

Cursive  
Handwriting

HOME USERS' GUIDE  
FOR PARENTS AND PUPILS



Cursive Handwriting  
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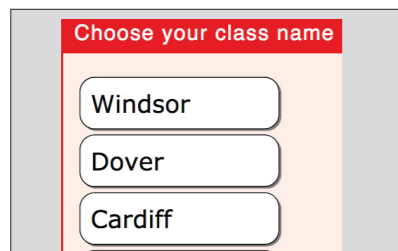
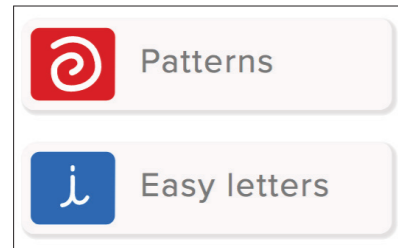
Welcome to Letter-join!

To help teach handwriting, your school uses the Letter-join handwriting programme. As part of your school's subscription parents and carers can access Letter-join for free to help children practise at home.

This guide shows how to use Letter-join's key resources for home learning.



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# Log-in and get started with Letter-join at home

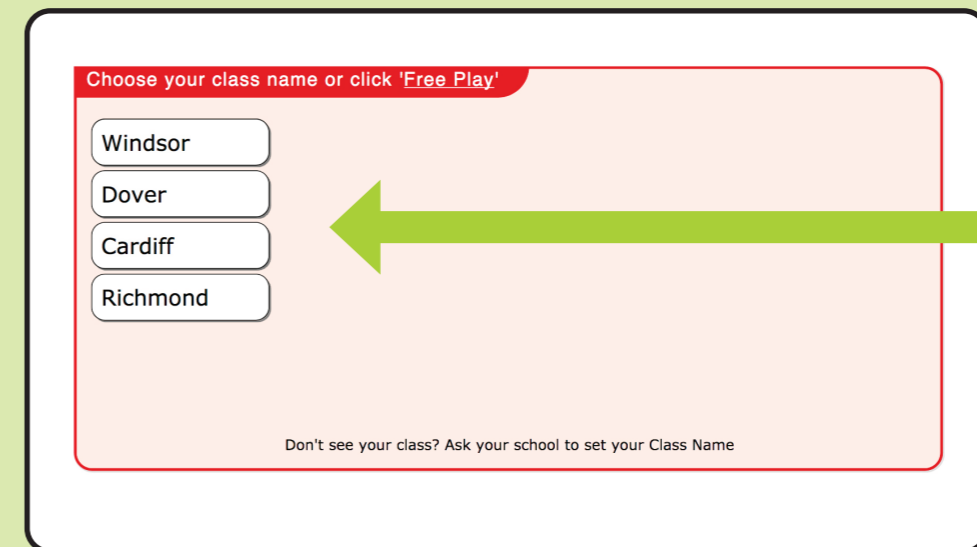


## Login:

From the Letter-join home page, choose Desktop or Tablet login.

Enter the username and swipecode (tablets) or password (PCs) issued to you by your child's school.

Select your child's class name from the menu. Or if you don't know click Free-Play.



Google Chrome



Mozilla Firefox

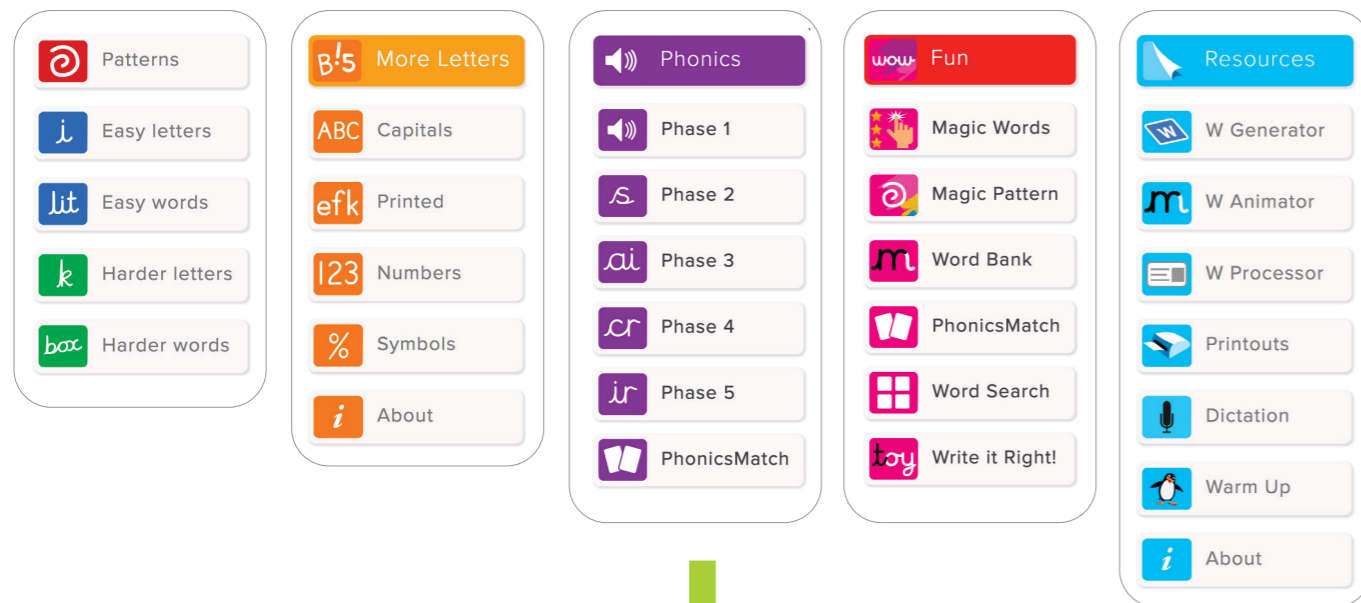
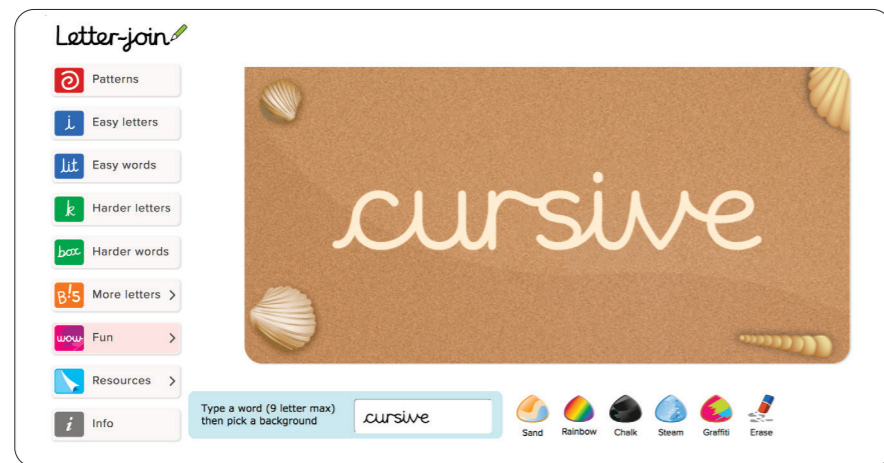


Apple Safari

Letter-join is an advanced web site that is compatible with most internet browsers on desktop computers as well as on iPads, Windows and Android tablets.

Internet Explorer and Microsoft Edge cannot display cursive fonts correctly and are not recommended for Letter-join.

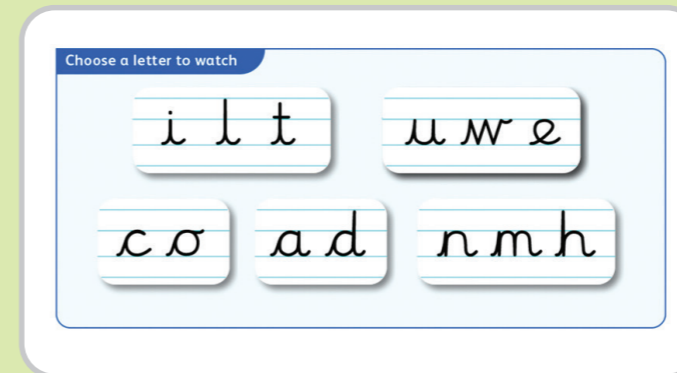
# The Letter-join menu



# Choosing letters and words to practise

## Letter-join Workflow: Animation to Worksheet

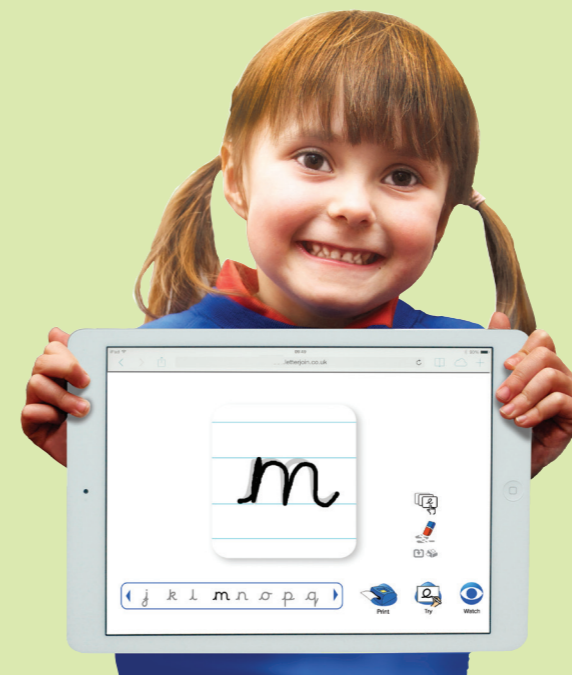
Animations for individual letters include voiced instructions and link to an accompanying practice worksheet.



Choose a letter to watch



Animations with spoken instructions



Touch-screen activities for IWBs, iPads and tablets

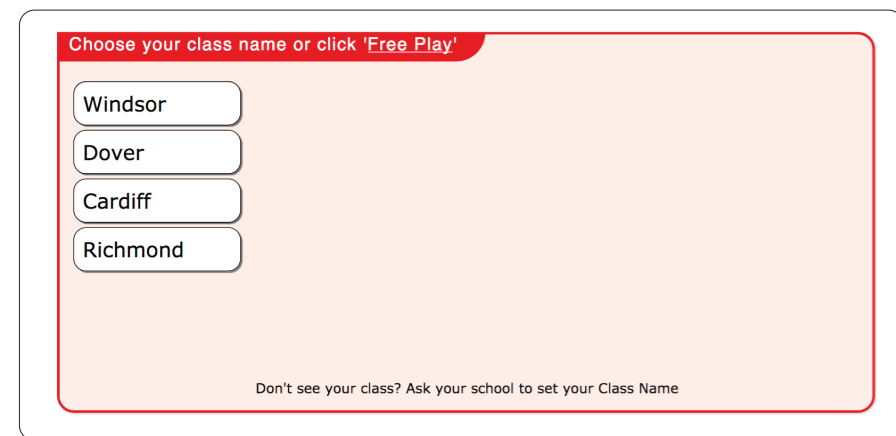


Practice worksheets accompany all sections

# Access your classroom's Word Bank at home

Word animations that are produced for pupils by class teachers can be watched and practised at home on PCs and iPads/tablets.

## How to find your classroom's Word Bank



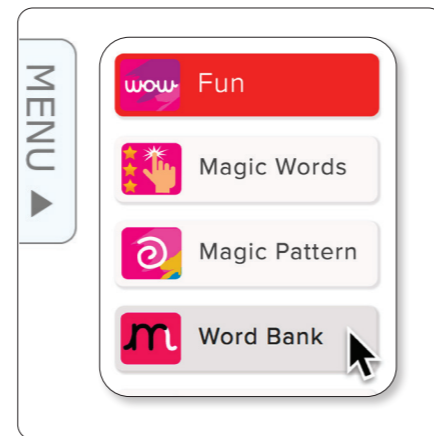
### 1) Log in to Letter-join

Use your school's Letter-join Home-School/Tablet log-in and select your child's classroom name.



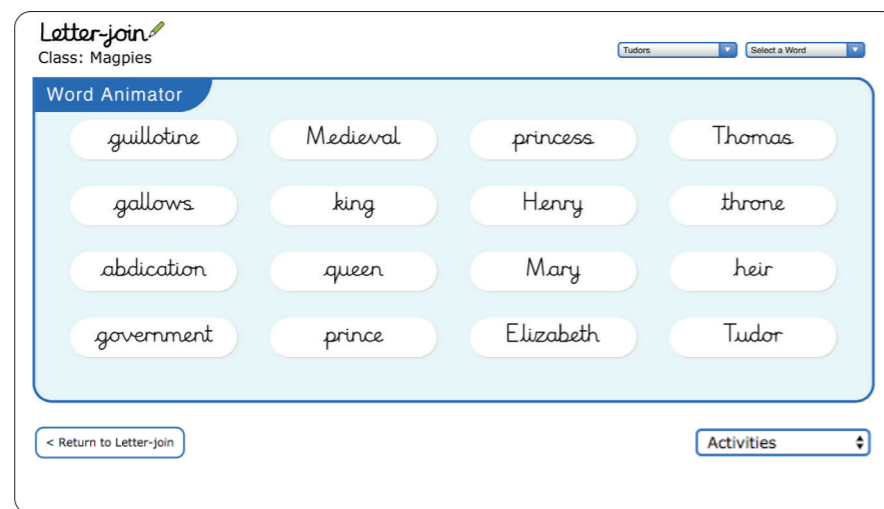
### 3) Select a Word Bank

Use the pull-down menu to select a Word Bank.



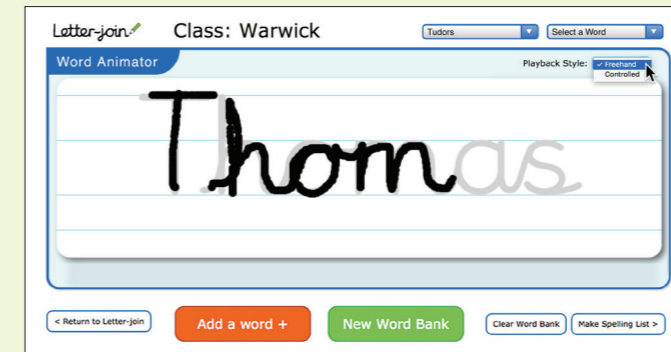
### 2) Choose 'Fun'

Select 'Word Bank' from the Letter-join 'Fun' menu.



### 4) Select a word to watch

Select a word either on-screen or from the pull-down menu, to watch and practice.



### 5) 'Watch'

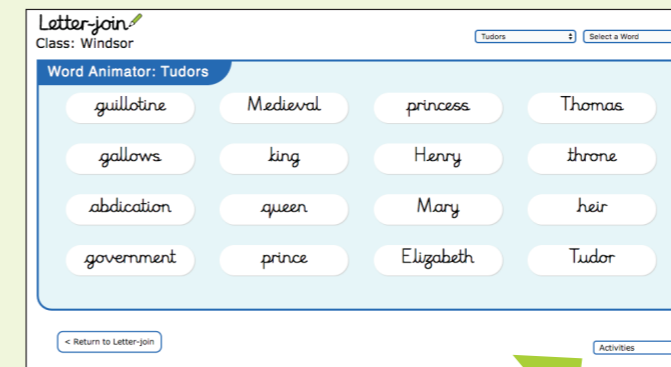
Select 'Play' to see the word being written on an iPad or tablet.



### 6) 'Try'

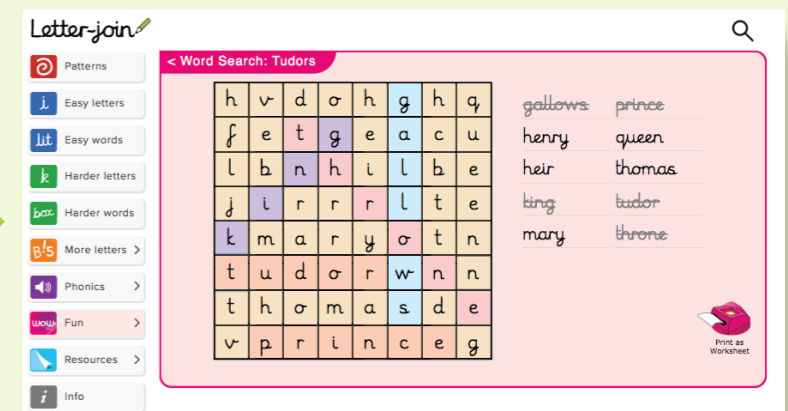
Choose 'Try' to practise writing words on an iPad or tablet.

### 7) 'Activities'



Use the Activities pull-down menu to select Spelling List or Word Search.

The words displayed are selected from the current Word Bank collection.

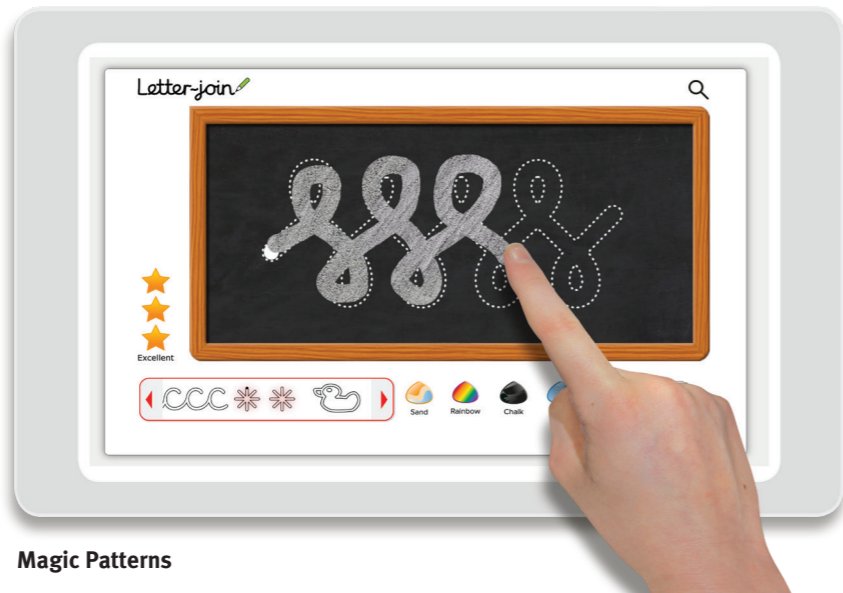


Letter-join's Word Searches are designed for iPad and tablets. They are both fun and practical, reinforcing spellings and are easily printed for handwriting practice.

# Early Years, Foundation Stage

Colourful, touch-screen handwriting activities.

- Fun
- Magic Words
- Magic Pattern
- Word Bank
- PhonicsMatch
- Word Search
- Write it Right!



Magic Patterns

## Magic Patterns and Magic Words

Under the Fun tab you'll find activities designed to offer touch-screen tracing practice for pupils at home.

Magic Patterns can be used to trace Letter-join's pre-cursive patterns and other shapes in a choice of fun palettes. Magic Words allows any word to be typed onto the screen and then written over using a finger or a stylus for letter and word practice.



Magic Words

## Write it Right! A new, fun activity

Write it Right! selects groups of pictures with words (easy, medium and hard) for children to trace.



The activity has accompanying sounds and fun animations to encourage children to play and practice their letter shapes over again.



Write it Right!

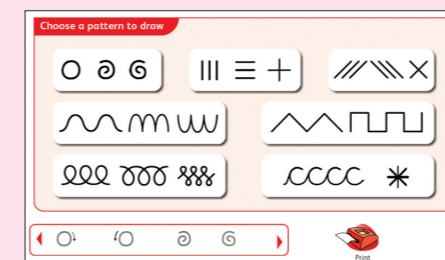


## Letter-join Phonics

Combine cursive handwriting with phonics in an easy and seamless way

Children can practise tracing the phonemes on whiteboards or tablets. Schools can choose between lead-in or no lead-in Letter-join fonts for the words which accompany the phonemes.

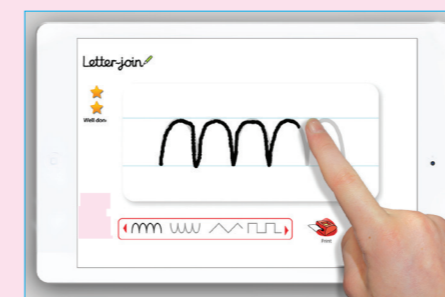
## Develop writing skills with pre-cursive patterns



Pre-cursive patterns cover all writing shapes.



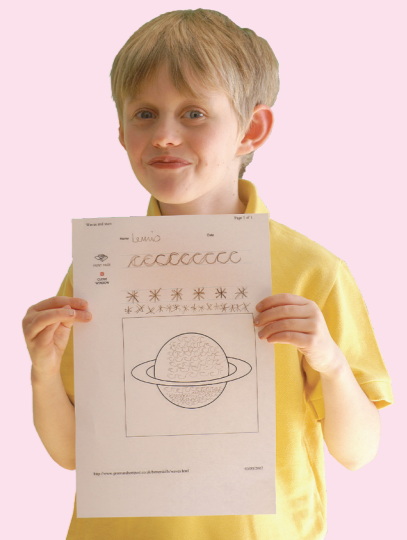
Watch patterns, such as jellies, with fun sounds.



Practice tracing patterns on IWBs or tablets.



Fun worksheets are available for all the pattern sets for handwriting practice using pencils and crayons.



Letter-join provides a selection of fun pre-cursive patterns for EYFS pupils that cover all handwriting movements. These encourage fine and gross motor skills as a foundation to cursive handwriting.

Letter-join's pre-cursive patterns are grouped into logical sets of similar shapes, and each pattern is animated, accompanied by exciting sounds.

Patterns can be watched on a PC or tablet and children can follow the shapes by 'air writing'

Finer control can be gained by finger writing on tablets or with a pencil using the worksheets. Worksheets consist of lines of patterns for tracing using a pencil or crayon and a simple drawing which can be 'coloured-in' using the patterns of that group.

# Key Stage 1

At home, Letter-join is the perfect handwriting companion for KS1 children with easy access to the same resources as school.

With gentle encouragement children will be aiming to produce neat handwriting with consistent spacing and letter sizes.

Practicing handwriting exercises both on tablets and with pencils on worksheets can be fun with real improvements achieved surprisingly quickly.

The following KS1 pages cover a variety of Letter-join resources to achieve this including speedy 'on the go' iPad/tablet activities and a multitude of worksheets for real handwriting practice.

When using Letter-join at home parents can be sure that they are using the same letterforms and resources as chosen at school.



Lets try...

## KS1 SPaG Revision

Letter-join offers a series of worksheets to support KS1 SATs which are not only great for improving handwriting, but are also perfect for the revision of spelling, punctuation and grammar.

There are 18 fun worksheets aimed to boost your children's confidence so they are SATs ready. These worksheets can be downloaded from Resources > Printouts > KS1.

**KS1 is the time to introduce new characters; capital letters, numbers, printed letters, mathematical symbols and punctuation. Letter-join animates all of these to show the correct formation and provides ready-made worksheets.**



# Key Stage 2

Longer passages of text, written speedily and neatly, are the aims of KS2.

The Printouts tab in Letter-join's Resources section has many practice worksheets. They cover a selection of curriculum topics and are perfect for real handwriting practice at home.

To build up handwriting speed and stamina children can use the Dictation Exercises which will help with learning to write longer passages of text.

Don't forget to practise Printed Letters by using the form-filling and labelling worksheets.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parts of a Flower**

Put the labels into the correct places:

|           |          |                |             |           |
|-----------|----------|----------------|-------------|-----------|
| 1. Stigma | 3. Ovary | 5. Pollen tube | 7. Anther   | 9. Petal  |
| 2. Style  | 4. Ovule | 6. Receptacle  | 8. Filament | 10. Sepal |

1.  2.  3.  4.  5.  6.  7.  8.  9.  10.

Letter-join  
Joined-up handwriting made easy



## Why not try...

### SATs WORKSHEETS

A series of worksheets to help with SATs revision as well as reinforcing cursive handwriting. Titles include Synonyms, Antonyms and Prepositions, all topics that will have been taught at school and all can be found in Resources > Printouts > KS2.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Antonyms**  
Antonyms are words with opposite meanings.  
Find and write antonyms for the following words:

|        |        |          |
|--------|--------|----------|
| tiny   | easy   | cheerful |
| bright | huge   | calm     |
| smooth | strong | late     |

In these sentences, change the words in bold for their antonyms.

The **weak**, cowardly knight attacked the little dragon.

The grumpy princess rode her **scruffy**, pathetic horse.

The little, **skinny** ogre drank some pure, clean water.

The **clumsy** fairies flew noisily over the hideous lake.

Challenge: Can you rewrite the following passage and change the words in bold for their antonyms?  
Deep in the middle of the **bright**, clear forest was a **shiny**, glittering, **straight** house. Here lived a beautiful, **sweet** witch and her kind, **gentle** cat. Every day, they would go out together and do good deeds which made people **joyful** and happy and everybody loved them.

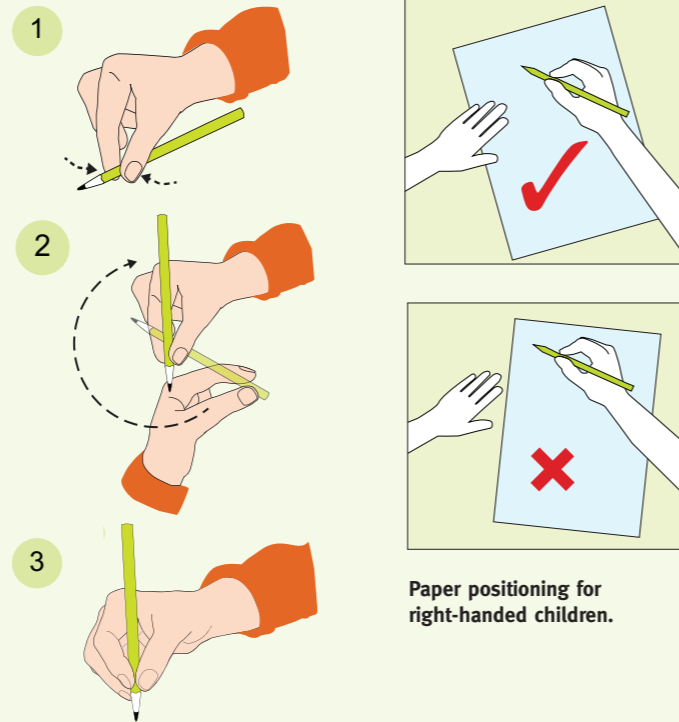
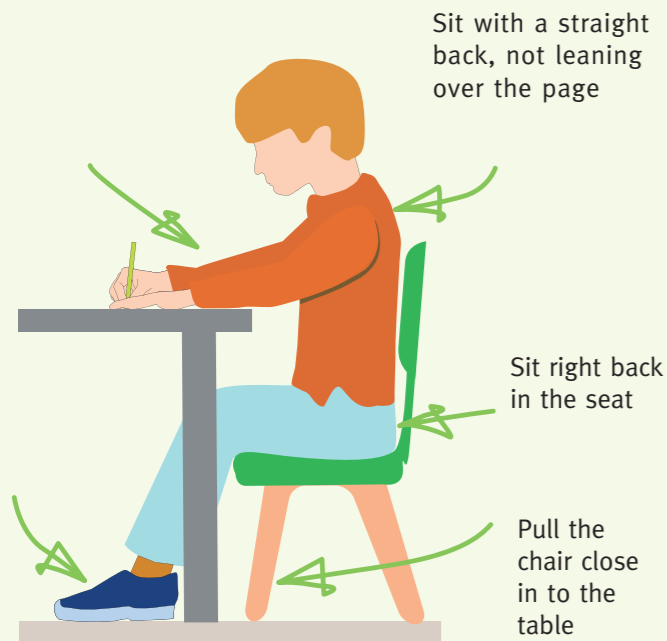
Letter-join

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| bright | huge   |
| smooth | strong |

# Pencil grip and seating

## How to sit comfortably



## How to hold a pencil correctly using the tripod pencil grip

Both right and left handed children should be encouraged to use the tripod grip which allows the pen/pencil to be held securely whilst allowing controlled movements of the pen/pencil nib.

- 1 Grip the pencil with your index finger and thumb with the nib pointing away.
- 2 With your free hand, spin the pencil from underneath.
- 3 Use your middle finger to support the underside of the pencil.

## Seating and handwriting positioning for left-handed children

Left-handed children may find it difficult to follow right-handed teachers as they demonstrate letter formation (and vice versa). Teachers should demonstrate to left-handers on an individual or group basis.

- Left-handed pupils should sit to the left of a right-handed child so that they are not competing for space.
- Pupils should position the paper/book to their left side and slanted, as shown.
- Pencils should not be held too close to the point as this can interrupt pupils' line of vision.
- Extra practice with left-to-right exercises may be necessary before pupils write left-to-right automatically.

