

# HANDWRITING TRACING SHEETS

produced using *handwriting for windows*  
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## Using the handwriting sheets:

Most schools in England now demand that children learn cursive writing almost from the very beginning. This can cause a lot of problems for children who find writing and spelling difficult. These handwriting practice sheets use a pre-cursive script which enable such children to learn basic letter formation without the complication of 'joining-up'. Once pupils become thoroughly at ease with this script, they can make the transition to fully-cursive writing with very little difficulty.

All of these practice sheets involve tracing. Children enjoy tracing, because they can't get it wrong. Using these sheets for five minutes each day should produce a marked improvement in writing. You may photocopy sheets as often as necessary so children get plenty of practice. When children can form letters without conscious effort, they have much more attention to give to correct spelling and the content of their writing.

Children should always write on lined paper until they have learned good letter formation.

Left-handers should have their paper turned about 45° clockwise, so they can see what they are writing and don't smudge their work.

These sheets will work exceptionally well when used in conjunction with our spelling programme, Apples and Pears.

### Letter formation—'dot and arrow' sheets.

Many children form letters the wrong way--and this can cause a lot of problems. For instance, when they write 'b' or 'd', they always start from the top. When they get to the bottom, they don't know which way to turn. Once children learn to start their d's with a 'c', the problem will usually go away.

With each of these letters, the pupil starts at the dot and follows the arrows. Photocopy these sheets and have your pupils practise their problem letters every day. Do not go on to the sentence-tracing sheets until correct patterns have been learnt.

c o a d g qu

h b p k r n m

l t i u y v w

e s f j z x

## Sentence-tracing sheets.

Children will like these exercises, but it's still a good idea to award stars when they manage to keep their writing within the grey lines (or at least close to it, in the case of very young or clumsy children). They should read each sentence before they trace it, and then say each word as they write it. Make sure they are forming letters correctly. Dotting *P*'s and crossing *T*'s should be done when each word is complete.

When pupils have mastered the pre-cursive script they can go on to the joined-up tracing sheets.

We seem to be stuck in the mud.

Did you meet him in the park?

This hill is not steep.

Did you see that truck crash?

Can you smell the fish?

If you are smart, you will keep still.

Is that brick as thick as a block?

We will lock up my black car.

Do you sell sweets in this shop?

Why is she back in the barn?

He has all of his teeth.

If you try hard, you will do well.

You can have part of my sweets.

Try to park the car in the barn.

You will need a sharp stick.

Why is his red sock in my bag?

How do you spell that?

A larch is a tall tree.

I will brush my teeth.

Have they seen the shark?

I gave my chips to her.

He was filling my car with gas.

I left my book at the farm.

He has been brushing his dog.

The sheep was born in my barn.

Will you try to sell her car?

She was parking the green car.

They are meeting at the fish shop.

Check and see if his ship is in port.

She was telling me how they did it.

If you are bad my mum will tell you off.

Was that truck speeding?

She was packing her bags.

Will you help me dig this trench?

He gave a short speech.

Has she got a duck in her bath?

You look good in those brown shorts.

What are they doing down on the farm?

Shove that book above the wall.

Those boys want to fly up north.

I will start to shave the small sheep.

They are all good at spelling.

Can that clown drive the black car down the track?

You must have a torch if you cannot see in the dark.

Why have the tall boys come back to the ranch?

The shy spy took a look at the clock.

How much will you give me for five of my  
socks?

You must beep the horn if she starts to speed.

Her dog will bark and howl if it sees his cat.

His car has the power to keep up with us.

We all love that brave man.

How did that brown cow creep up on us?

Why did all of my socks get wet?

The little cook stood on a block of wood.

Are those black cows trying to shove you?

All they want to do is dive into the waves.

What was the horse doing in the porch?

I like to play with my little sister.

Do you recall her smart remark?

I won ten quid on the quiz today.

What do you think we can have to drink?

The farmer wants to bring his cows in quickly.

We eat oats out of a bowl.

Those darts did not sink deeply into the wood.

What was the smaller clown thinking?

He went down bravely with his sinking ship.

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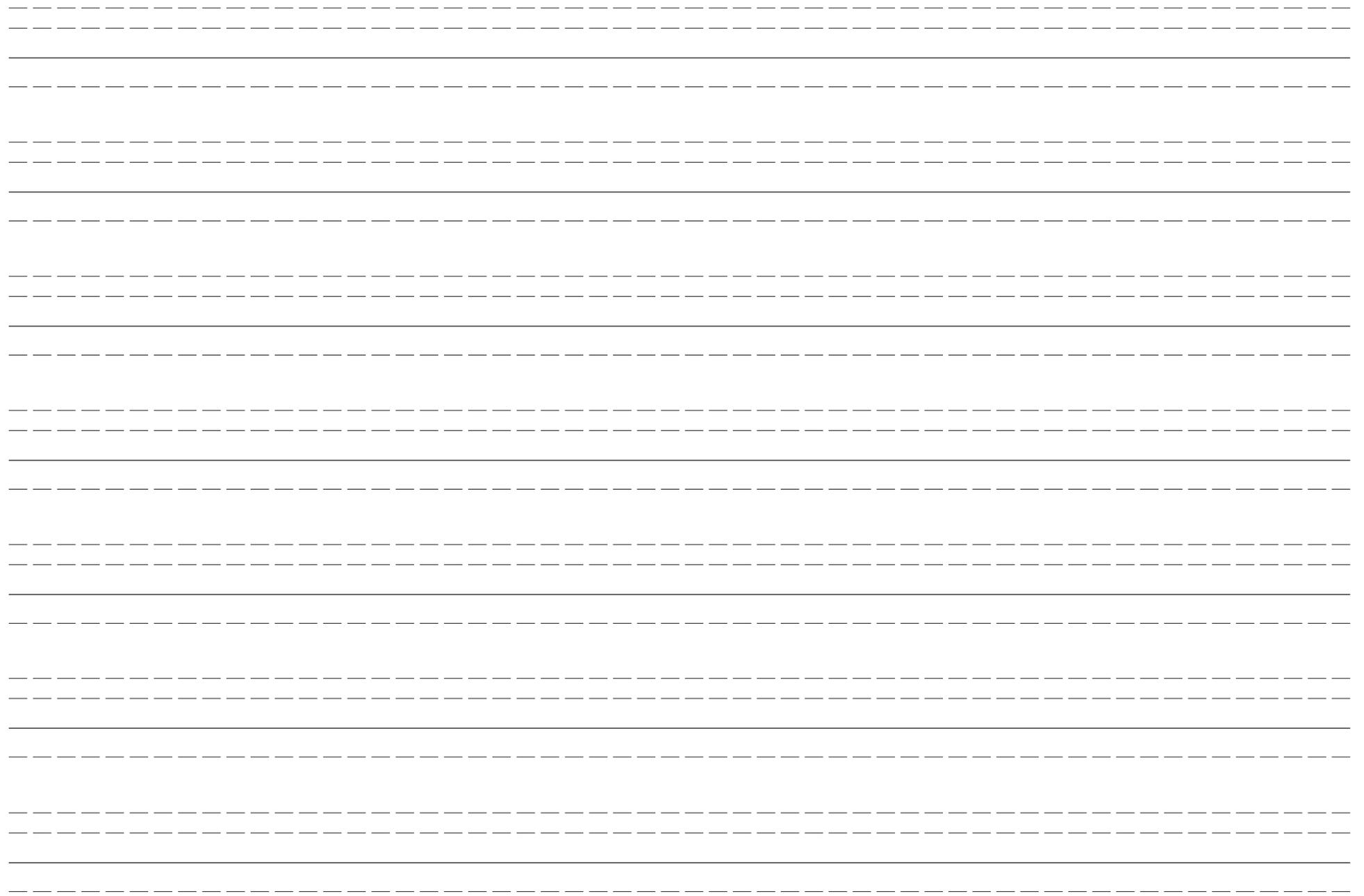
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Copy this sheet as often as necessary for more practice once letter formation has been mastered.

