to be on your left. For oblique left-handed people, the elbow piece needs to be on your right.



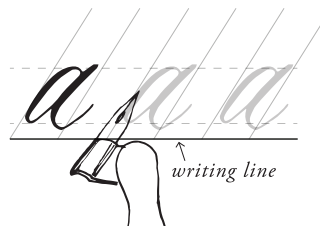
For the oblique pen, the tip of the nib must be aligned with the midpoint of the pen. For straight pens, just insert the nib straight down until snug. Hold the pen about 1/2-1 inch from the top.



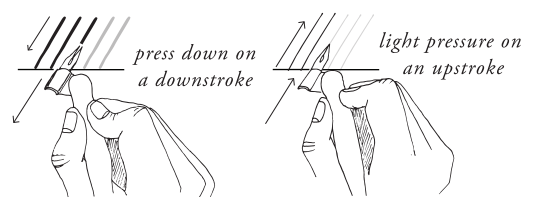
Prepare the nib by dipping it about an inch into the bottle. Use a piece of tissue and wipe the ink off. Do this 2-3 times to remove the residue, this will help the flow of ink. Do this only when you're using the nib the first time. When writing, dip the nib past the vent hole.



Two key angles are important in calligraphy. First is to hold the pen about 30-45 degrees from the paper. This angle should not change a lot as you write, i.e. the pen should not be flipping like a brush.



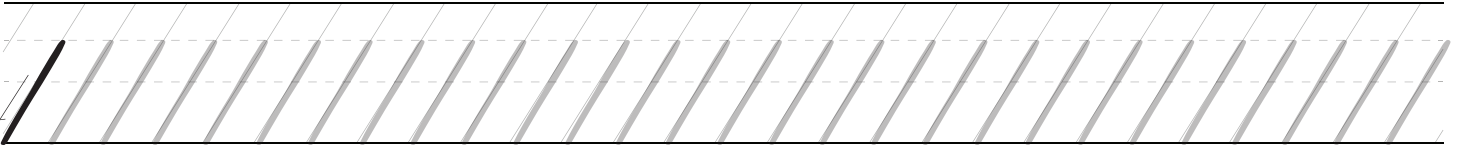
The second angle is the direction of the nib. The nib needs to be parallel to the slant (use the slanted guidelines). Your hand and pen should be below the writing line. This angle should not change as you write.



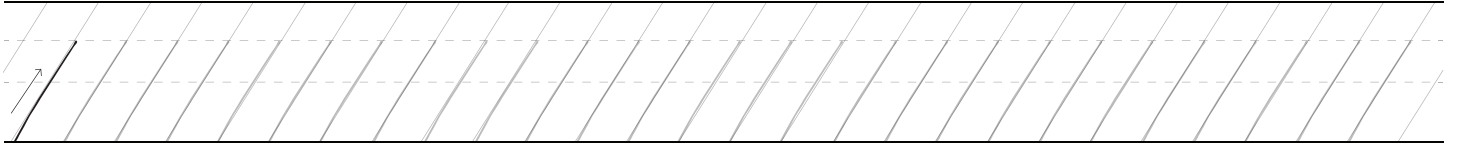
This style of calligraphy involves downstrokes and upstrokes. When writing a downstroke, add pressure to the nib to create the thickest lines. On an upstroke, reduce pressure on the nib, in order to create the thinnest lines.

Practice Drill Sheet # 1

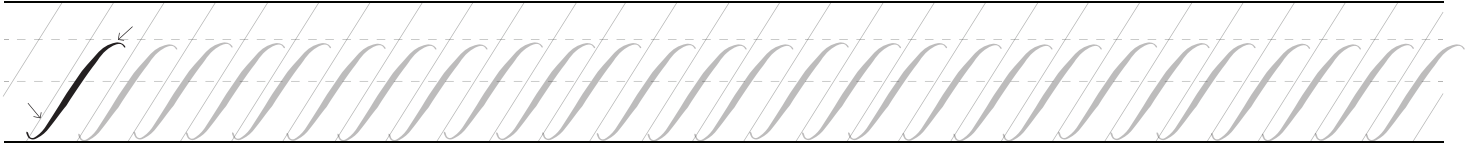
Downstroke Start at the top line. Press the nib down to create a square top and keep the pressure even and firm as you write downwards.



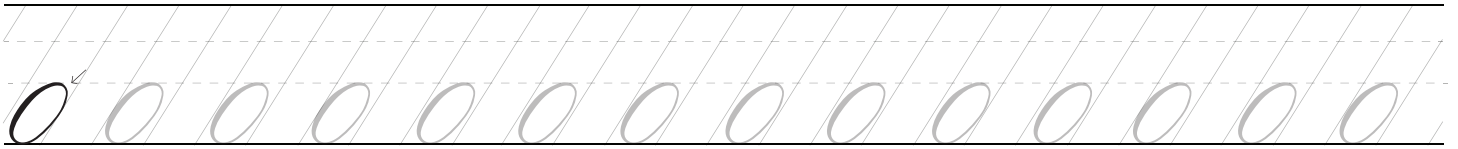
Upstroke Start at the bottom. With very light pressure, write a stroke going up until you hit the top.



Curve Start with very light pressure. Once you hit the top, increase pressure. About 4/5's the way down, decrease pressure then go up.



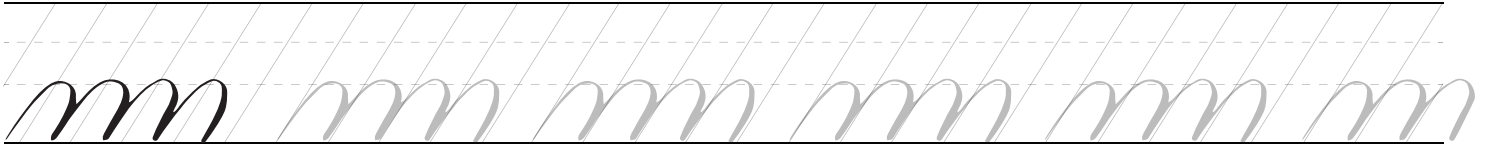
Oval Practice Start at the top right. At the top, increase pressure going downwards, then at 4/5's the way down, reduce pressure and go up.



Underturn Start at the x-height. Press the nib down to create a square top and go down. About 4/5's the way down, taper then go up lightly.



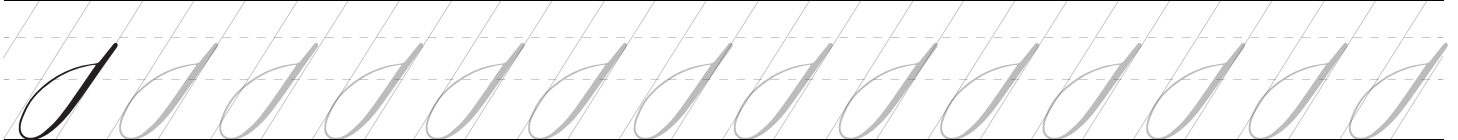
Overturn Start at the bottom and go lightly. At the top, increase pressure and finish the downstroke with even pressure for a square bottom.



Ascender Start with an upstroke to the right. At the very top, start increasing pressure and finish the downstroke with even pressure.

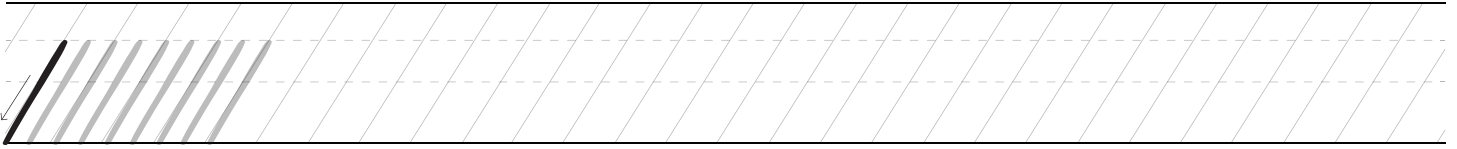


Descender Start with downstroke with even pressure for a square top. About 4/5's the way down, decrease pressure and go up lightly.

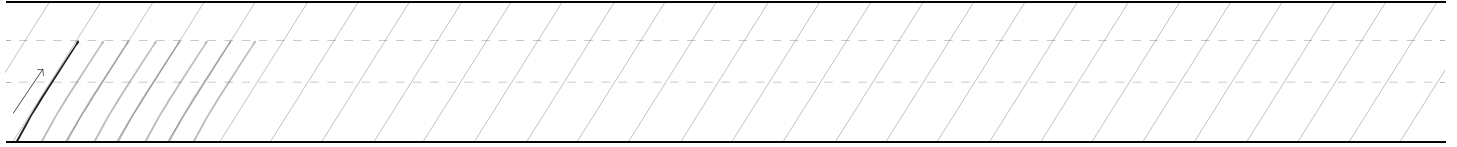


Practice Drill Sheet # 2

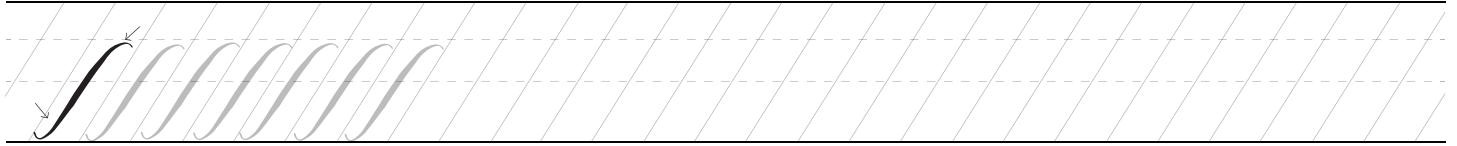
Downstroke Start at the top line. Press the nib down to create a square top and keep the pressure even and firm as you write downwards.



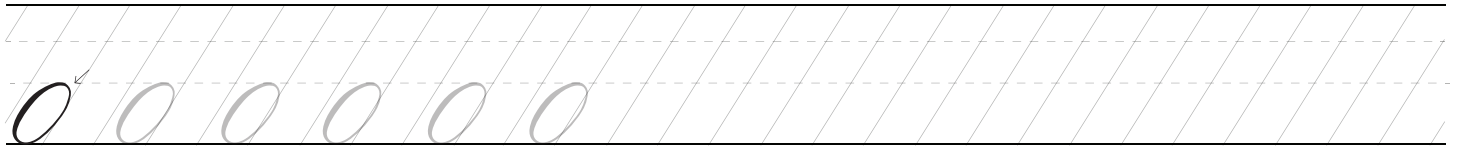
Upstroke Start at the bottom. With very light pressure, write a stroke going up until you hit the top.



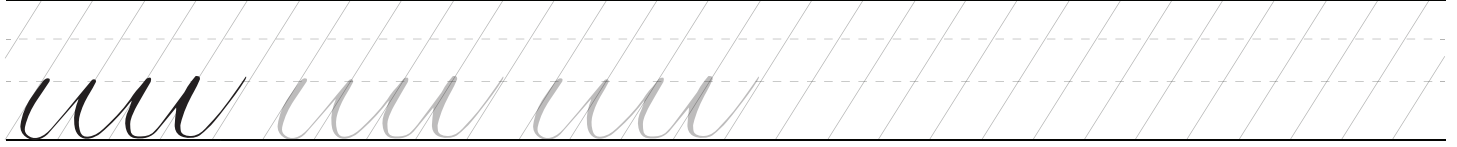
Curve Start with very light pressure. Once you hit the top, increase pressure. About 4/5's the way down, decrease pressure then go up.



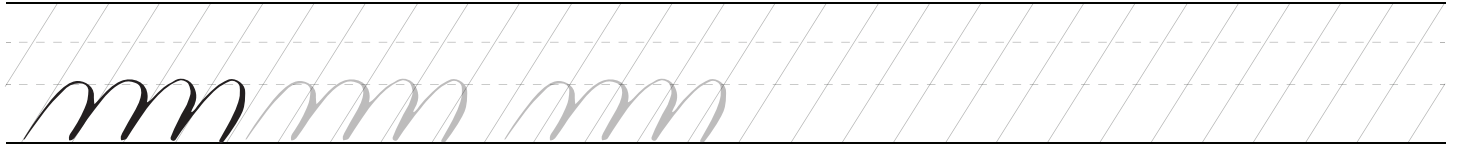
Oval Practice Start at the top right. At the top, increase pressure going downwards, then at 4/5's the way down, reduce pressure and go up.



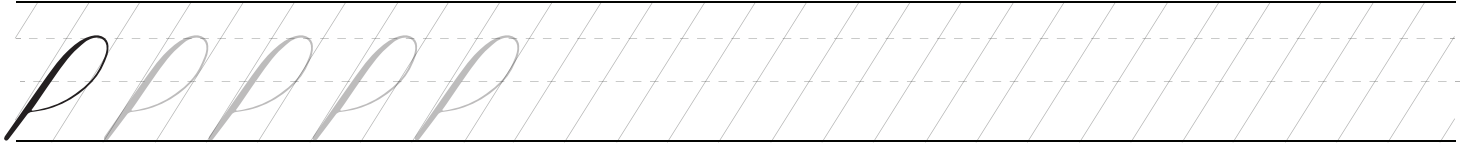
Underturn Start at the x-height. Press the nib down to create a square top and go down. About 4/5's the way down, taper then go up lightly.



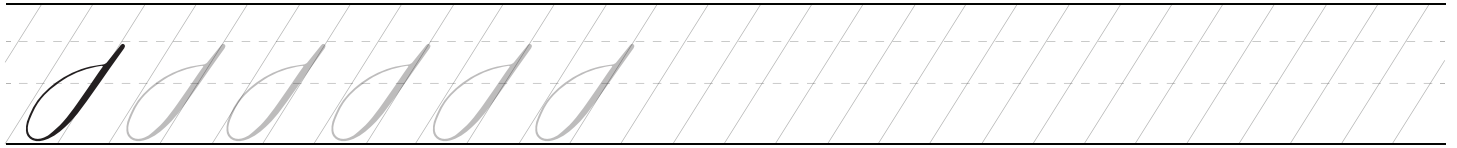
Overturn Start at the bottom and go lightly. At the top, increase pressure and finish the downstroke with even pressure for a square bottom.



Ascender Start with an upstroke to the right. At the very top, start increasing pressure and finish the downstroke with even pressure.



Descender Start with downstroke with even pressure for a square top. About 4/5's the way down, decrease pressure and go up lightly.



Blank Practice Sheet

The page contains eight identical sets of handwriting practice lines. Each set consists of three horizontal lines: a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line. The area between the top and middle lines is filled with diagonal hatching lines sloping downwards from left to right. The area between the middle and bottom lines is left blank. These sets are arranged vertically down the page.

Creative Calligraphy

Most of all, we want you to have fun and discover the joy of creating with calligraphy. There's truly something magical about slowing down, tuning out the noise, and focusing on simple strokes. It's healing, it's therapeutic, it's a wonderful way to set the tone before you start your day, or to destress as you end your day. When you work on your basics and foundation, your calligraphy skills will improve. So, take it one stroke at a time, and enjoy the process. We've made this into a little printable for you to download as well, so you can put it up on your wall as you practice.

Enjoy
the Process

Share your calligraphy journey

Don't forget to document your calligraphy journey by tagging us @writtenwordcalligraphy or using the hashtag #creativecalligraphycourse on Instagram and other social media channels. We're so excited to be part of your journey in learning calligraphy.