

Handwriting Recovery Programme



This resource is designed for pupils in upper Key Stage 2 and above, who require extra support with their handwriting.

Class username:

Class password:

Children's username:

Children's password:

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Letter-join Handwriting Recovery Programme

This resource is designed for pupils in upper Key Stage 2 and above who require extra support with their handwriting. Letter-join's aim is to deliver a handwriting intervention to pupils who are not forming and/or joining letters correctly. It is intended as a revision of prior knowledge and is not aimed at younger pupils. Some children may struggle with their handwriting due to a change of schools or teachers in their early years, or a lack of direct teaching due to absence from school. Other children may simply find handwriting difficult.

Poor handwriting habits in older children, resulting in untidy, illegible handwriting and incorrect letter formation, requires a targeted approach

Common issues are:

- Incorrect letter formation
- Letters are not sitting on the baseline
- Ascenders are different heights
- Incorrect spacing between the words

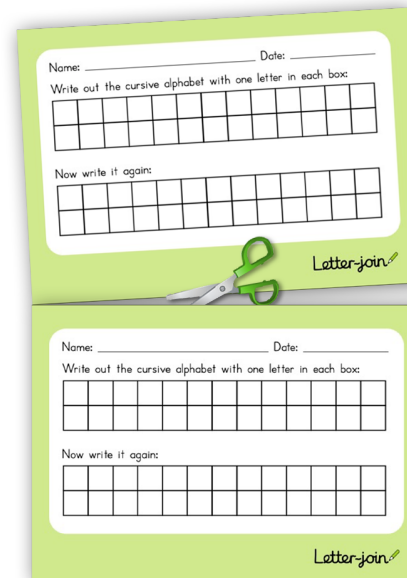
Daily 10-15 minute practice sessions are recommended to focus on what needs improving and practice using the lesson plans as required.

The National Curriculum states that children should be able to adapt their handwriting for a range of tasks and purposes and to create different effects. They should be clear about what standard of handwriting is appropriate for a particular task, for example, quick notes, a final handwritten version, an un-joined style or capital letters.

This resource has been produced in line with these requirements and enables children to practise accurate copying to build speed, stamina and automaticity in their handwriting.

What's included

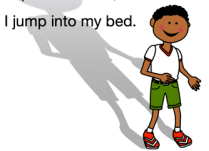
- Teacher assessment sheets to evaluate each child's current handwriting capability.
- 23 lesson plans which can be followed in sequence or used in any order to focus on a particular handwriting issue that requires attention.
- Links to worksheets and online activities.
- Suggestions for further practice.
- Supplementary printouts.



Teacher assessment sheets.

KS2 Dictation Exercise 1 Extract from My Shadow by Robert Louis Stevenson

I have a little shadow that goes in and out with me,
And what can be the use of him is more than I can see.
He is very, very like me from the heels up to the head;
And I see him jump before me, when I jump into my bed.



Tripod Pencil Grip

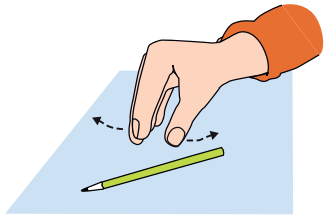
It is important that children sitting comfortably and hold a pencil correctly for handwriting from the start and some children may need repeated intervention to achieve this.

Letter-join's guide for sitting properly handwriting is featured on the next page. This will help children be more comfortable enabling them to write for sustained periods.

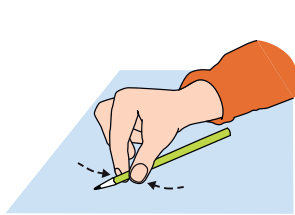
Tripod Pencil Grip

How to hold a pencil correctly for handwriting

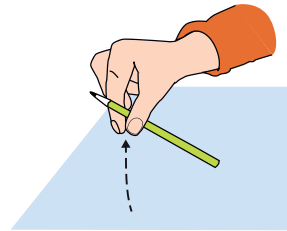
Right handed grip



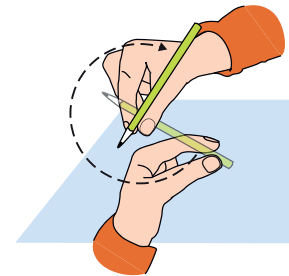
1. Point away the pencil,



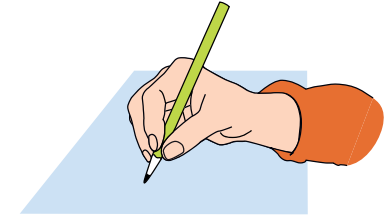
2. Pinch it near the tip,



3. Lift it off the table,

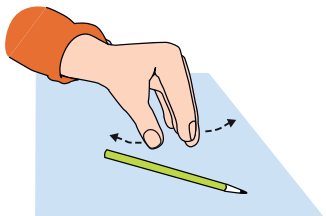


4. Spin it round...

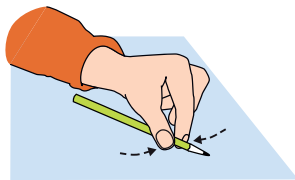


5. ...and grip.

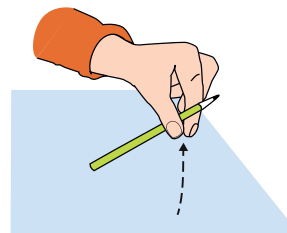
Left handed grip



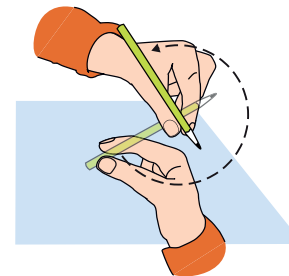
1. Point away the pencil,



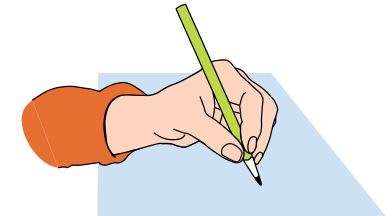
2. Pinch it near the tip,



3. Lift it off the table,



4. Spin it round...

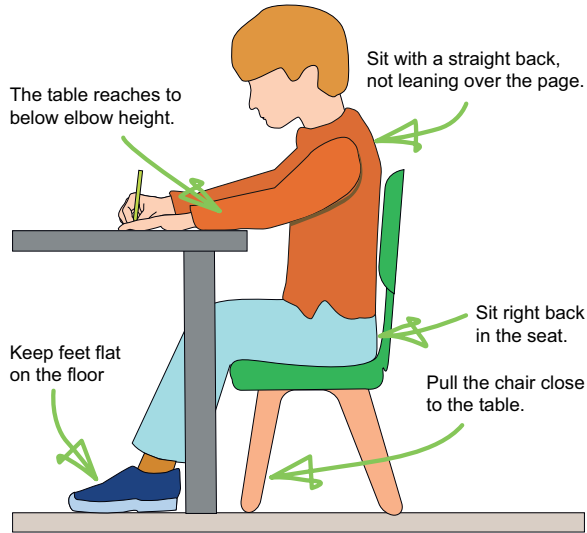


5. ...and grip.

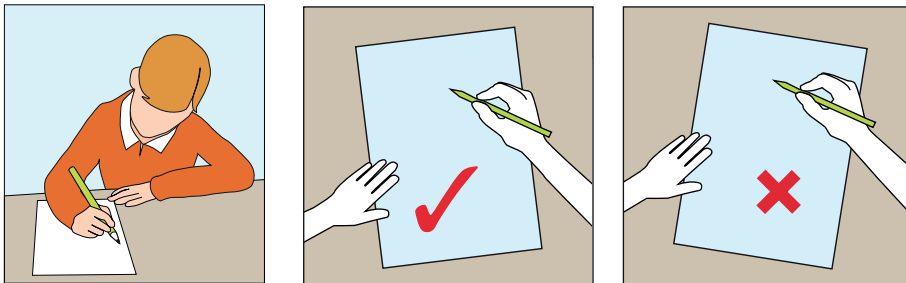
Comfortable Sitting Position and Correct Paper Position

Right handed children

How to sit correctly to be comfortable for handwriting.

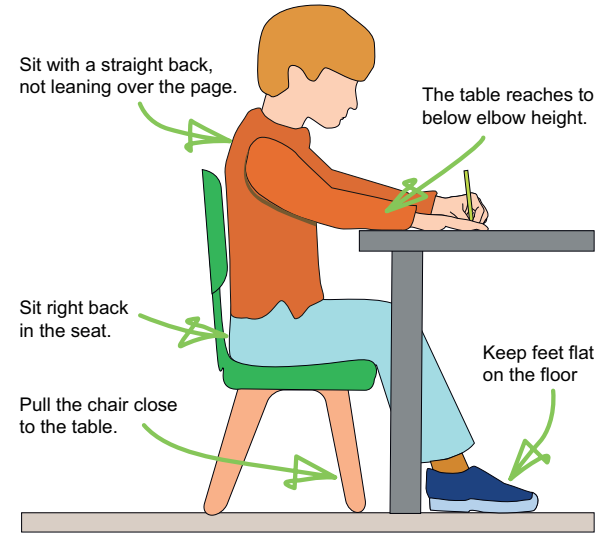


How to hold and position the paper.

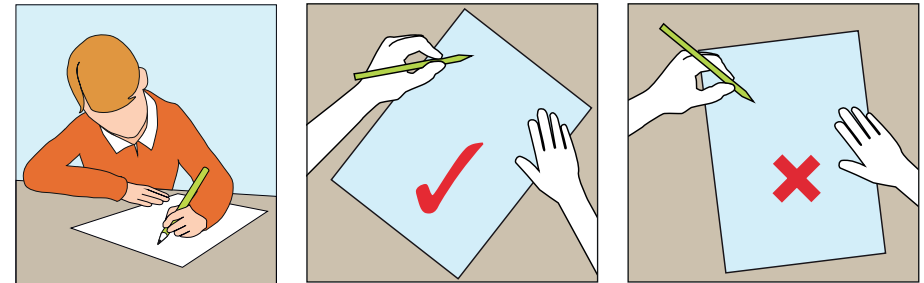


Left handed children

How to sit correctly to be comfortable for handwriting.



How to hold and position the paper.



Teacher Assessment

Learning outcomes:

- To assess each pupil's current level of handwriting.
- To provide a baseline for progression.

LESSON	Activities	Teaching	Resources	Success Criteria	✓
1	Cursive letters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask children to write out the cursive letters of the alphabet twice. • Circle any incorrectly formed letters. 	Teacher explanation. Individual work.	Letter-join's Alphabet Template. Handwriting pen or pencil.	Can the children form each letter of the alphabet correctly?	
2	Letter joins: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain to the children that you will read a short poem and they need to write down what they hear. • Read the first verse of the poem, 'My Shadow' to the children. • Explain when to use punctuation or start a new line. • Circle any words containing incorrect letter joins. 	Teacher explanation. Individual work.	Copy of the text for the poem 'My Shadow'. Letter-join's lined or highlighted paper or handwriting books. Handwriting pen or pencil.	Can the children demonstrate correct letter joins within a short passage?	

Warm ups, letter formation, baseline, ascenders

Learning outcomes:

- To perform FMS warm ups to relax fingers and hands ready for handwriting.
- To be able to form all cursive letters of the alphabet correctly.
- To write cursive letters and words that sit on the baseline.
- To understand the correct height of ascenders.

LESSON	Activities	Teaching	Resources	Success Criteria	✓
3	Warm Up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain that that before starting a handwriting activity, children should warm up their fingers and hand muscles. • Revisit Letter-join's Fine Motor Skills Warm Up Exercises. • Practise the activities on the list. 	Teacher explanation. Group/individual work.	Fine Motor Skills Warm Up Exercises.	Can the children perform FMS warm ups to relax their fingers and hands ready to write?	
4	Correct letter formation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revisit Letter-join's animations of relevant letters. • Invite children to trace the letters on tablets if necessary. • Reinforce correct sitting position and pencil grip. • Provide children with an A4 cursive alphabet for reference. • Children to practise writing cursive letters on Letter-join's lined/ highlighted paper. 	Group/individual teaching. Individual work.	Letter-join's A4 cursive alphabet. Letter-join's lined/highlighted paper or handwriting books. Handwriting pen or pencil.	Can children form all cursive letters of the alphabet correctly?	
5	Letters on the baseline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revisit Letter-join's animations for Easy/Harder Words. • Invite children to trace the letters on tablets if necessary. • Reinforce correct sitting position and pencil grip. • Children to practise writing words on Letter-join's trace and copy worksheets, making sure that the bottom of each word touches the baseline. 	Group/individual teaching. Individual work.	Letter-join's Easy/Harder worksheets. Handwriting pen or pencil.	Can children write cursive letters and words that sit on the baseline?	
6	Height of ascenders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revisit Letter-join's animations of b, d, h, k, l, t • Ask children to focus on the height of tall letters. • Invite children to trace the letters on tablets. • Reinforce correct sitting position and pencil grip. • Complete Letter-join's 'Ascenders' worksheet. 	Group/individual teaching. Individual work.	Letter-join's Ascenders worksheet. Handwriting pen or pencil.	Do the children understand the correct height of ascenders in their handwriting?	

Warm up with letter families

Learning outcomes:

- To correctly form the letters from each letter family.

LESSON	Activities	Teaching	Resources	Success Criteria	✓
7	Ladders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revisit Letter-join's animations for l, i, t, u, j, and y. • Invite children to trace the letters on tablets if necessary. • Reinforce correct sitting position and pencil grip. • Complete Letter-join's Warm Up worksheet 1. 	Group/individual teaching. Individual work.	Letter-join's Warm Up 1 worksheet. Handwriting pen or pencil.	Can the children write Ladder letters correctly?	
8	Caterpillars <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revisit Letter-join's animations for a, d, c, d, o, f, e, s, g and q. • Invite children to trace the letters on tablets if necessary. • Reinforce correct sitting position and pencil grip. • Complete Letter-join's Warm Up worksheet 2. 	Group/individual teaching. Individual work.	Letter-join's Warm Up 2 worksheet. Handwriting pen or pencil.	Can the children write Caterpillar letters correctly?	
9	Robots <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revisit Letter-join's animations for b, h, k, m, n, p and r. • Invite children to trace the letters on tablets if necessary. • Reinforce correct sitting position and pencil grip. • Complete Letter-join's Warm Up worksheet 3. 	Group/individual teaching. Individual work.	Letter-join's Warm Up 3 worksheet. Handwriting pen or pencil.	Can the children write Robot letters correctly?	
10	Zig-zags <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revisit Letter-join's animations for v, w, x and z. • Invite children to trace the letters on tablets if necessary. • Reinforce correct sitting position and pencil grip. • Complete Letter-join's Warm Up worksheet 4. 	Group/individual teaching. Individual work.	Letter-join's Warm Up 4 worksheet. Handwriting pen or pencil.	Can the children write Zig Zag letters correctly?	

Word spacing and joining techniques

Learning outcomes:

- To use appropriate spacing between words..
- To correctly write the letters that join diagonally.
- To correctly write the letters that join horizontally.

LESSON	Activities	Teaching	Resources	Success Criteria	✓
11	<p>Word spacing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain that words need to be evenly spaced to reflect the size of the letters (the size of a lowercase 'o'). • Reinforce correct sitting position and pencil grip. • Complete Letter-join's Space between Words worksheet. • For further practice, use Letter-join handwriting paper to write sentences with correctly spaced words. 	<p>Group/individual teaching. Individual work.</p>	<p>Letter-join's Space between Words worksheet. Letter-join's lined/ highlighted paper or handwriting books. Handwriting pen or pencil.</p>	<p>Can the children use appropriate spacing between words in their handwriting?</p>	
12	<p>Diagonal joins:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revisit the letters of the alphabet which join diagonally. • If necessary, check the correct orientation of these letters using Letter-join's animations. • Invite children to trace the letters on tablets. • Reinforce correct sitting position and pencil grip. • Complete Letter-join's Diagonal Joins worksheet. 	<p>Group/individual teaching. Individual work.</p>	<p>Diagonal Joins worksheet. Handwriting pen or pencil.</p>	<p>Can the children correctly write the letters that join diagonally?</p>	
13	<p>Horizontal joins:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revisit the letters of the alphabet which join horizontally. • If necessary, check the correct orientation of these letters using Letter-join's animations. • Invite children to trace the letters on tablets. • Reinforce correct sitting position and pencil grip. • Complete Letter-join's Horizontal Joins worksheet. 	<p>Group/individual teaching. Individual work.</p>	<p>Horizontal Joins worksheet. Handwriting pen or pencil.</p>	<p>Can the children correctly write the letters that join horizontally?</p>	

Joining letters to and from f, k, b and d

Learning outcomes:

- To correctly join letters to and from f, k, b and d.

LESSON	Activities	Teaching	Resources	Success Criteria	✓
14	Extra letter joining practice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Letter-join's Word Animator (or Magic Words) to model joins to and from the letter 'f'. • Invite children to trace the joins on tablets. • Reinforce correct sitting position and pencil grip. • Complete Letter-join's Letter 'f' Practice worksheet. 	Group/individual teaching. Individual work.	Letter-join's Letter 'f' Practice worksheet. Handwriting pen or pencil.	Can the children correctly join letters to and from 'f'?	
15	Extra letter joining practice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Letter-join's Word Animator (or Magic Words) to model joins to and from the letter 'k'. • Invite children to trace the joins on tablets. • Reinforce correct sitting position and pencil grip. • Complete Letter-join's Letter 'k' Practice worksheet. 	Group/individual teaching. Individual work.	Letter-join's Letter 'k' Practice worksheet. Handwriting pen or pencil.	Can the children correctly join letters to and from 'k'?	
16	Extra letter joining practice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Letter-join's Word Animator (or Magic Words) to model joins to and from the letter 'b and d'. • Invite children to trace the joins on tablets. • Reinforce correct sitting position and pencil grip. • Complete Letter-join's Letter 'b and d' Practice worksheet. 	Group/individual teaching. Individual work.	Letter-join's Letter 'b' and 'd' Practice worksheet. Handwriting pen or pencil.	Can the children correctly join letters to and from 'b' and 'd'?	

Joining letters to and from s, w and z

Learning outcomes:

- To correctly join letters to and from s, w and z.

LESSON	Activities	Teaching	Resources	Success Criteria	✓
17	Extra letter joining practice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Letter-join's Word Animator (or Magic Words) to model joins to and from the letter 's'. • Invite children to trace the joins on tablets. • Reinforce correct sitting position and pencil grip. • Complete Letter-join's Letter 's' Practice worksheet. 	Group/individual teaching. Individual work.	Letter-join's Letter 's' Practice worksheet. Handwriting pen or pencil.	Can the children correctly join letters to and from 's'?	
18	Extra letter joining practice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Letter-join's Word Animator (or Magic Words) to model joins to and from the letter 'w'. • Invite children to trace the joins on tablets. • Reinforce correct sitting position and pencil grip. • Complete Letter-join's Letter 'w' Practice worksheet. 	Group/individual teaching. Individual work.	Letter-join's Letter 'w' Practice worksheet. Handwriting pen or pencil.	Can the children correctly join letters to and from 'w'?	
19	Extra letter joining practice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Letter-join's Word Animator (or Magic Words) to model joins to and from the letter 'z'. • Invite children to trace the joins on tablets. • Reinforce correct sitting position and pencil grip. • Complete Letter-join's Letter 'z' Practice worksheet. 	Group/individual teaching. Individual work.	Letter-join's Letter 'z' and 'd' Practice worksheet. Handwriting pen or pencil.	Can the children correctly join letters to and from 'z'?	

Printed letters and capital letters

Learning outcomes:

- To use printed letters to label a diagram.
- To use capital letters to fill in a form.

LESSON	Activities	Teaching	Resources	Success Criteria	✓
20	Printed letters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain that printed letters should be used to label a diagram. • Revisit Letter-join's animations for printed letters if necessary. • Reinforce correct sitting position and pencil grip. • Provide children with an A4 printed alphabet for reference. • Complete Letter-join's labelling worksheets European Countries and Parts of a Flower using printed letters. 	Group/individual teaching. Individual work.	Letter-join's A4 printed alphabet. Letter-join's European Countries and Parts of a Flower worksheets. Handwriting pen or pencil.	Can the children use printed letters to label a diagram?	
21	Capital letters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain that capital letters should be used to fill in forms. • Revisit Letter-join's animations for capital letters if necessary. • Reinforce correct sitting position and pencil grip. • Provide children with an A4 capitals alphabet for reference. • Complete Letter-join's worksheets Filling in a Form 2 and 3. 	Group/individual teaching. Individual work.	Letter-join's A4 capitals alphabet. Letter-join's Filling in a Form worksheets 2 and 3. Handwriting pen or pencil.	Can the children use capital letters to fill in a form?	

Labelling and copying

Learning outcomes:

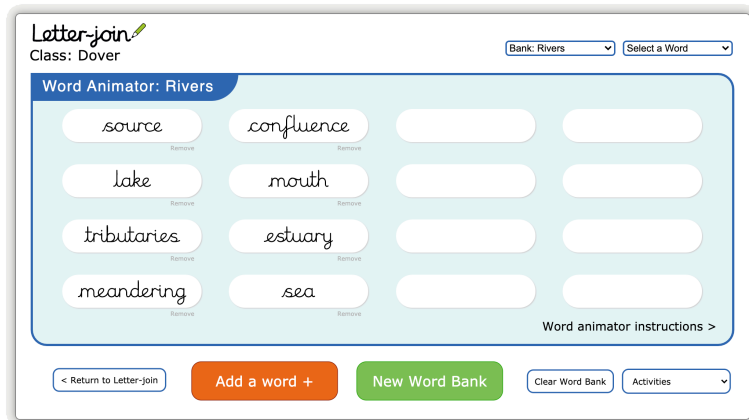
- To accurately copy a small, near point passage.
- To accurately copy a small passage from the IWB.
- To choose an appropriate style of handwriting for different tasks.

LESSON	Activities	Teaching	Resources	Success Criteria	✓
22	<p>Near point copying</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain to the children that it is important to practise accurate copying to build speed and stamina in handwriting. • Use Letter-join’s Dinosaur Names worksheet for near point copying. • Discuss with the children what style of handwriting should be chosen for each part of the worksheet. • Complete Letter-join’s Dinosaur Names worksheet. 	<p>Group/individual teaching.</p> <p>Individual work.</p>	<p>Letter-join’s Dinosaur Names worksheet.</p> <p>Handwriting pen or pencil.</p>	<p>Can the children accurately copy a small, near point passage?</p> <p>Can they choose an appropriate style of handwriting for different tasks?</p>	
23	<p>Far point copying</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain to the children that it is important to practise accurate copying to build speed and stamina in handwriting. • Display Letter-join’s Rivers page on the IWB for far point copying. • Discuss with the children what style of handwriting should be chosen for each part of the worksheet. • Complete Letter-join’s Rivers worksheet. 	<p>Group/individual teaching.</p> <p>Individual work.</p>	<p>Letter-join’s Rivers worksheet.</p> <p>Handwriting pen or pencil.</p>	<p>Can the children accurately copy a small passage from the IWB?</p> <p>Can they choose an appropriate style of handwriting for different tasks?</p>	

Activities for further practice

Word Animator

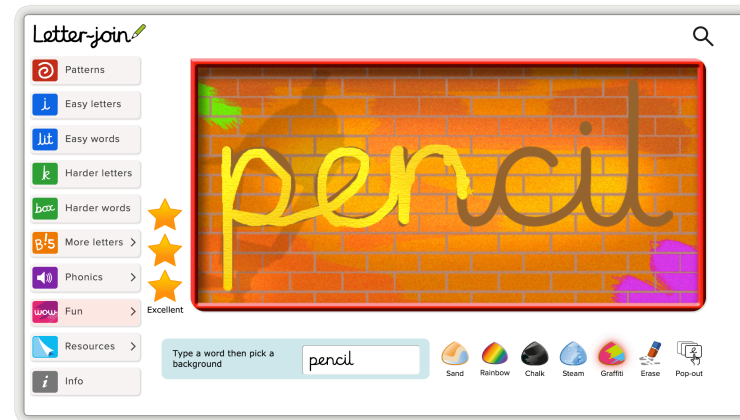
- Create word banks of useful vocabulary for various topics.
- Watch the animations and trace the words.
- Complete a copy and trace spelling list.
- Complete a word search.



The screenshot shows the 'Word Animator: Rivers' interface. At the top, it says 'Letter-join' and 'Class: Dover'. Below that, there are dropdown menus for 'Bank: Rivers' and 'Select a Word'. The main area displays a grid of words in a cursive font, each with a 'Remove' button underneath. The words are: source, confluence, lake, mouth, tributaries, estuary, meandering, and sea. At the bottom, there are buttons for '< Return to Letter-join', 'Add a word +', 'New Word Bank', 'Clear Word Bank', and 'Activities'.

Magic Words

- Type in weekly spelling words.
- Trace the words.
- Copy the words neatly on to Letter-join handwriting paper.




The screenshot shows the 'Magic Words' interface. On the left, there is a vertical menu with categories: Patterns, Easy letters, Easy words, Harder letters, Harder words, More letters, Phonics, Fun, Resources, and Info. The 'Fun' category is selected, showing a 'pencil' icon and a 'pencil' text box. The main area displays the word 'pencil' in a large, colorful, cursive font on a brick wall background. Below the word, there are icons for 'Sand', 'Rainbow', 'Chalk', 'Steam', 'Grafts', 'Erase', and 'Pop-out'.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Write out the cursive alphabet with one letter in each box:


Now write it again:

Letter-join 

Name: _____ Date: _____

Write out the cursive alphabet with one letter in each box:

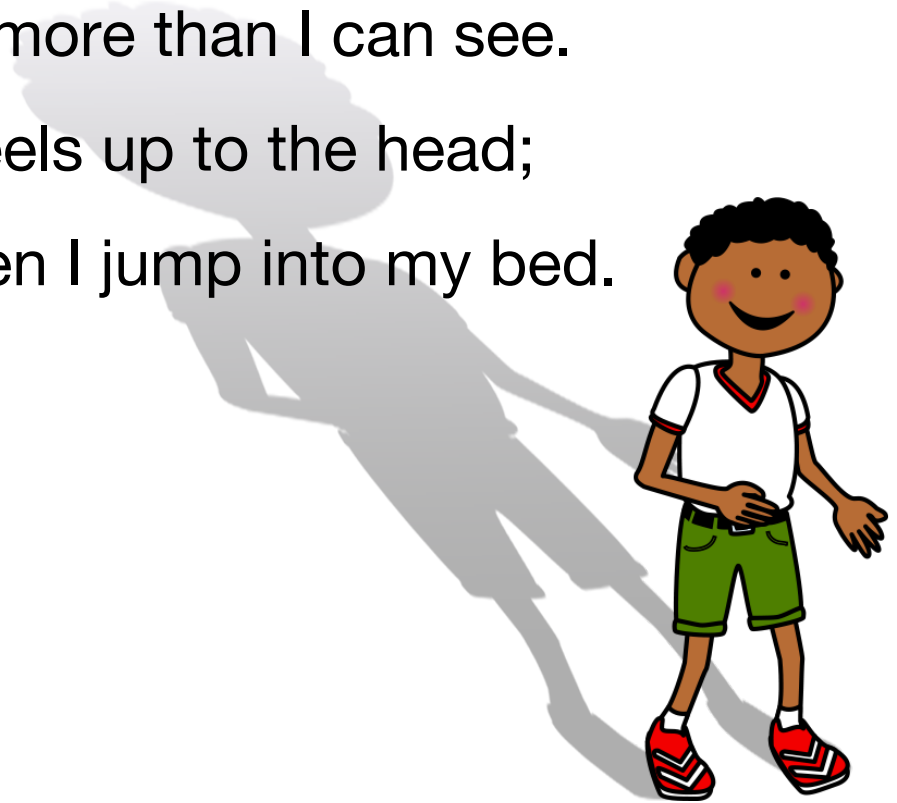
Now write it again:

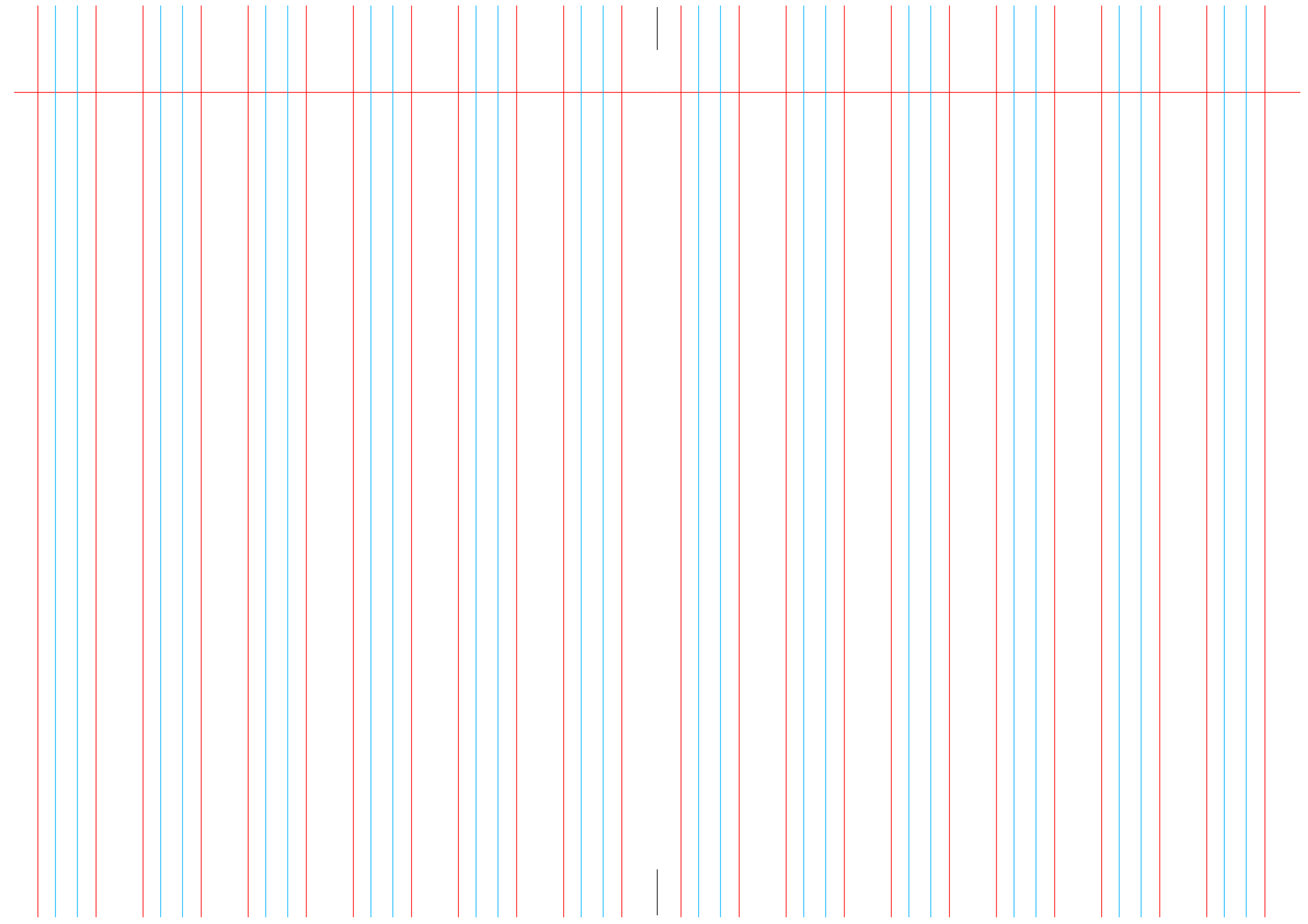
Letter-join 

KS2 Dictation Exercise 1

Extract from My Shadow by Robert Louis Stevenson

I have a little shadow that goes in and out with me,
And what can be the use of him is more than I can see.
He is very, very like me from the heels up to the head;
And I see him jump before me, when I jump into my bed.





A handwriting practice sheet featuring 15 vertical yellow columns. A horizontal red line is drawn across the top of the page, intersecting all columns. The columns are intended for practicing letter formation, likely for the word 'letter-join'.

Handwriting practice grid consisting of 20 vertical yellow columns and a horizontal red line across the top.

Handwriting practice sheet with 20 vertical columns. Each column contains a yellow shaded area at the top and a white area below. A horizontal red line is drawn across the page, separating the yellow and white sections.





