

ITALIC LETTERS: Calligraphy and Handwriting

ITALIC CALLIGRAPHY AND HANDWRITING

Italic is a modern writing system derived from 16th-century letterforms that began in Italy and later were used in Europe and England. They are simple, yet elegant letters that may be written as an art form in formal italic calligraphy or as a rapid, legible everyday handwriting.

BASIC ITALIC HANDWRITING
MONOLINE TOOL AND EDGED PEN
Basic Italic Lower-case Letters and
Capital Letters (Chapters II and III)

*The qualities of letterforms
at their best are order,
simplicity and grace.*

D. W. DWIGGINS

FORMAL ITALIC CALLIGRAPHY
EDGED PEN
Formal Italic Lower-case Letters and
Capital Letters (Chapters V and VI)

*CALLIGRAPHY
is distinguished
by harmony of style.*

A. E. LOWE

CURSIVE ITALIC HANDWRITING
MONOLINE TOOL
Cursive Italic Handwriting (Chapter VIII)

*True ease in writing
comes from art not chance,
and those who move easiest
who have learned to dance.*

ALEXANDER POPE

CURSIVE ITALIC HANDWRITING
EDGED PEN
Cursive Italic Handwriting (Chapter VIII)

*Letters are symbols
which turn matter
into spirit.*

ALPHONSE DE LAMARTINE

“Calligraphy,” from the Greek *KALLI* (beautiful) and *GRAPHIA* (writing), generally refers to letters handwritten with a monoline or edged tool. “Lettering” usually refers to letters drawn with many strokes and often filled in.

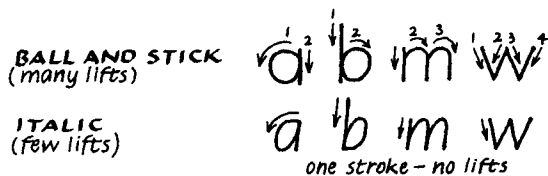
Italic calligraphy is presented in this book in a do-it-yourself format. Basic, formal & cursive italic are introduced first with the monoline tool and then with the edged pen. The monoline tool will provide a single-width line throughout the letter; the edged pen will lend a handsome, chiseled appearance to your writing.

*This is written
with a monoline tool.*

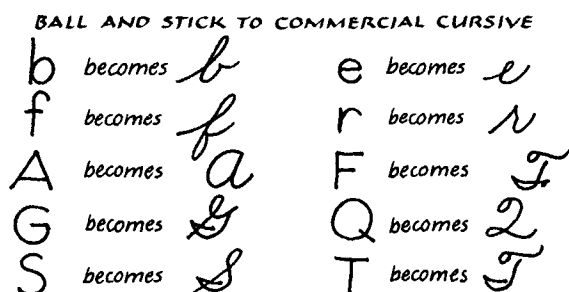
*This is written
with an edged pen.*

This book will help you attain a flowing calligraphic hand. You will need to purchase a few simple supplies, but your most expensive investment will be your time — spend it wisely and you’ll bring yourself and others pleasure through your writing.

Handwriting is one of the tools of learning. In American schools the general practice in the primary grades has been to introduce a drawn manuscript alphabet usually referred to as ball and stick. These letterforms require exceptional motor coordination in order for the student to form circles and straight lines. Rhythmic movement, the essential nature of handwriting, is ignored.



Then about the time the student is beginning to master these forms, usually in the third grade, commercial (looped) cursive is introduced. Often children become confused and frustrated when confronted with learning the commercial cursive capitals and lower-case letters that change form & have added loops.



Most people educated in the United States experienced this drastic change in handwriting forms. As a result, many adults are dissatisfied with their everyday hand. Many adults print in all capitals, write a mixture of a print script and looped cursive, or script that resembles italic (elliptical in nature with no loops).

SOME PEOPLE PRINT IN ALL CAPS.

Some others mix cursive and printing.

And yet others write in a form that resembles italic.

Since people often experience difficulty in reading the handwriting of others—and sometimes their own—in the United States the writer generally is requested to “please print.”

This book offers you an alternative — italic handwriting.

BASIC ITALIC TO CURSIVE ITALIC

(letter shapes remain the same)

italic	to	italic
handwriting		handwriting
basic italic		cursive italic
(unjoined)		(joined)