Hi! I’m Zaney, and I’ll be your handwriting pal as you learn and practice throughout the year. Handwriting helps us learn and share our ideas with others. Let’s get started!

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Notice anything "odd?" Not all pages are listed in the Table of Contents! Flip through the sampler to see odd pages from units, too.
Getting Started

Models and Guidelines
There are writing models in your book. The models are on guidelines.

The red arrows and numerals show you how to write each letter.

Start at the green dot when you trace and write.

Stop and Check
When you see a sign, circle the best letter you wrote on that line.

Circle the best letter on this line.

Keys to Legibility
There are four kinds of keys in your book. These Keys to Legibility™ will remind you to check the Shape, Size, Spacing, and Slant of your writing.

The Keys to Legibility will help you make your writing legible. Legible means easy to read.
Manuscript Basic Strokes

**Vertical Lines** Some letters and numerals have lines that are straight up and down. Trace the straight up and down lines in each letter and numeral.

```
l b i p h T E L 5 4
```

Trace and write these letters and numerals that have vertical lines. Start at the green dot.

```
f d h j B D F H q l
```

**Horizontal Lines** Some letters and numerals have lines that slide right or slide left. Trace the slide lines in each letter and numeral.

```
f t e H J G Z 5 2
```

Trace and write these letters and numerals that have horizontal lines. Start at the green dot.

```
e f f z A G F 1 5
```

6 • Unit 1
Manuscript Basic Strokes

Circle Lines  Some letters and numerals have forward circle or backward circle lines. Trace the circle or part of the circle in each letter and numeral.

c  e  g  C  O  b  p  2  3

Trace and write these letters and numerals that have circle lines. Start at the green dot.

a  d  f  o  C  B  P  3  8

Diagonal Lines  Some letters and numerals have lines that slant left or slant right. Trace the diagonal lines in each letter and numeral.

x  z  k  v  W  Q  A  X  7

Trace and write these letters and numerals that have diagonal lines. Start at the green dot.

w  y  z  V  X  Q  Y  Z  K  7

Unit 1 • 7
**Manuscript Keys to Legibility**

**Sentence**  Read the sentence below. It includes every letter of the alphabet.

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

Write the sentence below.

---

Is your writing easy to read?

- **Shape**  Circle your best letter that has a vertical line. (I)
- **Size**  Circle your best tall letter.
- **Spacing**  Circle two words that have space for your finger between them.
- **Slant**  Circle a letter that is straight up and down.
Trace and write. ✔️ Circle your best c, C, e, and E.

c c c c c c c

e e e e e e e e

C C C C C C C

E E E E E E E

cheese cereal
eggs eat
Write the words and sentences.

cherries  bread  carrots

Eating food gives us energy.

Cook meals that taste good.

Write a sentence about your favorite meal.

Slant  Circle a word that has good vertical slant.
Trace and write. ✔ Circle your best f, F, g, and G.

f f f f f f f
F F F F F F

g g g g g g g
G G G G G G

fence farm
garden green
Write the words and sentences.

feed  ground  fancy  growing

Flowers grow in my garden.

Growing tomatoes is fun.

Write a sentence that tells what plants need to grow.
Cursive Writing

You are writing very well.
Your manuscript letters look good.
Each letter stands straight up and down.
The way manuscript letters should.

You are ready for cursive writing! As you begin, you will notice how
cursive writing is different from manuscript writing. Look at these words.

ready

The letters in the cursive word are joined together.
Cursive writing slants forward. Write some letters you know in cursive.

What else can you write in cursive? Write it here.

The pages in this book will help you learn to write cursive letters, words, and sentences.
Cursive Basic Strokes

Undercurve An undercurve is one of the basic strokes used to write cursive letters.

An undercurve stroke swings up.

Trace an undercurve stroke at the beginning of each lowercase letter.

\[
\begin{align*}
    b & e & f & h & i & j & k \\
    l & p & r & s & t & u & w
\end{align*}
\]

Trace an undercurve stroke at the beginning of each uppercase letter.

\[
\begin{align*}
    B & G & L & P & R & S
\end{align*}
\]

Trace and write. ✔ Circle your best undercurve strokes.

46 • Unit 2
Cursive Basic Strokes

Downcurve A downcurve is one of the basic strokes used to write cursive letters.

A downcurve stroke dives down.

Trace a downcurve stroke at the beginning of each lowercase letter.

a c d g o q

Trace a downcurve stroke in each uppercase letter.

A C D E O

Trace and write. ☑ Circle your best downcurve strokes.
**Cursive Basic Strokes**

**Overcurve**  An overcurve is one of the basic strokes used to write cursive letters.

An overcurve stroke bounces up.

Trace an overcurve stroke at the beginning of each lowercase letter.

```plaintext
m n v a y z
```

Trace an overcurve stroke at the beginning of each uppercase letter.

```plaintext
E J Q
```

Trace and write.  ✔ Circle your best overcurve strokes.

```plaintext

```

48 • Unit 2
Cursive Basic Strokes

**Diagonal**  A diagonal is one of the basic strokes used to write cursive letters.

A diagonal stroke slides down.

Trace a diagonal stroke in each lowercase letter.

```
  a  b  d  f  g  h  i
  j  k  l  m  t  u  y
```

Trace a diagonal stroke in each uppercase letter.

```
A  B  K  P  R  U  X  Y
```

Trace and write. ✅ Circle your best diagonal strokes.

```
/  /  /  /  /  /  /
/  /  /  /  /  /  /
```

```
/  /  /  /  /  /  /
/  /  /  /  /  /  /
```
Circle i and v in these words.

interesting insects

interesting insects

Trace and write. Notice the undercurve beginning. ✔ Circle your best v.

Join i and i. The ending stroke of the first letter begins the second letter. Finish the joining before dotting the i. ✔ Circle your best joining.
Circle ı and t in these words.

tractor tilling
tractor tilling

Trace and write. Notice the undercurve ending. ✅ Circle your best t.

Join ı and other letters Finish the joining or word before crossing the t. ✅ Circle your best joining and your best word.

Size Circle your best tall letter.
Circle $u$ and $\underline{u}$ in these words.

useful umbrella

useful umbrella

Trace and write. Notice the undercurve beginning. ✓ Circle your best $u$.

Join $u$ and other letters. ✓ Circle your best joining and your best word.

$u$, $\underline{u}$, $u\underline{i}$, $i\underline{u}$, $t\underline{u}$

$t\underline{u}$, $t\underline{u}$, $t\underline{u}$, $t\underline{u}$, $t\underline{u}$

58 • Unit 3
Circle w and \( \_w \) in these words.

winter wind blows
winter wind blows

Trace and write. Notice the checkstroke ending. ✔ Circle your best w.

w w w w w w w

Join w and other letters. ✔ Circle your best joining and your best word.

wi wt tw twi

wit wit wit wit

Spacing Circle a word you wrote that has good joinings.

Unit 3 • 59
Cursive in the Real World

Why Do You Write? On the following pages, you will write about many interesting things. You will write for many reasons. Thinking about Shape, Size, Spacing, and Slant will help you make your writing easy to read. Read to find out why these students are writing.

I write to make a list.

I write to tell a story.

I write to tell what I’m thinking.

I write about interesting things I do.
Write a sentence about something you have written.

I write facts I have learned. I write about how to do things. I write to organize my ideas. I write to describe what I see.

Unit 4 • 147
Informative/Explanatory

My Classroom  Write facts about your classroom. You might include what your classroom looks like, how many students are in your class, or what you learn in your classroom. Remember to indent the first line of each paragraph you write and leave space for margins.
**Sentence** Read the sentence below. It includes every letter of the alphabet.

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

Write the sentence in your best manuscript handwriting. Then write the sentence again in your best cursive handwriting.
Learn More!
zaner-bloser.com/handwriting2025