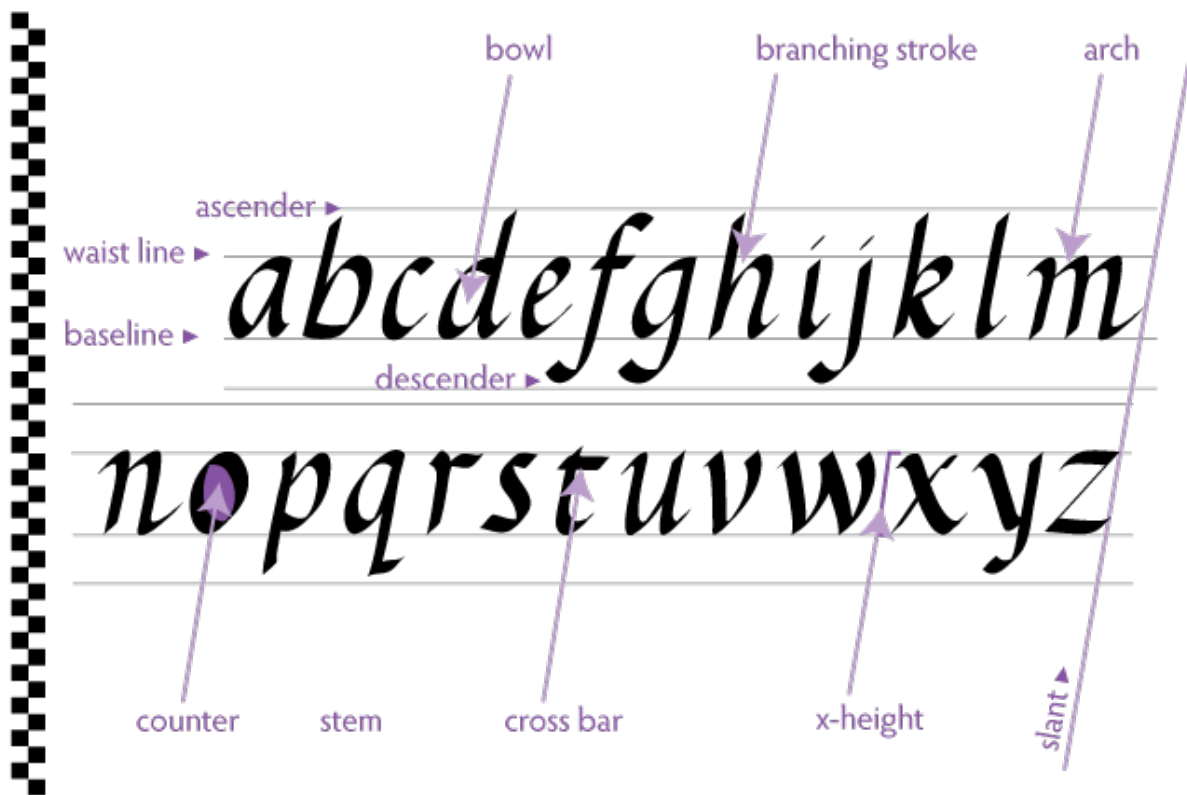


Give Cursive a Chance

Definitions



ampersand	The ampersand symbol is a ligature of the letters in et (&, &, &, &), Latin for "and".
arch	In a lowercase letter, the arch is the curved section that branches out from the stem such as in h, m, and n.
ascender	An ascender is the portion of a letter that rises above the waist line in letters such as b, d, and l.
baseline	The baseline or writing line is an imaginary fixed "reading line" upon which the bases of capital letters and most lowercase letters sit. Descenders extend below the baseline.
book hand	Book hand refers to any of the alphabet faces used in making books before the age of printing.
bowl	A bowl refers to the section of a letter made by curved strokes joined to the stem that surrounds a counter. There are both open bowls, where the strokes do not completely meet with the stem, and closed bowls, where the strokes connect with the stem. The letters a, b, d, and g are examples.
branching stroke	A branching stroke is the part of a letter that joins an arch to the downstroke of a letter as is the arch of the h.
calligraphy	Calligraphy originates from the Greek words for beauty (<i>κάλλος kallos</i>) and writing (<i>γραφή graphē</i>). Before printing presses were invented about 500 years ago, scribes worked in scriptoriums to handwrite single copies of books with quills and ink on materials like vellum (calf skin) or parchment (lamb skin). It has also been called "a fine art of skilled penmanship", "an art that strives to evoke the true emotion of the script through words that are drawn".
Carolingian script	In response to Emperor Charlemagne's directive in the 8th century, Alcuin of York designed the first standard minuscule script.
Chancery cursive	There are multiple definitions of what this Chancery cursive style of writing represents. In Renaissance Italy, scribes of the papal Chancery used a form of italic script known as cancelleria apostolica, which was a Gothic hand, similar to blackletter. A later version, cancellaresca corsiva, is the version that uses the pen angle set at 45 degrees to produce beautiful letters quickly, and is more commonly called italic (or Italian style), to help distinguish it from the earlier version and the English chancery hand.
counter	The counter is the white (negative) space inside the lines that comprise a letter.

cross bar	The cross bar is a horizontal stroke that forms part of a letter as in t, f, and H.
cuneiform	The first systematic form of Sumerian writing is cuneiform, named from the Latin word for wedge (cuneus) and the stroke shape created by the stylus during inscription on soft clay.
cursive	Cursive is a form of fast, informal handwriting in which the writing utensil (generally) does not lose contact with the paper as a single word is constructed.
descender	The descender is the portion of a letter that extends below the base line as in the letters g, p, and q.
ductus	The ductus describes the composition of a letter by identifying the strokes used to create it by number, direction, and sequence of assembly.
flourish	A flourish is a non-structural embellishment added to a letter to fill a vacant space. A swash, instead, is strictly used for decoration.
hairline	A hairline is a very thin line that is the finest stroke of a pen, often used for serifs and decoration.
hand	Hand is another word for handwriting or script, which signifies that something is written by hand. "Face" or "typeface" is for something that is printed (with a press or digital typography).
Italic	Italic writing uses slanted, curving letterforms based on elliptical rather than circular forms.
ligature	A ligature is a special character designed to improve the appearance of certain multiple letters by joining them into a single unit, which improves the appearance of character sequences such as ae, ffl, fi, and oe.
majuscule	The original form of large Roman alphabet letters are known as majuscule, capital, or uppercase letters.
minuscule	The minuscules are lowercase letters.
nib	The pen point is called the nib.
pen angle	The pen angle represents the angle at which the nib meets the paper, relative to the baseline. This is not the angle at which the pen is held in the hand above the surface, which generally can only be suggested based on personal style and handedness.
sans serif	Essentially meaning "without feet", a sans serif style of hand or face has no extra strokes at the end of the main vertical and horizontal strokes of the letter and was first designed in 1816 by William Caslon IV in 1816 and named "English Egyptian", and now referred to as "Gothic" in the US or "Grotesque" in Europe.
serif	A serif style of hand or face includes small strokes at the beginning, ending, or other parts of a letter.
slant	The slant is the slope of a letter, measured from the vertical.
stem	A stem is the vertical foundational stroke in a letterform.
versal	A versal is a large, embellished letter that signifies the beginning of a line, verse, or paragraph.
waist line	The waist line is the guideline that defines the upper boundary of the x-height. Ascenders extend above the waist line.
weight	Weight is the amount of the thickness and size of a pen letter as described by the relationship of nib width to letter height. Relatively speaking, a heavy hand has a wider nib width in relation to a shorter letter height and a light hand has a narrower nib width in relation to a taller letter height.
x-height	The x-height (height of the lowercase x), body height, or corpus of a letter is the portion of a letter that sits between the baseline and the waist line, not including the height of any ascenders or descenders.

Also see www.electrikolor.com/MoreAboutCalligraphy.htm

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