

VERBALIZATIONS FOR CURSIVE LETTERS

You will use verbal instructions—verbalizations—in the introductory lesson for each new letter. Use the verbalizations: while you demonstrate on the board how to write the letter, and while your students trace the large model of the letter in their handwriting books. By the subsequent page, on which the children trace small models of the letter, you can stop giving verbal instructions for that letter.

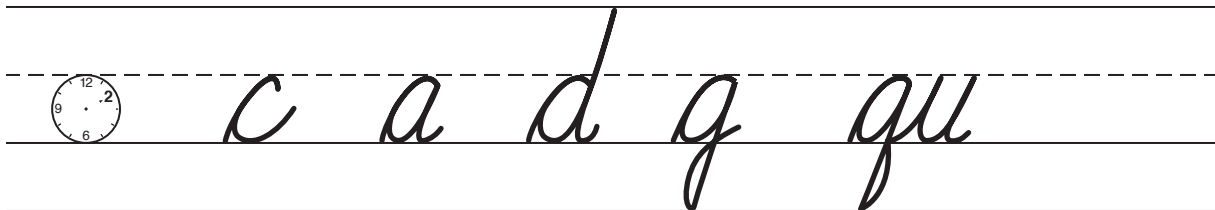
In future lessons, you may need to repeat some verbalizations—or parts of some verbalizations—to help students who are having difficulty forming letters. For example, to help a child who is having trouble writing the letter *d* in the correct direction, remind him or her, *d* is a two o'clock letter.

What follows are some suggested verbalizations for the lower case letters. You do not need to memorize these verbalizations, but you may find them useful as a reference. When it comes time to teach the capital letters, use your own verbalizations. Just remember to always emphasize the starting line and directional changes for each letter.

Note: Children *do not* need to repeat the verbalizations aloud—just the name of each letter as they write.

Two O'Clock Letters

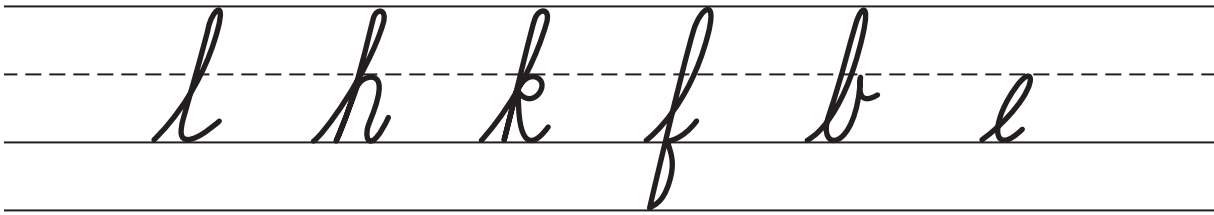
Teach children that when they hear *two o'clock*, they should swing up and over to two o'clock, stop, and go back toward the green line.



- c* = two o'clock and sit it on the writing line
- a* = two o'clock, close the circle and down
- d* = two o'clock, close the circle, all the way up and down
- g* = two o'clock, close the circle, pull straight down, to the green and cross at the writing line
- qu* = two o'clock, close the circle, pull straight down, away from the green to the and curve up (Make sure the children can write a *u* before teaching *qu*.)

Tall Letters

Teach the children to make a curved line up to the hat line and pull straight down when they hear *tall letter*.



- l* = tall letter
- h* = tall letter, up to the belt line and around
- k* = tall letter, up to the belt line, in and out
- f* = tall letter, pull straight down, away and curve up
- b* = tall letter, curve up and bridge
- e* = (a small *l*) curve up to the last line and pull down

Rocket Letters

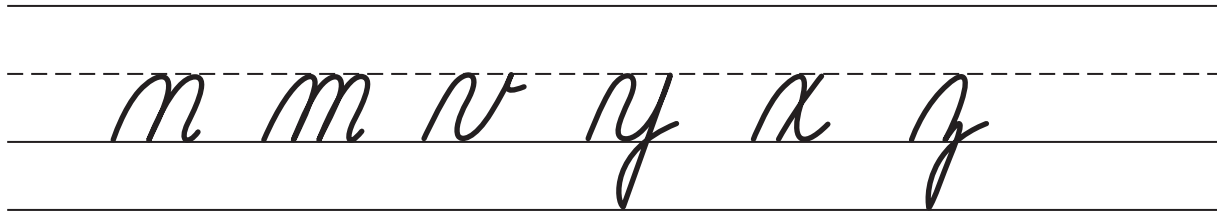
Teach children to swing to the belt line and to come down on the same line when they hear *rocket letter*.



- i* = rocket, dot
- u* = rocket 1, 2
- t* = rocket almost to the hat line and cross
- w* = rocket 1, 2, 3 and bridge
- j* = rocket, pull straight down, to the green and cross at the writing line, dot
- p* = rocket, pull straight down, to the green, curve up and around
- r* = rocket, down and over, curve down (Only hit the belt line once.)
- s* = rocket, a big fat belly, go in and out

Hill Letters

Teach children to swing up to the belt line and make a hill when they hear *hill letter*.



m = hill 1, 2 (counting the number of times the pencil hits the writing line)

n = hill 1, 2, 3

r = hill, up and bridge

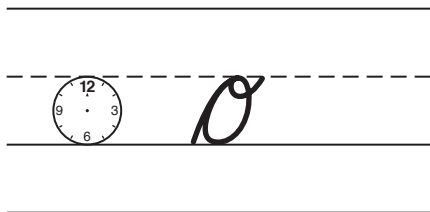
y = hill, up, pull straight down, to the green and cross at the writing line

x = hill, turn up, lift and slant to the green

z = hill, little hill, pull straight down, to the green and cross at the writing line

Twelve O'Clock Letter

Teach the children to swing up to twelve o'clock and turn to the green.



o = swing to 12 o'clock, to the green, close the circle and loop