

Cursive Basic Strokes

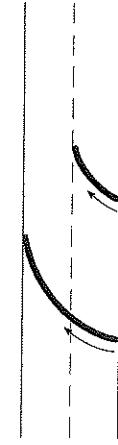
Study the cursive basic strokes, letters, and numerals.



Slant



Downcurve

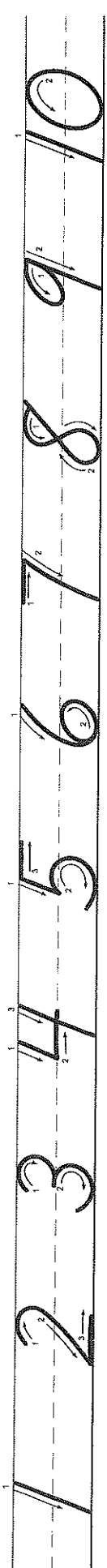


Overcurve

Cursive Alphabet



Cursive Numerals



Matching Manuscript and Cursive

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

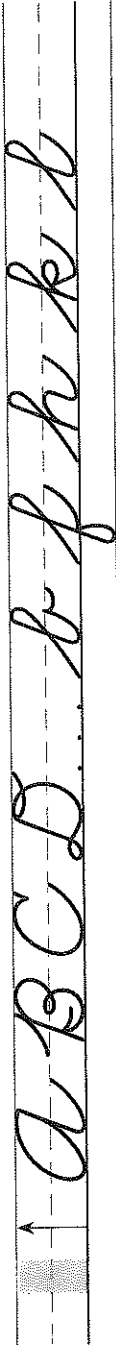
h	t
m	g
k	o
y	h
o	b
g	m
s	q
t	k
w	y
b	a
q	w

A	B
K	X
V	A
X	U
O	R
R	g
S	U
M	K
G	S
B	M
U	O

Size and Alignment

Size and Alignment refer to the height of the letters to each other and to the writing lines.

Tall Letters Letters that fill the entire writing space from bottom line to top line. All the uppercase letters and the lowercase letters **b**, **f**, **h**, **k**, and **l**.

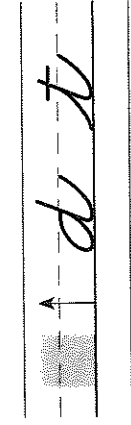


Short Letters Letters that extend from the bottom line to the midline. Lowercase letters **r**, **s**, **v**, and **w** extend slightly above the midline.



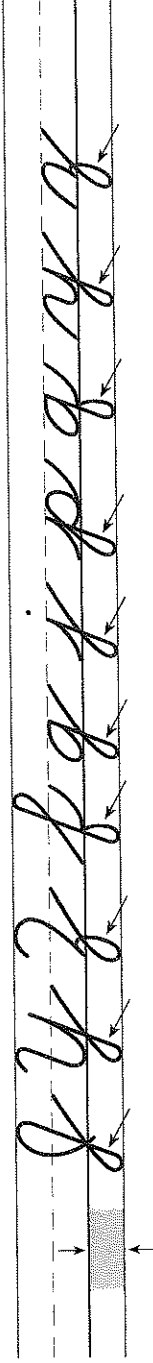
Intermediate Letters

Letters that fill three-quarters of the writing space.



Tail Letters

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

Smooth and even

UNEVEN

baseball

Holding pencil too tight, using fingers to draw

TOO LIGHT

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

TOO HEAVY

blue

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

This sentence shows good line quality.

Jim gave her mother twelve roses.

Letter Spacing

Letter spacing should be 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

Too Tight

lcter

Spacing Too Open

l e t t e r

Letter Spacing Varies

letter

Word Spacing

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

This shows good word spacing.

Sentence Spacing

Allow enough space between sentences to fit one large oval.

My dog is big. His name is Duke.

Paragraph Indent

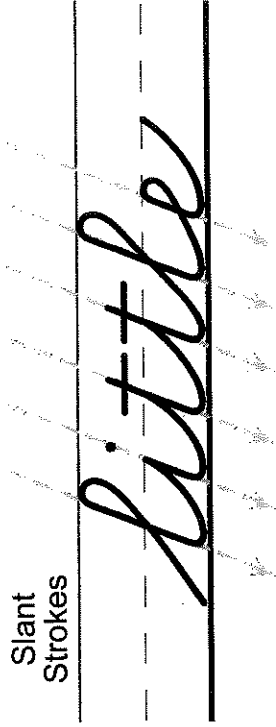
When you indent for a paragraph, allow enough space for two large ovals. Study the example below.

This shows the correct indent for a new paragraph.

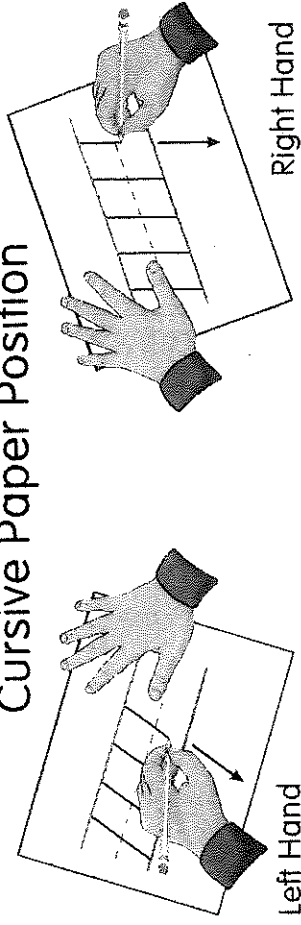
Slant of Writing

Slant is determined by the paper or book position and the direction in which the strokes are pulled. Study the examples below.

Slant
Strokes



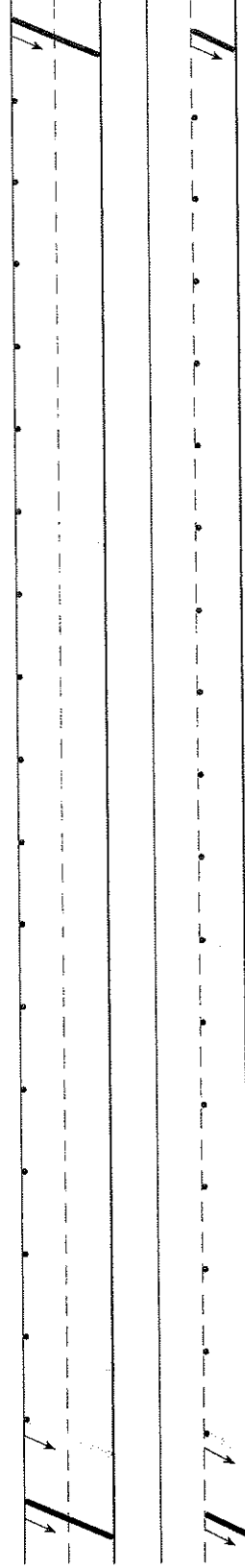
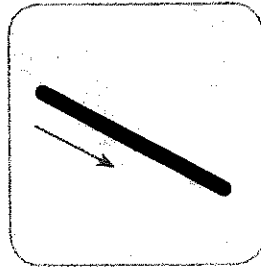
Cursive Paper Position



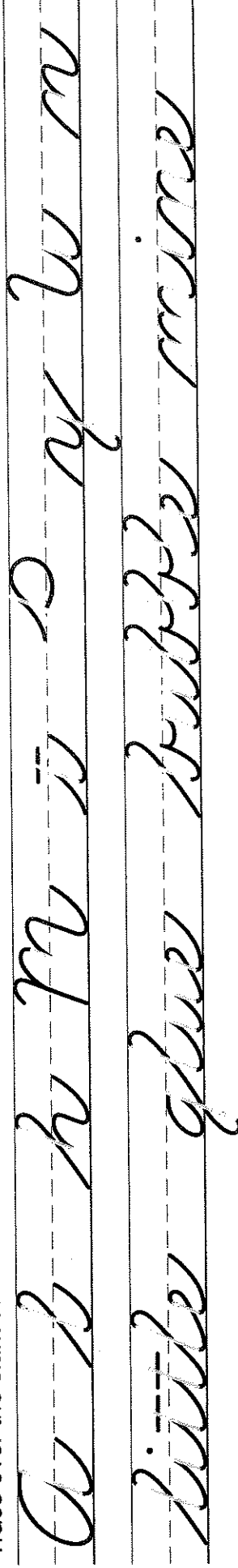
Basic Strokes

The basic strokes are the building blocks for all cursive letters. The four cursive basic strokes are: slant, undercurve, downcurve, and overcurve.

Slant Stroke - All cursive letters slant. Thirty-eight cursive letters contain one or more slant strokes. Trace and write the slant strokes.



Trace over the slant strokes in the letters and words below.



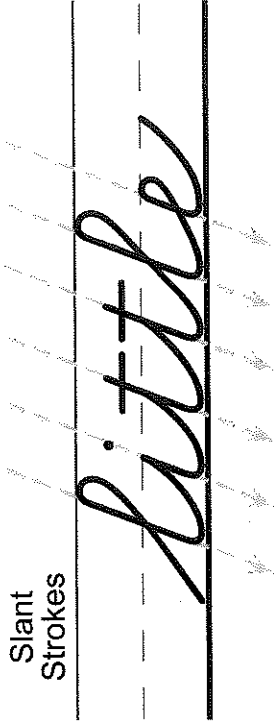
Circle the letters that have a slant stroke in them.



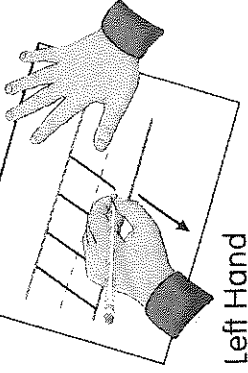
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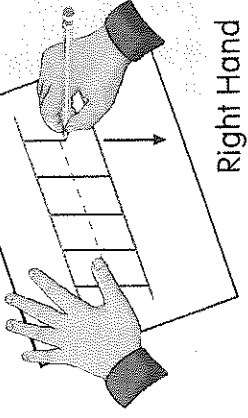
Slant
Strokes



Cursive Paper Position



Left Hand

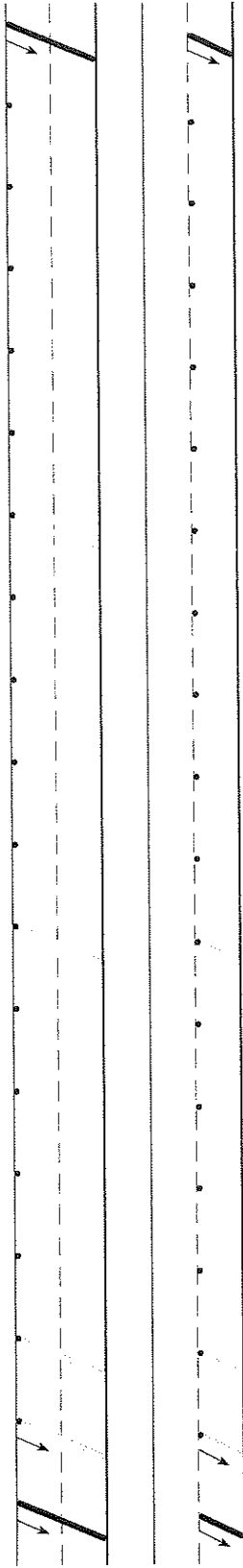
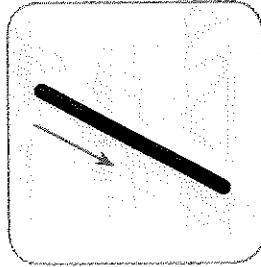


Right Hand

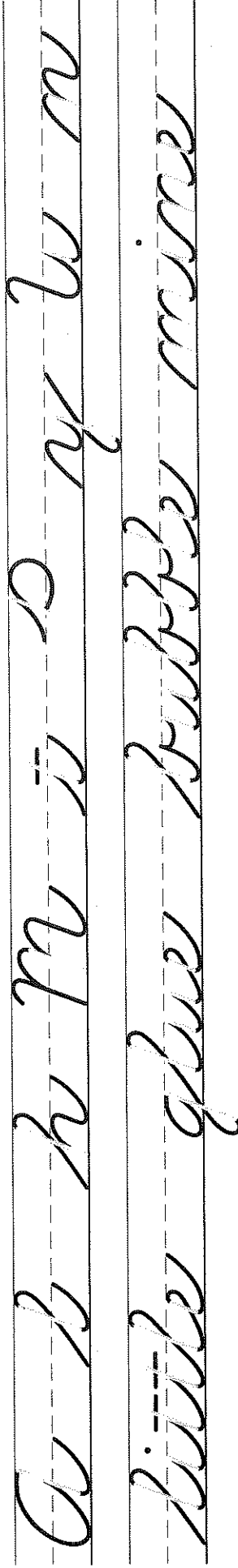
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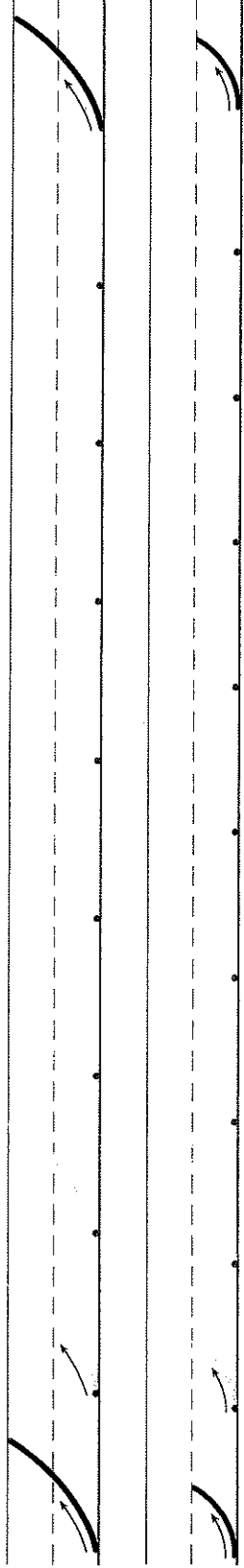
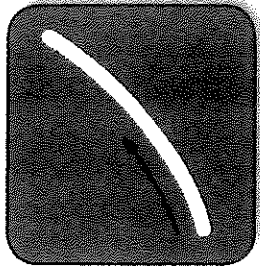


Circle the letters that have a slant stroke in them.

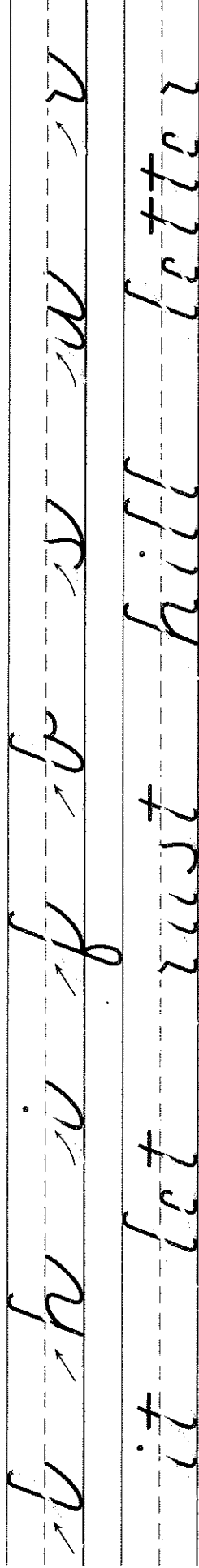


Undercurve

The undercurve is used to begin fourteen lowercase letters. The undercurve swings wide to the right. Do not curve up too quickly. Trace and write the tall and short undercurves.



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

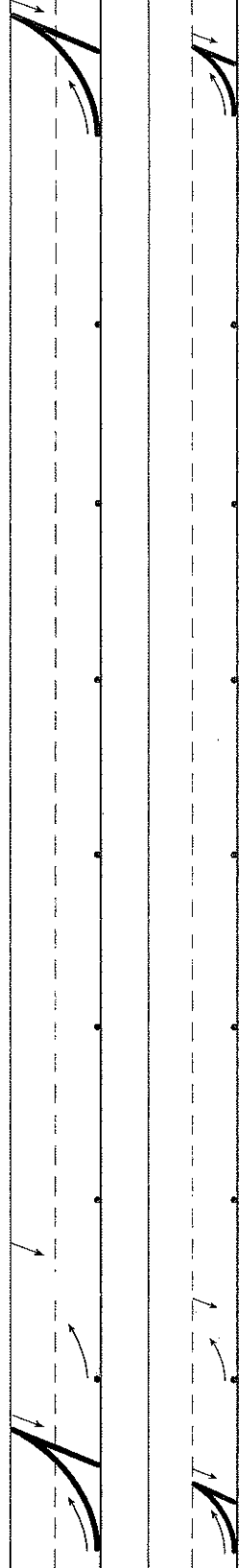
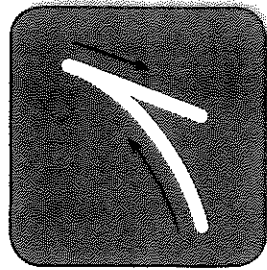


Circle the letters that have an undercurve in them.



Undercurve - Slant

The undercurve-slant motion is used very often in cursive writing. Make a wide undercurve. Trace and write the tall and short undercurve-slant strokes. Pull the slant strokes to the bottom line.

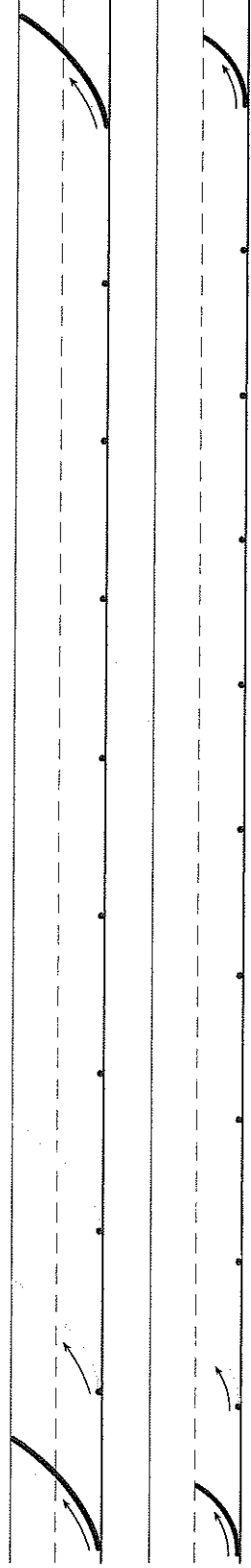
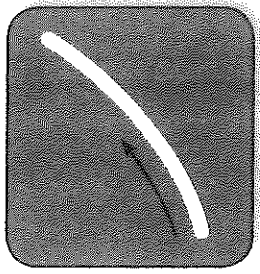


Trace and write the undercurve-slant exercise.



Undercurve

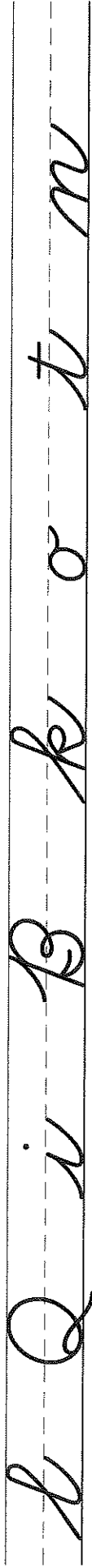
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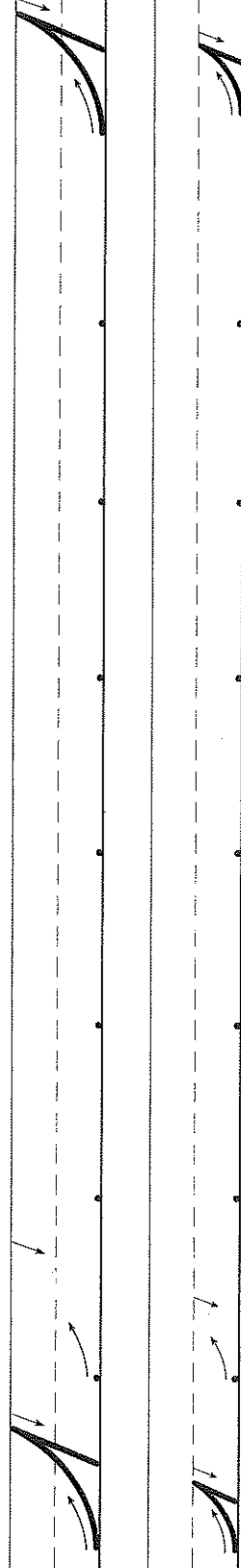
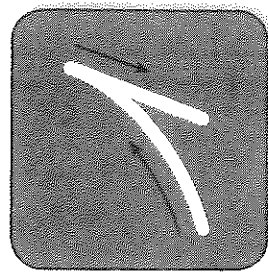


Circle the letters that have an undercurve in them.

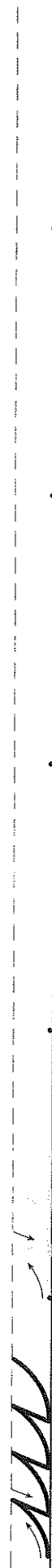


Undercurve - Slant

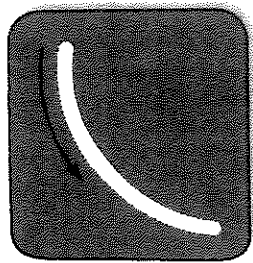
The undercurve-slant motion is used very often in cursive writing. Make a wide undercurve. Trace and write the tall and short undercurve-slant strokes. Pull the slant strokes to the bottom line.



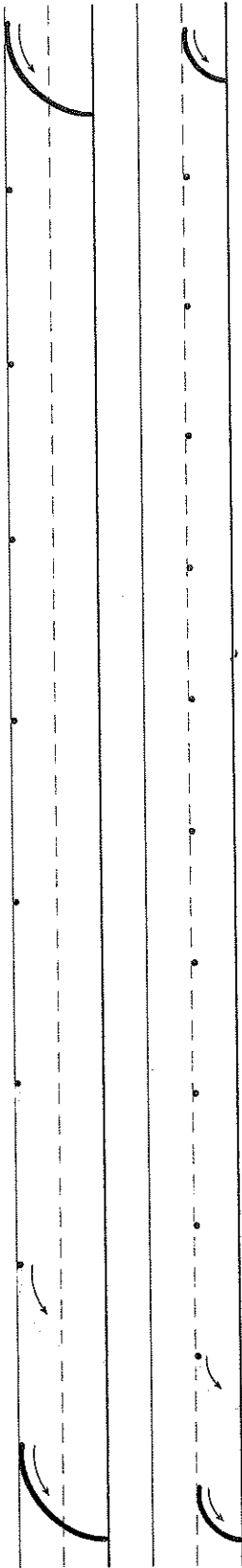
Trace and write the undercurve-slant exercise.



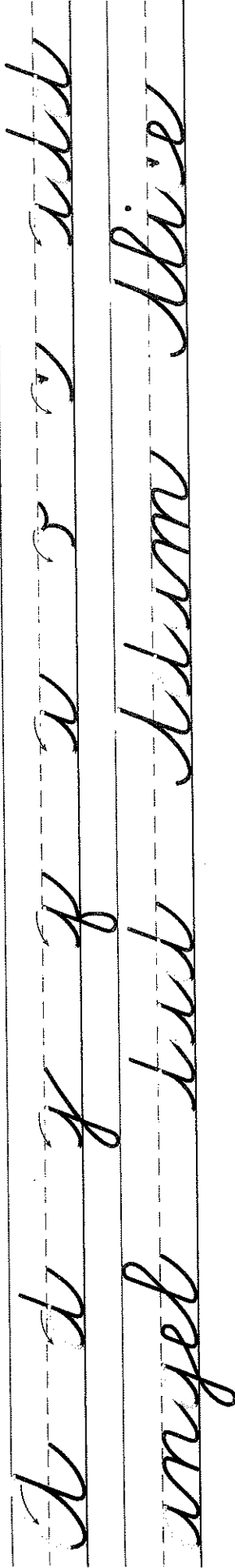
Downcurve



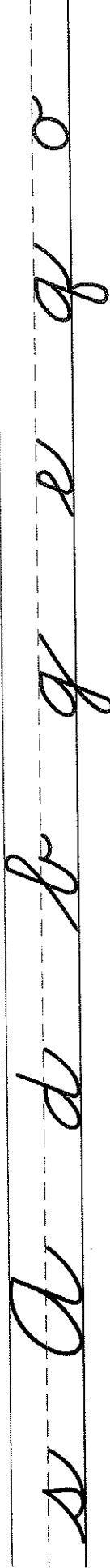
The downcurve is used to begin the lowercase letters **a**, **d**, **g**, and **q**. Begin this stroke with a slide left motion, then slowly curve down. Do not curve down quickly. Trace and write the tall and short downcurves.



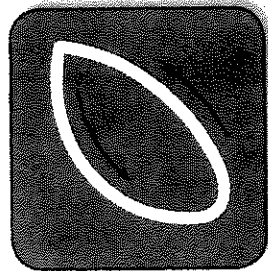
Trace over the downcurves in the letters and words below. Be sure your book is in the correct position for cursive writing.



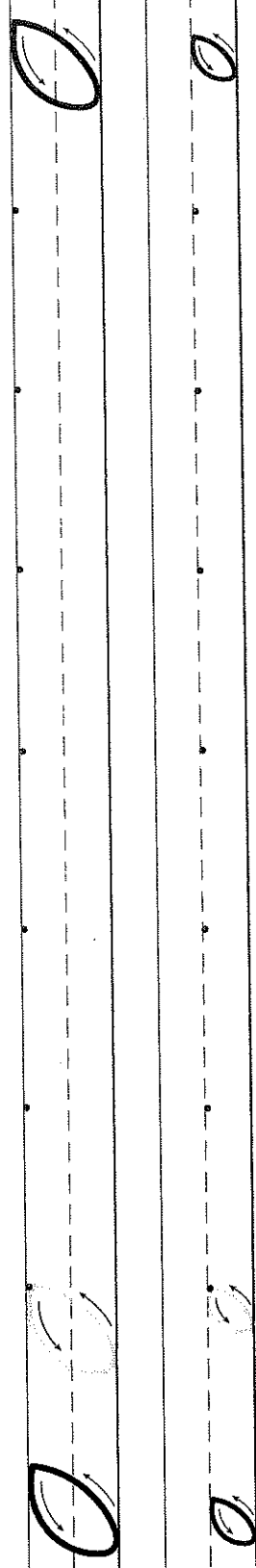
Circle the letters that have a downcurve in them.



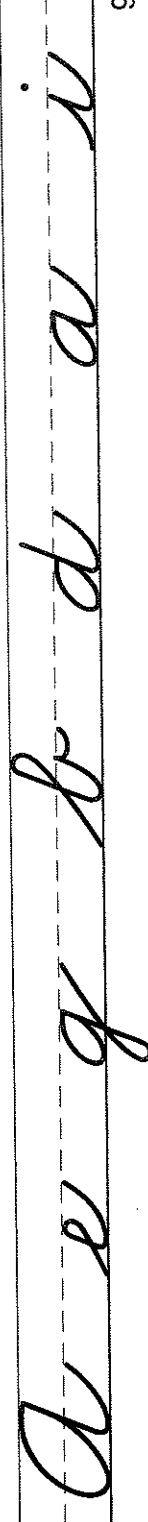
Downcurve - Undercurve



The downcurve-undercurve motion is used very often in cursive writing. Make the downcurve wide. The undercurve swings up and connects the two strokes.

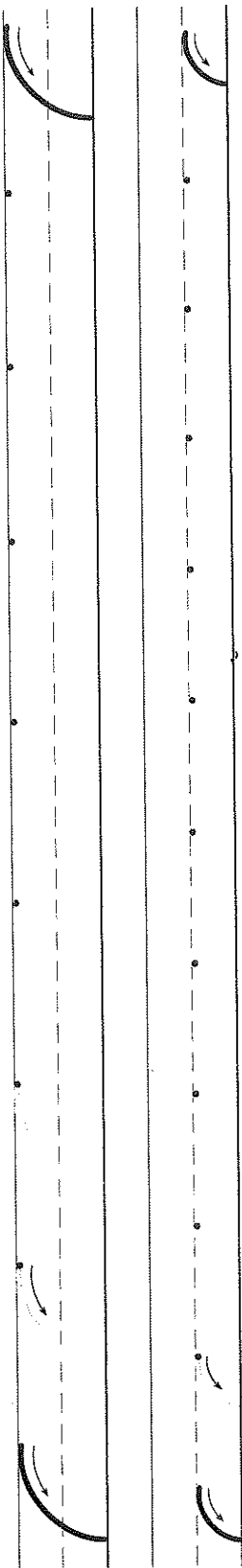
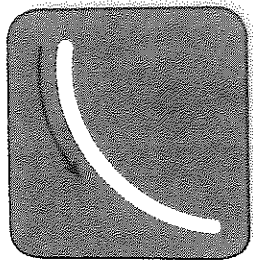


Circle the letters that have a downcurve-undercurve motion in them.

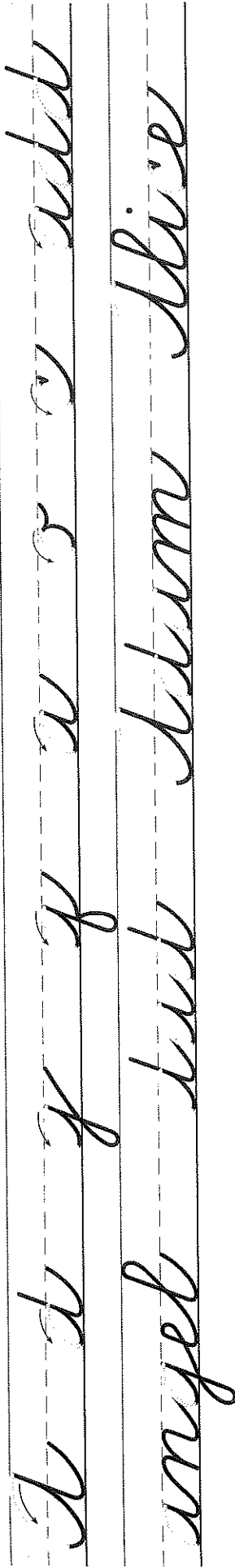


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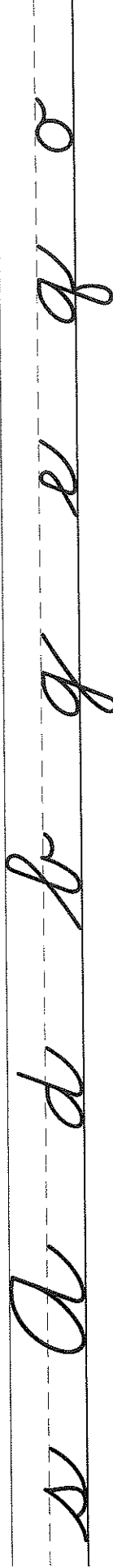
Downcurve



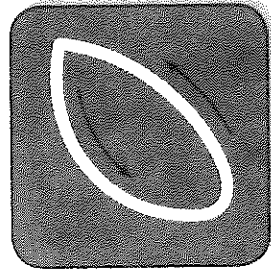
Trace over the downcurves in the letters and words below. Be sure your book is in the correct position for cursive writing.



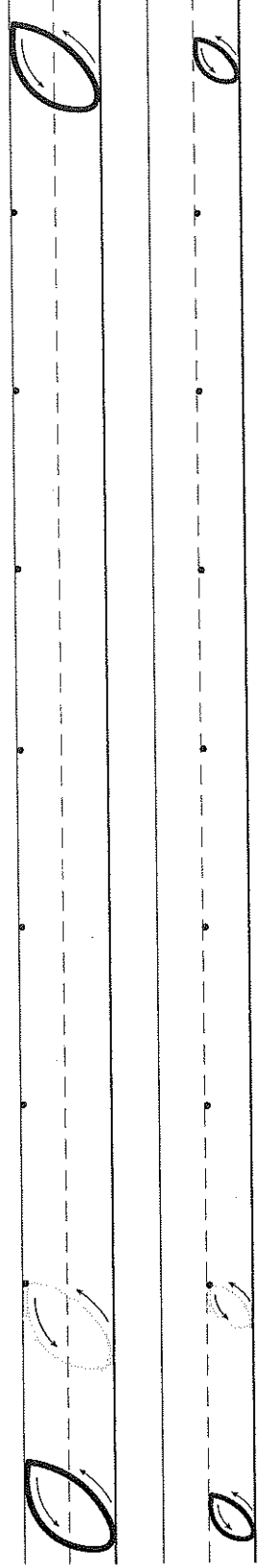
Circle the letters that have a downcurve in them.



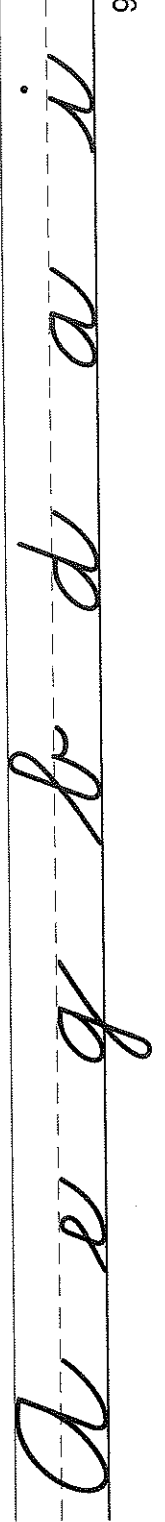
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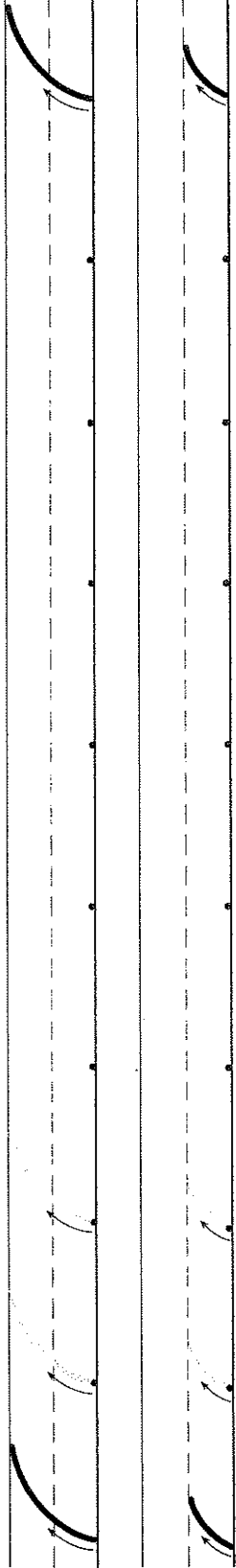
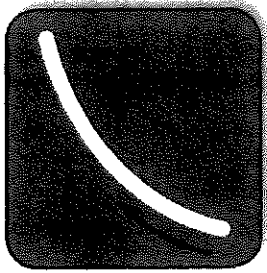


Circle the letters that have a downcurve-undercurve motion in them.

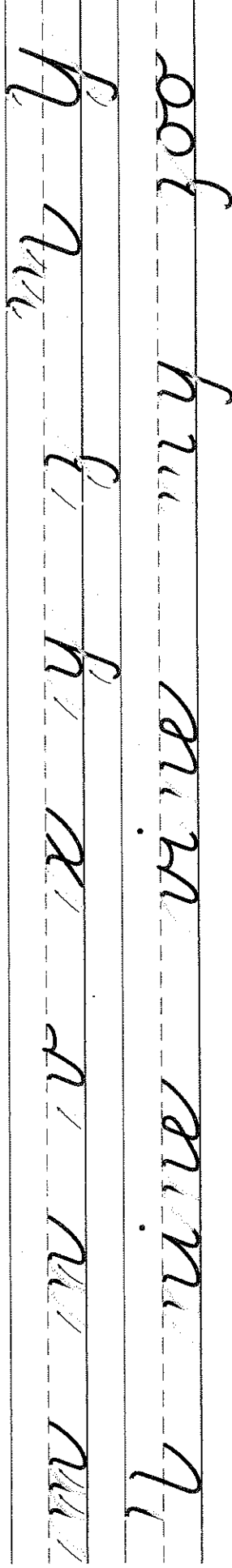


Overcurve

The overcurve is used to begin the lowercase letters **m**, **n**, **v**, **x**, **y**, and **z**. It curves up wide to the right. Do not curve up quickly. Make the stroke rounded and wide. 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.

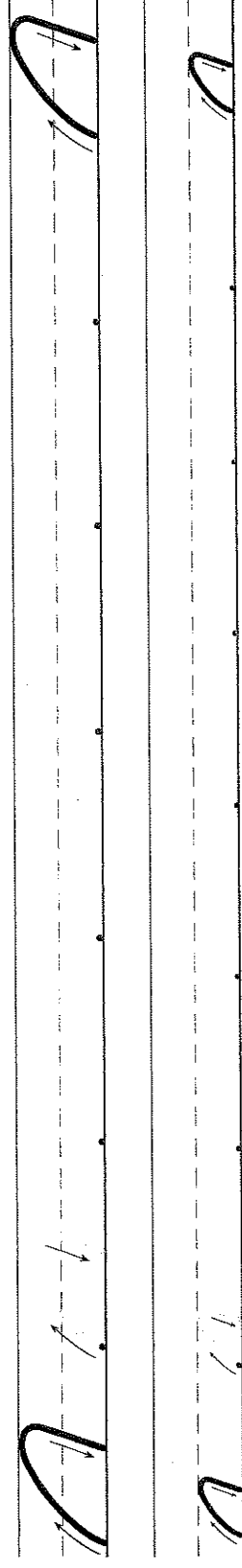
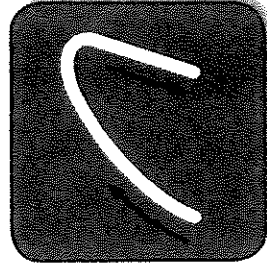


Circle the letters below that have an overcurve in them.



Overcurve - Slant

The overcurve-slant motion is used often in cursive writing. Make the overcurve well rounded. Pull the slant strokes to the bottom line. Trace and write the tall and short overcurve-slant motions.

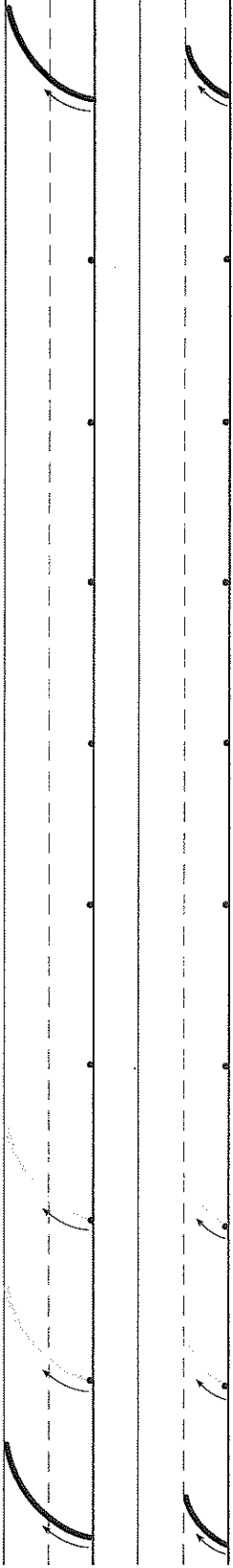
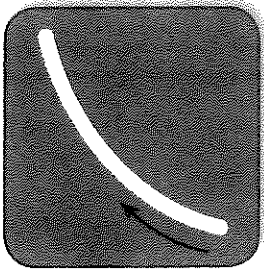


Circle the letters that have an overcurve-slant motion in them.

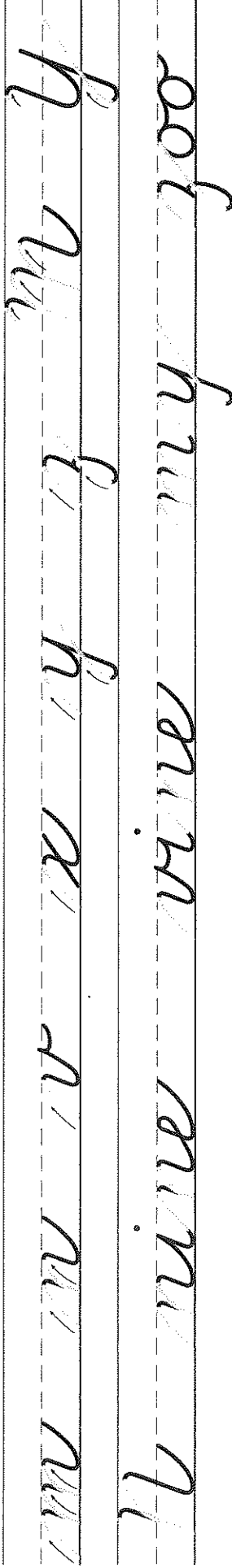


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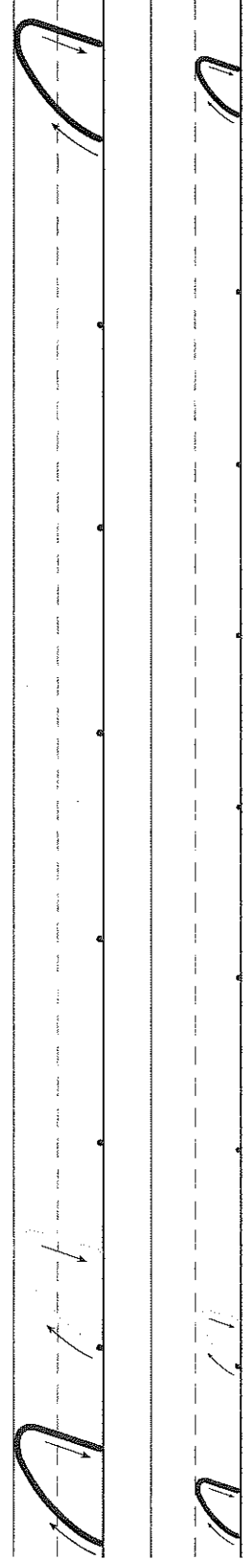
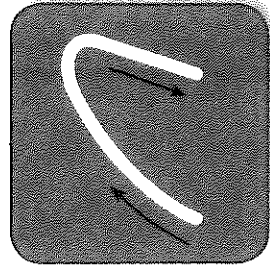


Circle the letters below that have an overcurve in them.

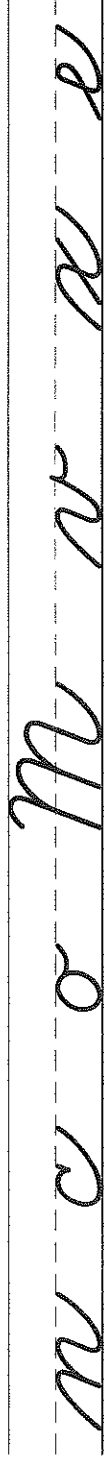


Overcurve - Slant

The overcurve-slant motion is used often in cursive writing. Make the overcurve well rounded. Pull the slant strokes to the bottom line. Trace and write the tall and short overcurve-slant motions.



Circle the letters that have an overcurve-slant motion in them.



Review of Basic Strokes

Match each stroke to the letter it begins.

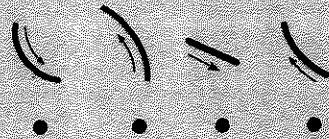
Match the name to the correct basic stroke.

Undercurve •

Slant •

Overcurve •

Downcurve •



How Many?

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

little

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

add

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

nine

Count all of the slant strokes in the word **letter**.
Write the number in the box.







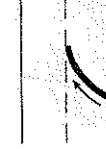



letter

Name the stroke the arrow is pointing to
in each letter below.

n *a* *h* *o* *r*

Review of Basic Strokes

Match each stroke to the letter it begins.





Match the name to the correct basic stroke.

Undercurve •

Slant •

Overcurve •

Downcurve •

	•
	•
	•
	•

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

nine

Count all of 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.

w a h o r

Lowercase i



1. Undercurve
2. Slant
3. Undercurve
4. Dot

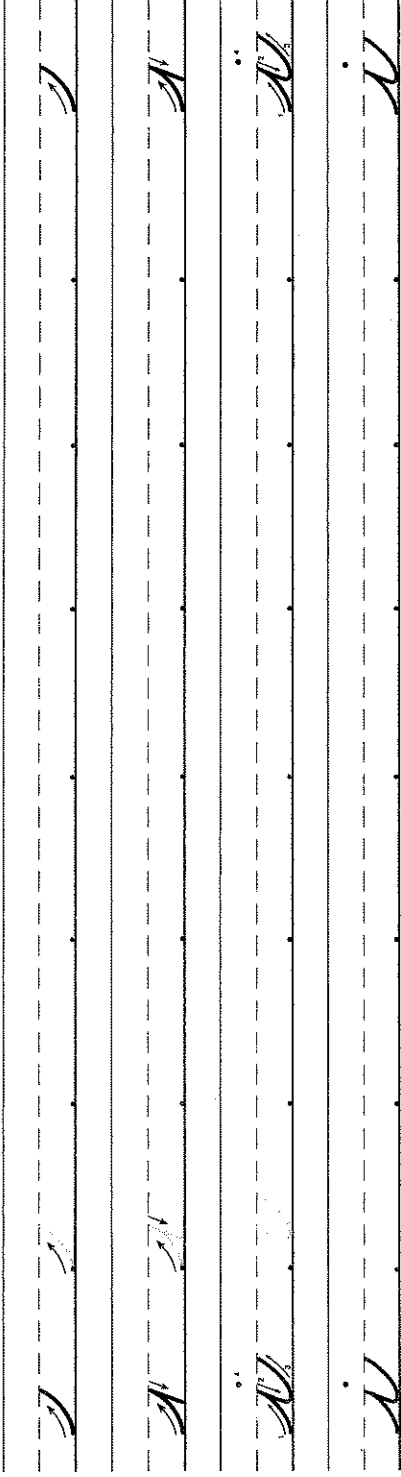
JOINING

Undercurve to Undercurve

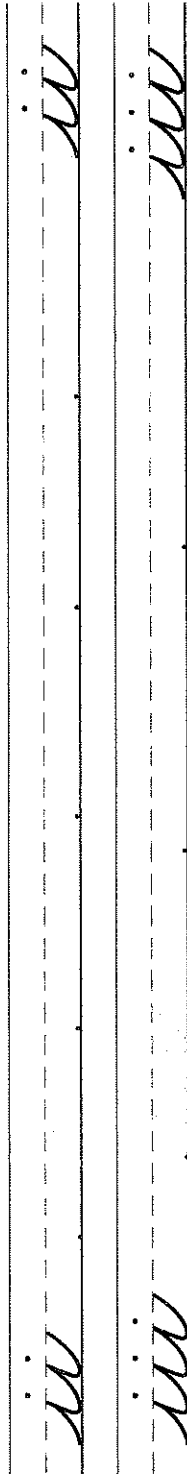


1. The undercurve ending swings up wide into the second letter i.
2. Pause, then slant.

Trace and write the strokes and letter.



Trace and write the joinings.



LEFT HAND

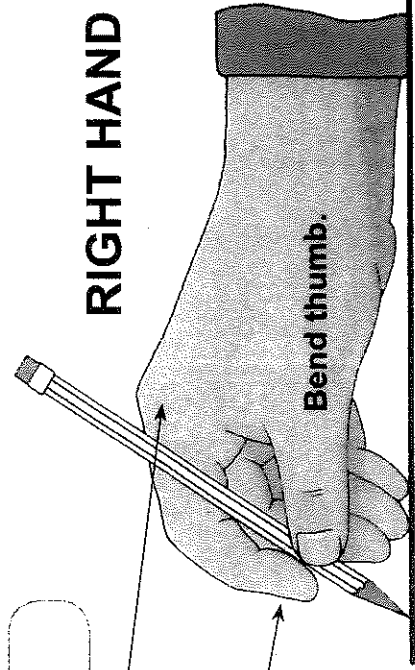


Pencil Position

Pencil is held near large knuckle.

First finger rests on top of pencil.

RIGHT HAND



Lowercase i



1. Undercurve
2. Slant
3. Undercurve
4. Dot

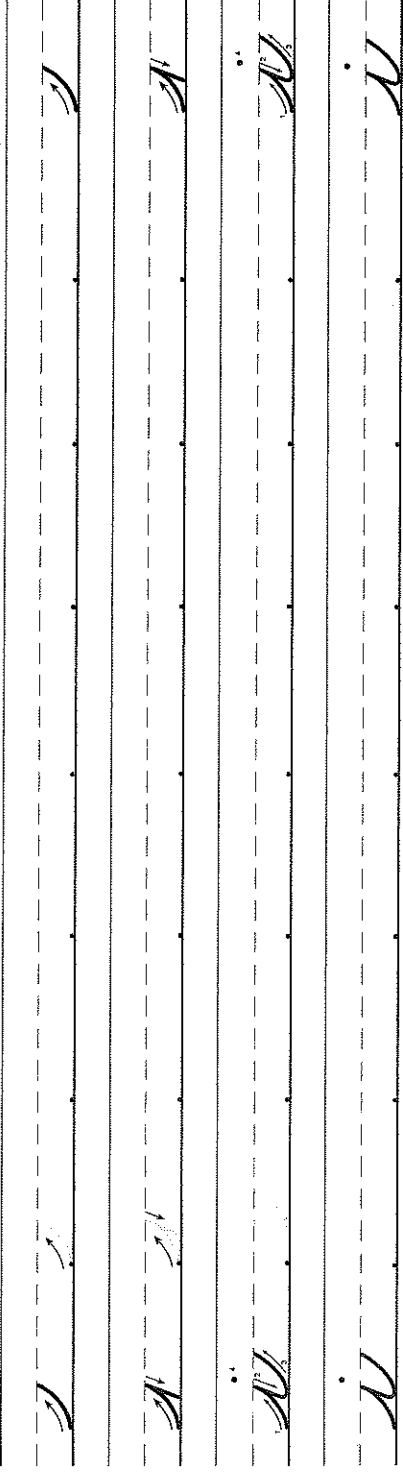
JOINING

Undercurve to Undercurve

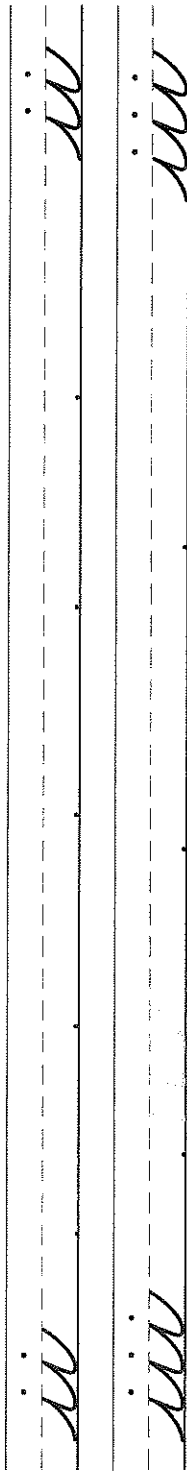


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Trace and write the joinings.



LEFT HAND

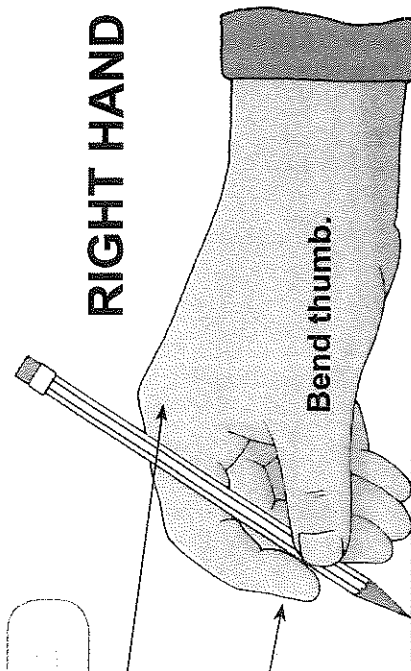


Pencil Position

Pencil is held near large knuckle.

First finger rests on top of pencil.

RIGHT HAND



Bend thumb.

Lowercase t



1. Undercurve
2. Slant
3. Undercurve
4. Cross

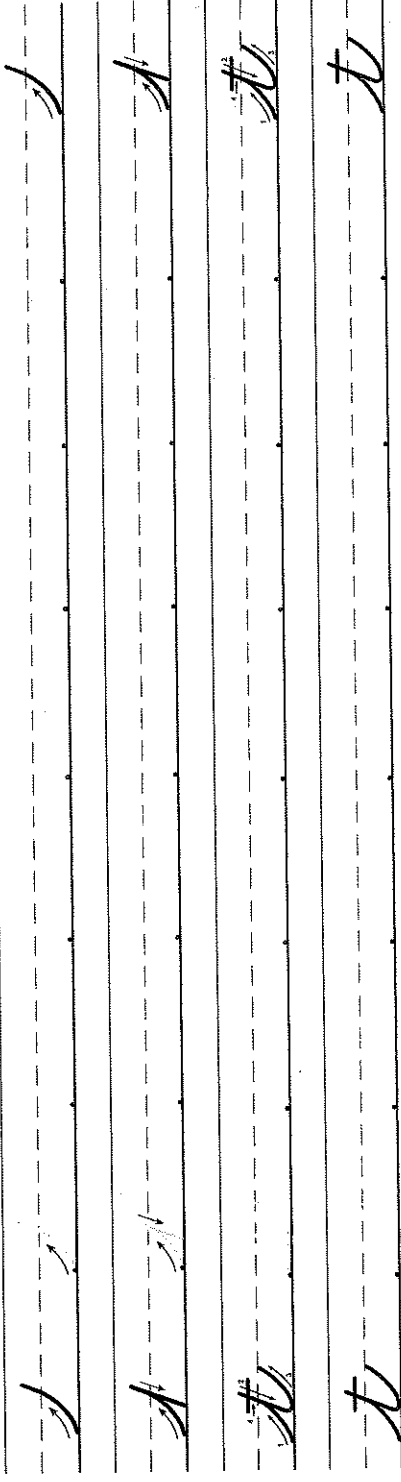
JOINING

Undercurve to Undercurve

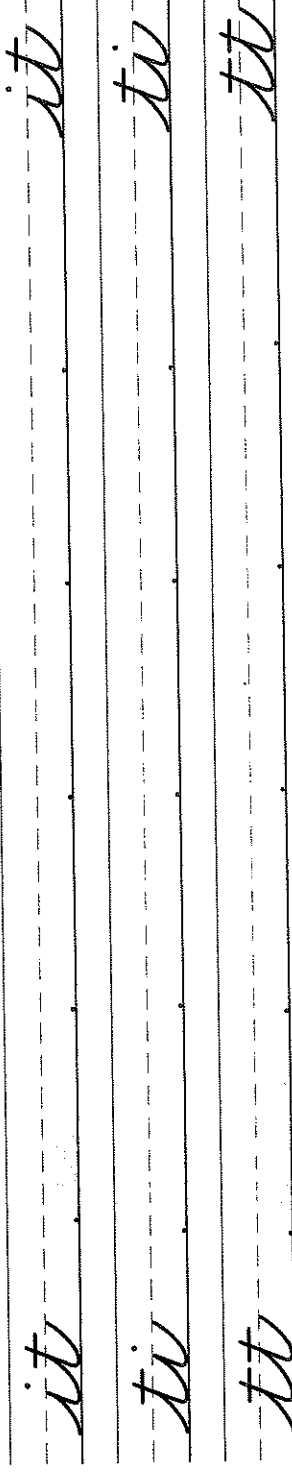


1. The undercurve ending swings up wide into the letter **t**.
2. Pause, then slant.

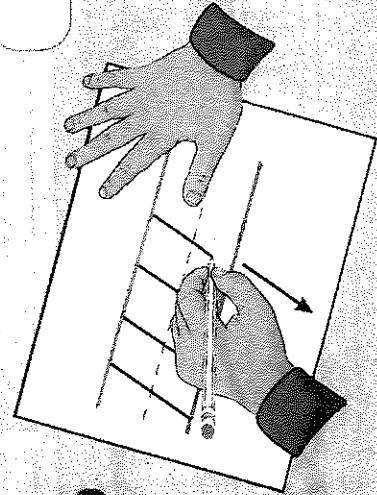
Trace and write the strokes and letter.



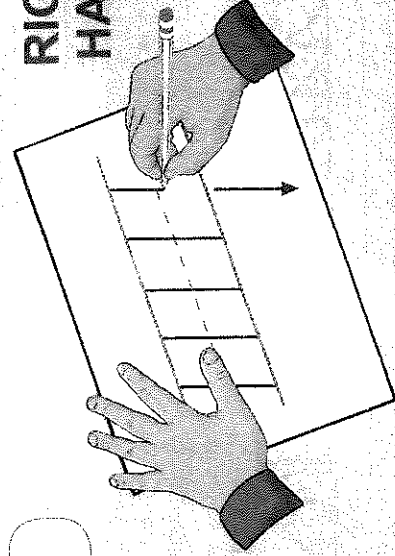
Trace and write the joinings.



LEFT HAND



RIGHT HAND



Paper Position

Correct paper position will help you maintain good slant in your cursive writing. Study the paper position examples.

Lowercase t



1. Undercurve
2. Slant
3. Undercurve
4. Cross

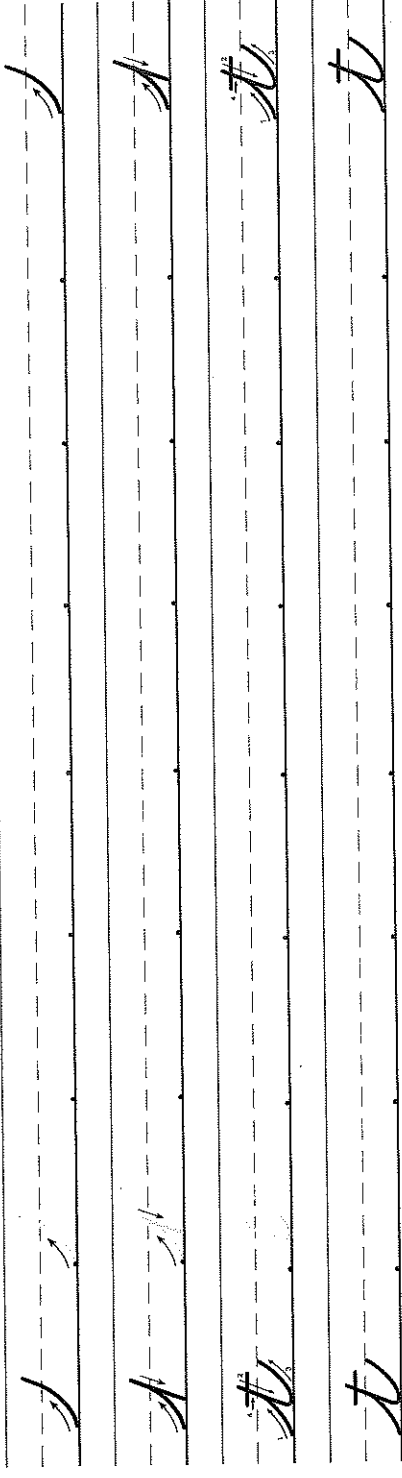
JOINING

Undercurve to Undercurve

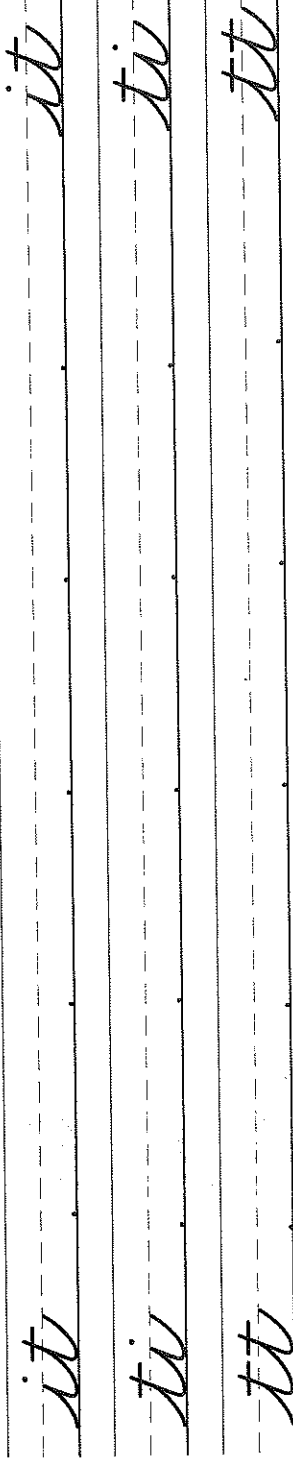


1. The undercurve ending swings up wide into the letter **t**.
2. Pause, then slant.

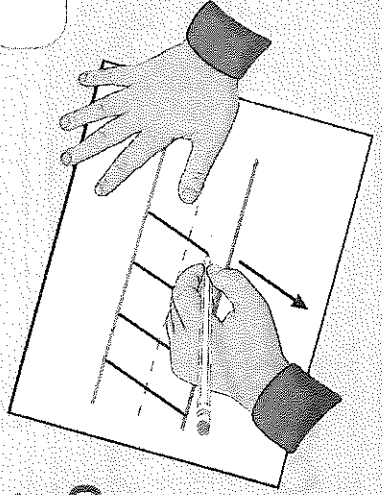
Trace and write the strokes and letter.



Trace and write the joinings.

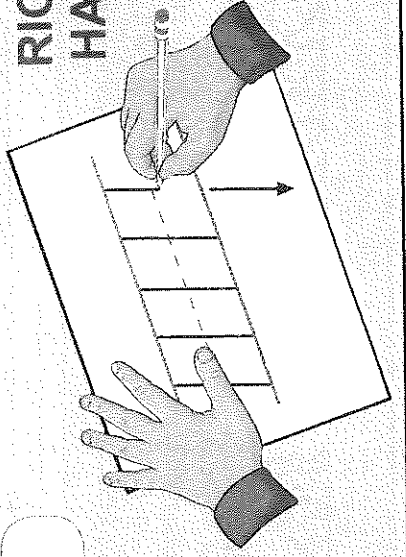


LEFT HAND



Paper Position

Correct paper position will help you maintain good slant in your cursive writing. Study the paper position examples.



RIGHT HAND

Lowercase u



1. Undercurve
2. Slant, undercurve
3. Slant, undercurve

JOINING

Undercurve to Undercurve

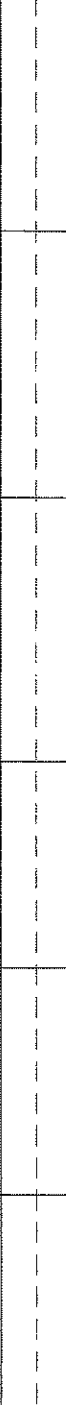
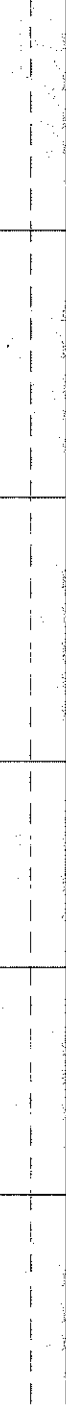


1. The undercurve ending swings up wide into the letter **t**.
2. Pause, then slant.

Trace and write the strokes and letter.



Trace and write the joinings.



Line Quality

CORRECT

cursive

UNEVEN

faceball

TOO LIGHT

u

TOO HEAVY

blue

Lowercase u



1. Undercurve
2. Slant, undercurve
3. Slant, undercurve

JOINING

Undercurve to Undercurve



1. The undercurve ending swings up wide into the letter f.
2. Pause, then slant.

Trace and write the strokes and letter.

u u

u u

u u

u u

u u

Trace and write the joinings.

uu uu uu uu

uu uu uu uu

Line Quality

CORRECT

cursive

UNEVEN

booballs

TOO LIGHT

u u u

TOO HEAVY

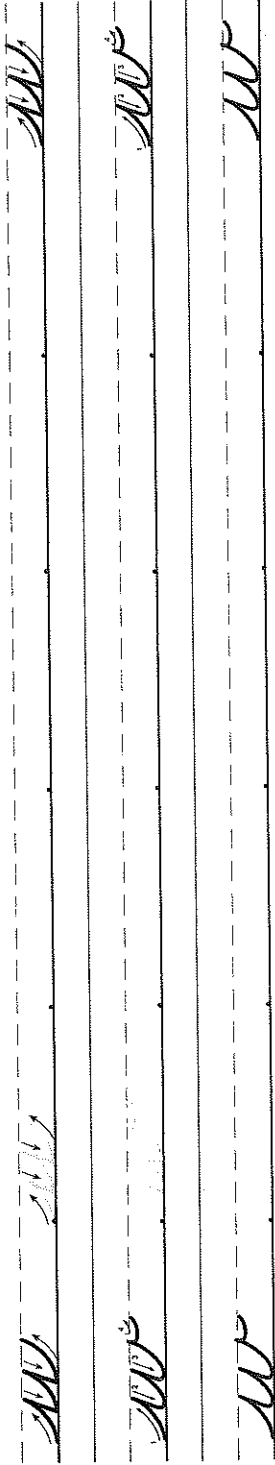
uuuu

Lowercase w

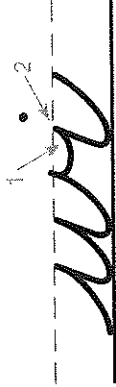


1. Undercurve
2. Slant, undercurve
3. Slant, undercurve
4. Retrace, swing right

Trace and write the strokes and letter.

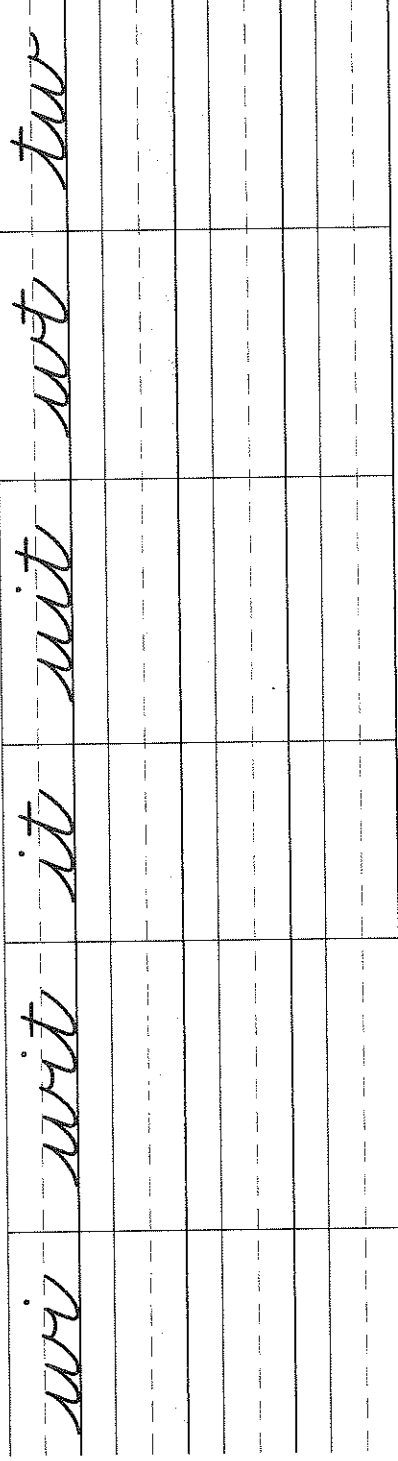


Checkstroke to Undercurve



1. The ending stroke of the **w** swings wide into the top of the letter **i**.
2. Pause, then slant.

Trace and write the joinings and words.



Size and Alignment

Be sure all of your letters are the correct size. Writing lines help you keep your writing the correct size. Are your letters the correct size?

CORRECT



INCORRECT



Check your writing for size and alignment.

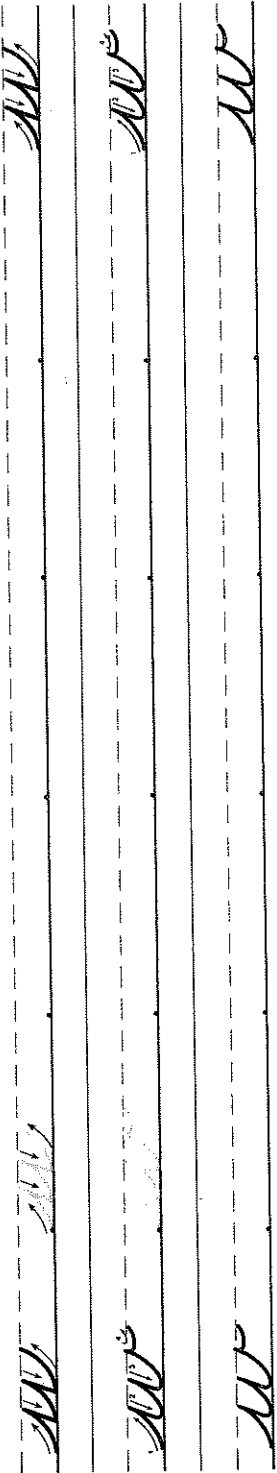


Lowercase w



1. Undercurve
2. Slant, undercurve
3. Slant, undercurve
4. Retrace, swing right

Trace and write the strokes and letter.

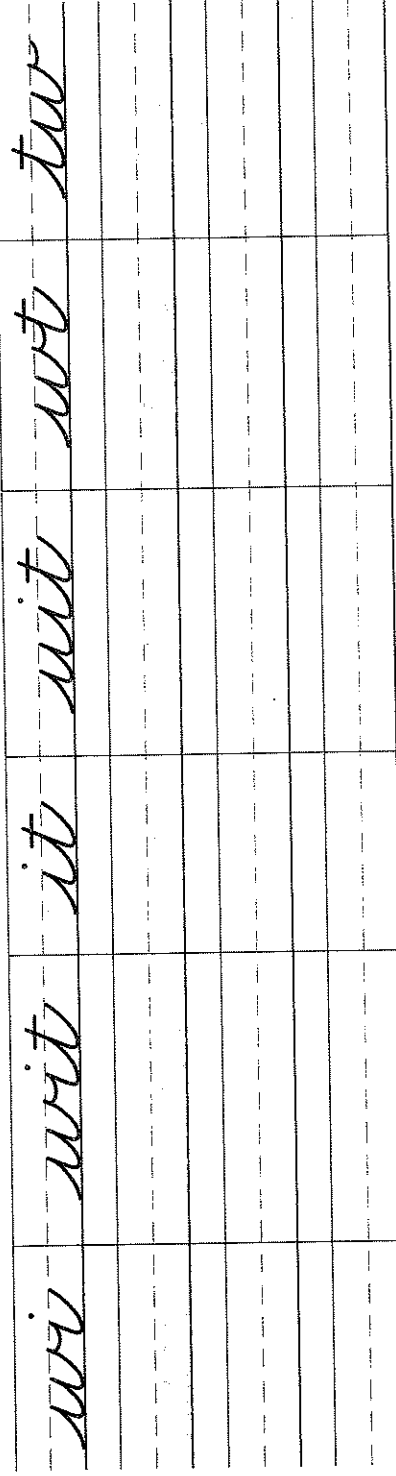


Checkstroke to Undercurve



1. The ending stroke of the **w** swings wide into the top of the letter **i**.
2. Pause, then slant.

Trace and write the joinings and words.



Size and Alignment

Be sure all of your letters are the correct size. Writing lines help you keep your writing the correct size. Are your letters the correct size?

CORRECT

little

INCORRECT

littl

Check your writing for size and alignment.

my f d b