

# Letters A & B



Trace over the cursive letters above to understand how each letter is formed. Then trace and write full lines of the letters below to build muscle memory.

Tracing practice for cursive letters A, a, B, and b. Each row consists of four sets of three horizontal lines (top, middle, bottom). The first letter in each set is a solid example. The second is a dashed line for tracing. The third and fourth are solid lines for independent writing.

Row 1: Uppercase A (solid, dashed, solid, solid)

Row 2: Uppercase B (solid, dashed, solid, solid)

Row 3: Lowercase a (solid, dashed, solid, solid)

Row 4: Lowercase b (solid, dashed, solid, solid)

## Pen Tip:

For a legible “a” it is important to make a good closure and return to the baseline. If you don’t return to the baseline, it can look like an “o.”

# Interesting Handwriting Facts

There are four different types of handedness that include: left-handedness, right-handedness, mixed-handedness, and ambidexterity.

Right-handedness is most common. Right-handed people are more dexterous with their right hands when performing tasks. A variety of studies suggest that 70-90% of the world population is right-handed.

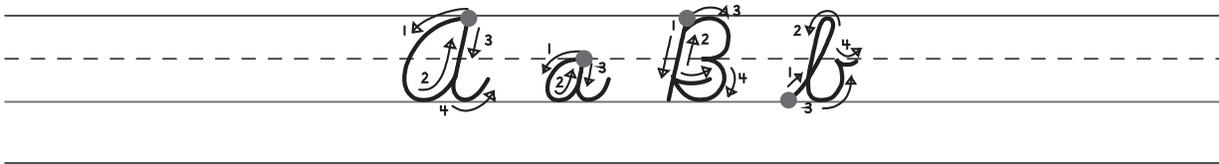
Left-handedness is less common than right-handedness. Left-handed people are more dexterous with their left hands when performing tasks. A variety of studies suggest that approximately 10% of the world population is left-handed.

Mixed-handedness is the change of hand preference between different tasks. This is common in the population with about a 30% prevalence.

Ambidexterity is exceptionally rare, although it can be learned. A truly ambidextrous person is able to do any task equally well with either hand. Those who learn it still tend to favor their originally dominant hand. Less than 1% of the world's population can be considered truly ambidextrous.

## LETTER PRACTICE – A B

Trace and write a line of each letter. Listen to some nice music and enjoy.



A A A

a a a

B B B

b b b

Trace, then write a line of each letter connecting three at a time to get the feel and rhythm of connecting letters. Relax and take your time.

aaa aaa aaa aaa

bbb bbb bbb bbb

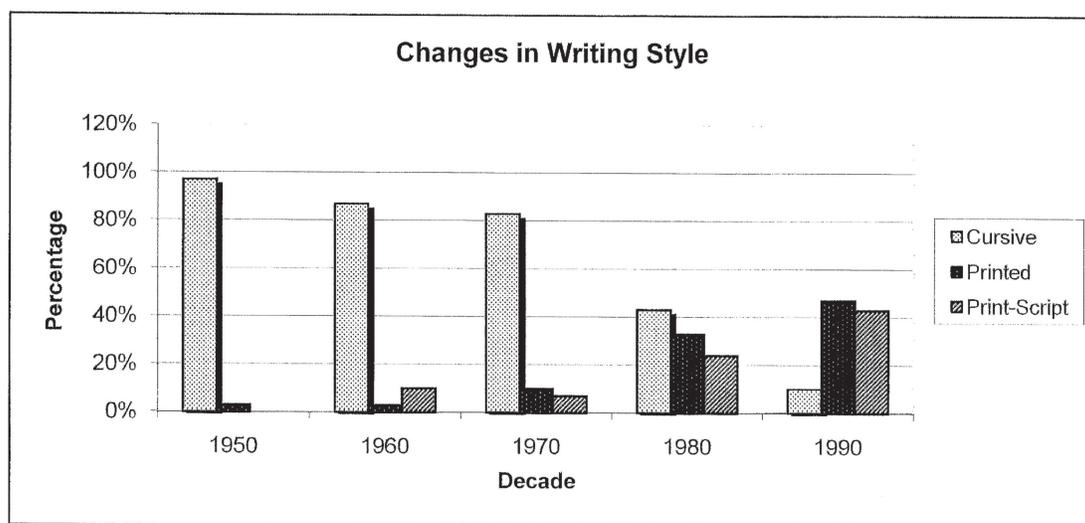
## Some Handwriting History

For centuries, handwriting has fascinated a wide range of people. From autograph hunters to manuscript collectors, people have long been enchanted by the art of penmanship. Part of the allure stems from the fact that handwriting has not always been a universal skill. Historically, only a privileged minority learned to read and write.

As a skill reserved for an elite few, penmanship developed a rich tradition of beauty and elegance. What is now considered to be nothing more than a basic necessity of communication was once regarded as an elaborate artistic expression. One need not dig very deep into American history to verify this. Even just a quick glance at our country's founding documents hints at a near reverence for an art that is often taken for granted today.

In recent times, the emphasis placed on elegant penmanship has waned. Part of this change is due to technology and the fact that, over the last century, fewer and fewer teachers have had adequate instruction for teaching handwriting. On top of that, though, general cultural shifts have driven a desire to learn this skill far from the mind of the average American student.

In Sallie Ferrell Bolich's book *What America Lost*, she vividly demonstrates this shift by detailing the change in style from cursive to printing in high school seniors' handwriting from the 1950s to the 1990s. She points to the relaxed standards of the 1980s as a particularly powerful change agent, saying that, by the end of that decade, a complete shift in mindset was evident. "By the nineties," she says, "many educators believed that future graduates would not need to master penmanship since cursive would become obsolete due to emerging computer usage." Through her analysis of the link between cultural change and trends in penmanship, Mrs. Bolich makes powerful arguments for the need to renew interest and training in cursive handwriting.



*What America Lost: Decades That Made a Difference (Tracking Attitude Changes Through Handwriting)* by Sallie Ferrell Bolich

# Extra Practice Page

Handwriting practice lines consisting of solid top and bottom lines with a dashed midline, repeated 15 times down the page.

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz