Kids Handwrite™



RESOURCE MATERIAL



Cursive Connections



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Section 10 - CURSIVE CONNECTIONS

1. Cursive Readiness

Students are ready to learn cursive Italic when they can:

- form the letter shapes correctly and consistently;
- maintain a consistent slant of their letters (vertical or with a slight slant to the right); and
- maintain correct spacing between letters and words.

2. Going from Printing to Cursive Writing

Printed Italic lowercase letters become cursive letters by adding connecting strokes, where required, between the letters. Not all Italic letters need to connect. This allows for pen lifts between certain letters to move the hand across the paper.

In addition to the pen lifts built in with certain lowercase letters, students can lift their pen after 4 or 5 letters. This allows the hand to be moved and makes it easier to maintain consistency when writing long multi-syllabic words.

Lowercase and uppercase cursive Italic letters are written with a slight slant to the right.

3. Exemplars

Exemplars showing the cursive joins, as well as the entrance and exit strokes, are included in the material.

Students do not have to go through the interim stage of learning to add "exit" and "entrance" strokes to create their cursive letters. The exit strokes at the end of the letters will come naturally as students gain proficiency in joining letters. The entrance strokes in the first letter in a word may appear naturally but are unnecessary. The exit and entrance strokes are explained below.





4. Student Desk Strips

There are two Italic cursive desk strips in the Resource. One 8 ½ by 11 page contains two Desk Strips, each with different illustrations. The page is designed to be cut lengthwise to create two strips for distribution to the students.



5. Exit Strokes (Serifs)

In cursive Italic, an exit stroke (serif) is a short stroke attached to a letter before a pen lift to naturally end the letter before lifting the pencil to start the next letter or the next word. The table below shows which letters have exit strokes, along with the type of serif, and which letters do not have an exit serif.

Letters	Type of Serif	Example
adhikl mnux	Elbow exit	a
bcefgj pqrstyz	No exit serif	
ovw	Short slanted line	

6. Entrance Strokes (Serifs)

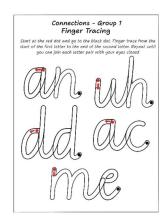
Serifs may be added to the beginning of the first lowercase letter in a word or to a letter after a pen lift. This, however, is not required. The table below shows which letters may have an entrance serif, along with the serif type, and which letters do not have an entrance serif.

Letters	Entrance Serif	Example
ijpuvwy	Pointed	U
mnrx	Rounded	n
abcdefg hkloqstz	No entrance serif	

7. Finger Tracing - Cursive Joins

Finger tracing shapes is a terrific way to learn cursive joins. Learning is reinforced when the students name each letter pair aloud while finger tracing. The five finger tracing pages are organized by connection group.

The red dots signify the starting point, the red arrows represent the direction when writing the letter, and the black dots indicate the end of the connected letter. All of the cursive joins required some traceback.



8. Letters that Do Not Connect

There is <u>no</u> connection into or out of the following lowercase letters:

- after the letters g, j, q, r, x, y and z;
- after the letter f, if the next letter is e; and
- before the letters f and 2.

For these letters, the students will lift their pen and start the next letter as if they were printing. Students can choose not to join into or out of the letter s.

The cursive uppercase letters do not connect to lowercase letters. After writing an uppercase letter, the student will lift their pen to start the next letter.

9. Connecting Lowercase Letters

To connect two lowercase letters, the student must know where:

- the letter being written will end; and
- the next letter will start.

The connection is fluid and moves naturally (in a curved or horizontal line or a combination of a curved and horizontal line) from the **end** of one letter to the **start** of the next letter. The **i**'s are dotted, and the **t**'s are crossed after the words with those letters are written.

Students must be taught how to join lowercase Italic letters to avoid creating awkward links which will make their writing illegible. If the student understands and can print the lowercase letter shapes, transitioning to cursive should be relatively easy. Students must learn that:

 the ending and starting position for each letter shape determines the connection;

- letters will join directly from the end of one letter to the start of the next letter; and
- the connections must follow the shape of the letters and must not pass through them.

10. Starting and Ending Positions

Students do not have to memorize which letters connect to which or learn complicated rules for joining letters. Any two letters can be joined by knowing where one letter ends, and the next letter starts. Every pair of letters that end and start the same will have the same connector.

In the tables below and on the worksheets, the **end** of the previous letter is shown as a **green** dot, and the start of the next letter is shown as a **red** dot.

There are:

• the five places where letters end

	ļ	Letters END		
Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5
at the	above the	at the	above the	at the
Baseline on	Baseline on	Baseline on	Baseline on	Waist Line
the right	the right	the left	the left	on the right
adhik	cet	<i>b</i> р	S	forw
lmnu	Cet	νρ	3	1000
a	C	b	5	W

• the five places where letters **start**

Letters START				
at the	at the	at the	below the	below the
Waist Line	Ascender	Waist Line	Waist Line	Waist Line
on the left	on the left	on the right	on the Right	on the left
ijmnpr	bhklt	adgq	cos	е
uvwxy				
П	k	d	C	e

11. Teaching Groups and Sequence

The connections between lowercase letters are taught in the following groups:

- Group 1 letters that end at the Baseline on the right: adhiklmnv
- Group 2 letters that end above the Baseline, on the right: c e t
- Group 3 letters that end at the Baseline at the left: bp
- Group 4 letters that end above the Baseline on the left: s
- Group 5 letters that end at the Waist Line on the right: fovand w

Note: "o" is included in Group 5 even though it ends below the waist line on the right.

Group 1 Connections		
FROM letters that end	TO letters that start	
at the Baseline on the right adhiklmnu	at the Waist Line on the left ijmnpruvwxy	an
Except for joining to "e," these connections require a trace back	at the Ascender Line on the left bhklt	uh
over the connecting stroke to make the second letter.	at the Waist Line on the right a d g q	dd
	below the Waist Line on the right cos	ac
	below the Waist Line on the left	me

Group 2 Connections		
FROM letters that end	TO letters that start	
above the Baseline, on the right	at the Waist Line on the left ijmnpruvwxy	er
c e t Except for joining to "e" these	at the Ascender Line on the left bhklt	ck
connections require a trace back over the connecting stroke to make the second letter.	at the Waist Line on the right $a d g q$	ta

Group 2 Connections		
FROM letters that end	TO letters that start	
	below the Waist Line on the right	<u>C</u> 0
	below the Waist Line on the left $oldsymbol{e}$	ee

Group 3 Connections		
FROM letters that end	TO letters that start	
at the Baseline at the left b p	at the Waist Line on the left ijmnpruvwxy	bi
This join requires a trace back over the base of the letters, and, except for joining to "e," it also requires a trace back over the	at the Ascender Line on the left bhklt	p
connecting stroke to make the second letter.	at the Waist Line on the right a d g q	pa
	below the Waist Line on the right cos	bo
	below the Waist Line on the left	be

Group 4 Connections		
FROM letters that end	TO letters that start	
above the Baseline on the left	at the Waist Line on the left ijmnpruvwxy	SI
S This join requires a trace back	at the Ascender Line on the left bhklt	sh
over the base of the letter, and, except for joining to "e," it also requires a trace back over the	at the Waist Line on the right $a d g q$	SO
connecting stroke to make the second letter.	below the Waist Line on the right cos	<u>S/S</u>
	below the Waist Line on the left	SC

Group 5 Connections		
FROM letters that end	TO letters that start	
at the Waist Line on the right	at the Waist Line on the left ijmnpruvwxy	oy
fovw	at the Ascender Line on the left bhklt	wh
Note: "o" is included in Group 5 even though it ends below the waist line on the right.	at the Waist Line on the right a d g q	fa
Except for the first join and joining to "e," these connections require a trace back over the connecting	below the Waist Line on the right	WO
stroke to make the second letter.	below the Waist Line on the left	Ve

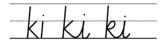
12. Single Strokes and Traceback

All cursive lowercase letters are made with one stroke except for f, k (the two stroke version), t and x. There is no pencil lift between drawing the body of the letter and its stem, ascender, descender and connecting stroke.

With one-stroke letters, the students must master tracing back on the same line to connect the letters. No loops or double lines should appear on italic stems, descenders, ascenders or connecting strokes. The connecting stroke must not pass through the body of the letter.

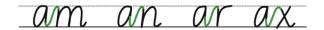
13. Variation of k

The lowercase letter "k," is a two-stroke printed letter. There is a one-stroke variation of the cursive "k" (shown below) that requires the student to trace back up the downstroke and make a loop like the "eye" in the lowercase "e." This variation is acceptable if the loop does not go over the Waist Line.



14. Optional Join into m, n, r and x

Rather than using a diagonal line to the center of the downstroke on letters m, n, and r and not joining to x, the alternate optional connection is to use the diagonal line and a small rollover into these letters. This is only an option for these four letters.



15. The Challenge with s

The letter "s" is a challenging cursive letter. It is the only printed letter that starts below the Waist Line on the right and ends above the Baseline on the left. Students can lift their pencil or pen before and after writing the letter "s" until they are comfortable joining the other letters.

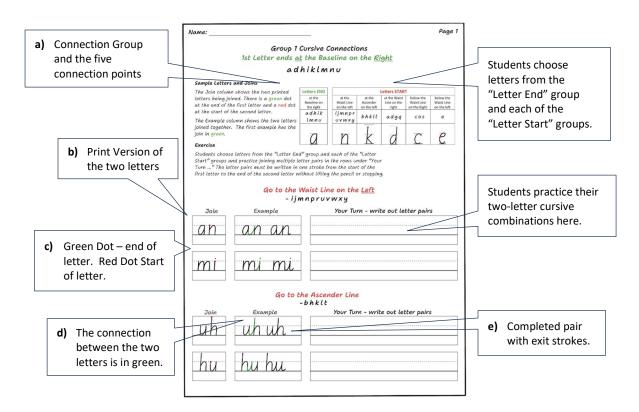


16. Cursive Connection Practice Pages

As noted above, students are not required to join every letter but should not keep every letter separate, as in printing. Letters that can be connected readily and fluidly should be joined.

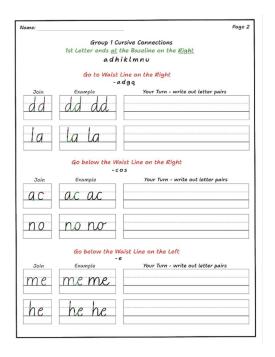
Five two-page Cursive Connection Worksheets correspond to the five connection groups identified above. Each Worksheet:

- a) identifies the connection group and the five different connections;
- b) provides the print version of the two letters being joined;
- c) identifies where the first letter ends and the second letter starts;
- d) shows the connection between the two letters in green; and
- e) provides a completed pair with the exit stroke from the second letter.



Students choose letters from the "Letter End" group and each of the "Letter Start" groups and practice joining multiple letter pairs in the rows under "Your Turn ..."

The letter pairs must be written in one stroke from the start of the first letter to the end of the second letter without lifting the pencil or stopping.



abcdefghijklmnopgrstuvwxyz

Italic Print - Lowercase

abcdefghijklmnopgrstuvwxyz

Italic Cursive - Lowercase

ABCDEFGHIJKLM NOPQRSTUVWXYZ

Italic Print and Cursive - Uppercase

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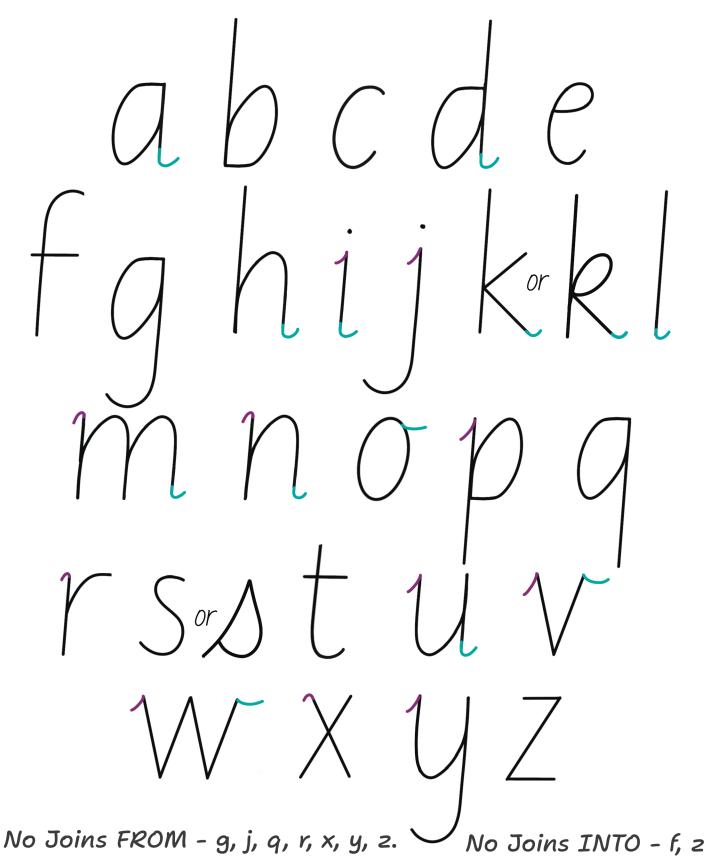


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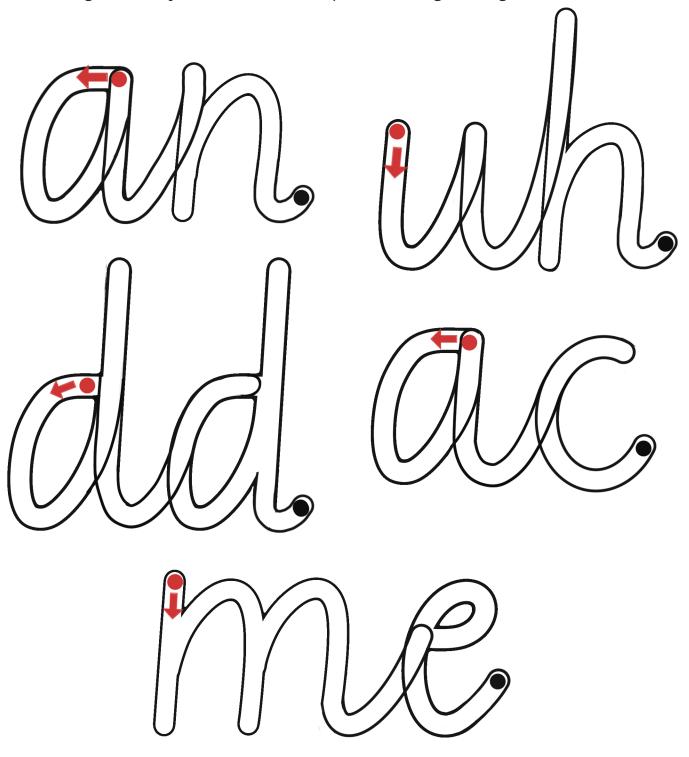
Italic Cursive Exemplar

With Entrance and Exit Strokes

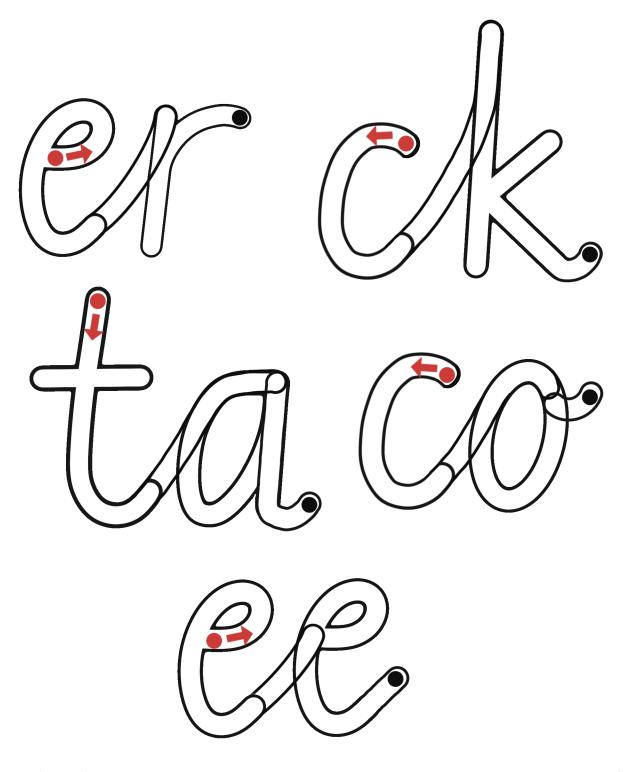


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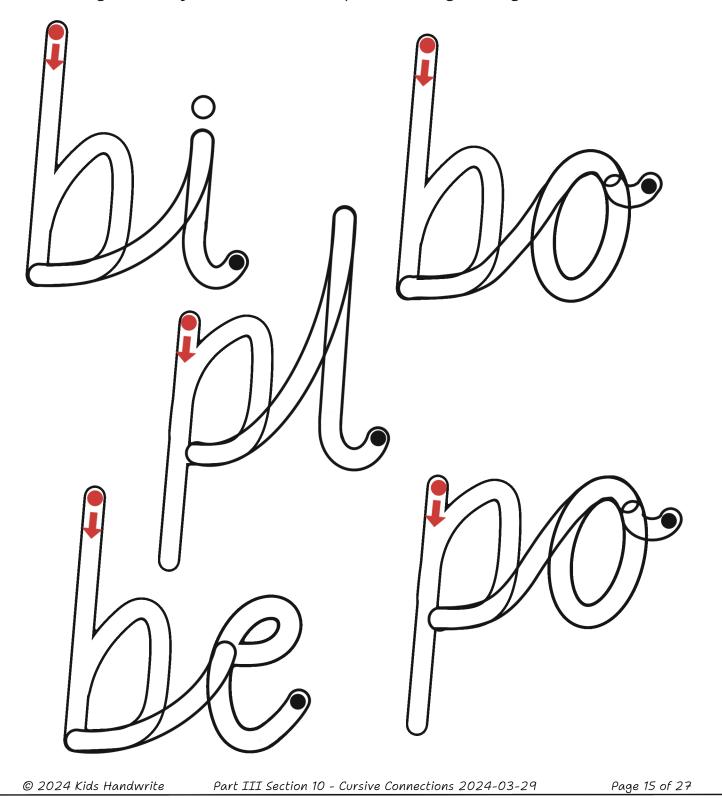
Connections - Group 1 Finger Tracing



Connections - Group 2 Finger Tracing



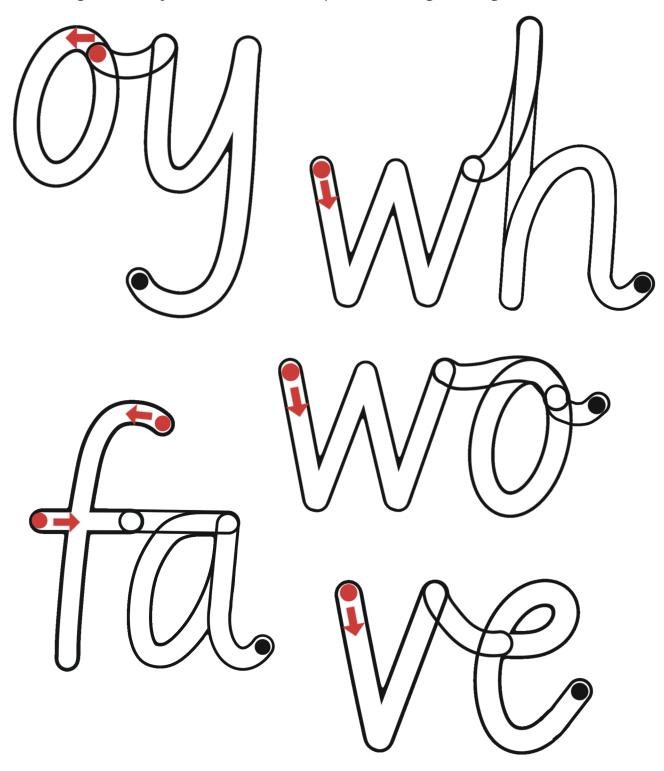
Connections - Group 3 Finger Tracing



Connections - Group 4 Finger Tracing



Connections - Group 5 Finger Tracing



Group 1 Cursive Connections 1st Letter ends <u>at</u> the Baseline on the <u>Right</u>

adhiklmnu

Sample Letters and Joins

The Join column shows the two printed letters being joined. There is a green dot at the end of the first letter and a red dot at the start of the second letter.

The Example column shows the two letters joined together. The first example has the join in green.

Letters END
at the
Baseline on
the right
adhik
lmnu
7

	Letters START				
at the Waist Line	at the Ascender	at the Waist Line on the	below the Waist Line	below the Waist Line	
on the left	on the left	right	on the Right	on the left	
ijmnpr uvwxy	bhklt	adgq	cos	е	
n	k	d	C	e	

Exercise

Students choose letters from the "Letter End" group and each of the "Letter Start" groups and practice joining multiple letter pairs in the rows under "Your Turn ..." The letter pairs must be written in one stroke from the start of the first letter to the end of the second letter without lifting the pencil or stopping.

Go to the Waist Line on the <u>Left</u> - ijmnpruvwxy

Join	Example	Your Turn - write out letter pairs
an	an an	
mi	mi mi	
	Go to th	e Ascender Line

Go to the Ascender Line -bhklt

	- 1	onklt
Join	Example	Your Turn - write out letter pairs
i		
uh	unun	
h-hij-	hirhi	
	IMIM	

Name:	Page 2
Name:	Page 2

Group 1 Cursive Connections 1st Letter ends <u>at</u> the Baseline on the <u>Right</u> adhiklmnu

Go to Waist Line on the Right

		dgq
Join	Example	Your Turn - write out letter pairs
dd	dd dd	
la	La la	
	Go below the Wa	aist Line on the Right os
Join	Example	Your Turn - write out letter pairs
ac	ac ac	
no	no no	
	Go below the W	aist Line on the Left
Join	Example	Your Turn - write out letter pairs
me	me me	
he	he he	

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Group 2 Cursive Connections 1st Letter ends above the Baseline on the Right

cet

Sample Letters and Joins

The Join column shows the two printed letters being joined. There is a green dot at the end of the first letter and a red dot at the start of the second letter.

The Example column shows the two letters joined together. The first example has the join in green.

	Letters END			
ſ	above the			
l	Baseline on			
L	the right			
	cet			
	C			

	ı	Letters STAR	Г	
at the	at the	at the Waist	below the	below the
Waist Line	Ascender	Line on the	Waist Line	Waist Line
on the left	on the left	right	on the Right	on the left
ijmnpr uvwxy	bhklt	adgq	cos	е
Ŋ	k	d	C	e

Exercise

Students choose letters from the "Letter End" group and each of the "Letter Start" groups and practice joining multiple letter pairs in the rows under "Your Turn ..." The letter pairs must be written in one stroke from the start of the first letter to the end of the second letter without lifting the pencil or stopping.

Go to Waist Line on the Left - ijmnpruvwxy

Join	Example	Your Turn - write out letter pairs
er	erer	
-		

Go to the Ascender Line

	- L	ONKIT
Join	Example	Your Turn - write out letter pairs
İ		,
CK	CK CK	
th	thth	

Name:		Page 2
		Cursive Connections <u>ve</u> the Baseline on the <u>Right</u> cet
		t Line on the Right adgq
Join	Example	Your Turn - write out 3 letter pairs
ta	tata	
Ca	ca ca	
		Vaist Line on the Right
Join	Example	Your Turn - write out 3 letter pairs
CO	CO CO	
es	es es	
		Naist Line on the Left -e
Join	Example	Your Turn - write out 3 letter pairs
ee	ee ee	
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Name:		Page 1
Group 3	Cursive (Connections
1st Letter ends <u>a</u>	at the Ba	seline on the <u>Left</u>
	bр	
Sample Letters and Joins	,	
The Join column shows the two printed letters being joined. There is a green dot at the end of the first letter and a red dot at the start of the second letter.	at the Baseline on the left	Ascender on the left
The Example column shows the two letters joined together. The first example has the join in green.	bp	bhklt adgq cos e
Exercise		
		e on the <u>Left</u>
Join Example		Your Turn - write out 3 letter pairs
bi bi bi		
bk bk bk		
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	the Asce -bhklt	nder Line
Join Example		Your Turn - write out 3 letter pairs

Join	Example	Your Turn - write out 3 letter pairs
\square		
\square	DU DU	

Name:		Page 2
	•	rsive Connections the Baseline on the <u>Left</u>
		ρ p
		ine on the Right dgq
Join	Example	Your Turn - write out 3 letter pairs
pa	papa	
bg	bg bg	
	Go below the Wai	ist Line on the Right
Join	Example	Your Turn - write out 3 letter pairs
bo	bo bo	
ps	ps ps	
	Go below the Wo -e	aist Line on the Left
Join DC	Example DC DC	Your Turn - write out 3 letter pairs
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Name:	Page 1

Group 4 Cursive Connections 1st Letter ends above the Baseline on the Left

S

Sample Letters and Joins

The Join column shows the two printed letters being joined. There is a green dot at the end of the first letter and a red dot at the start of the second letter.

The Example column shows the two letters joined together. The first example has the join in green.

	Letters END
	above the
l	Baseline on
l	the left
	S

	Letters START			
at the	at the	at the Waist	below the	below the
Waist Line	Ascender	Line on the	Waist Line	Waist Line
on the left	on the left	right	on the Right	on the left
ijmnpr uvwxy	bhklt	adgq	cos	е
n	k	d	C	e

Exercise

Students choose letters from the "Letter End" group and each of the "Letter Start" groups and practice joining multiple letter pairs in the rows under "Your Turn ..." The letter pairs must be written in one stroke from the start of the first letter to the end of the second letter without lifting the pencil or stopping.

Go to the Waist Line on the Left - ijmnpruvwxy

Join	Example	Your Turn - write out 3 letter pairs
SI	SI SI	
2 VV	<u> </u>	
	Go to t	he Ascender Line

-bhklt

	•	77.70
Join	Example	Your Turn - write out 3 letter pairs
sh	shsh	
sk	sk sk	

Name:		Page 2
	•	Cursive Connections the on Baseline on the <u>Left</u>
		S
		t Line on the Right adgq
Join	Example	Your Turn - write out 3 letter pairs
SO	sa sa	
sg	sg sg	
		Vaist Line on the Right
Join	Example	Your Turn - write out 3 letter pairs
SS	S/S S/S	
SO	SO SO	
		Naist Line on the Left e
Join	Example	Your Turn - write out 3 letter pairs
Se	SC SC	
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Name:	Page 1
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	

Group 5 Cursive Connections 1st Letter ends at the Waist Line on the Left

o (below) vwf

Sample Letters and Joins

The Join column shows the two printed letters being joined. There is a green dot at the end of the first letter and a red dot at the start of the second letter.

The Example column shows the two letters joined together. The first example has the join in green.

Letters START				
at the Waist Line on the left	at the Ascender on the left	at the Waist Line on the right	below the Waist Line on the Right	below the Waist Line on the left
ijmnpr uvwxy	bhklt	adgq	cos	е
n	k	d	C	e

Exercise

Students choose letters from the "Letter End" group and each of the "Letter Start" groups and practice joining multiple letter pairs in the rows under "Your Turn ..." The letter pairs must be written in one stroke from the start of the first letter to the end of the second letter without lifting the pencil or stopping.

Go to the Waist Line on the Left - ijmnpruvwxy

Join	Example	Your Turn - write out 3 letter pairs
oy	oy oy	
VU	VU VU	

Go to the Ascender Line

-bhklt			
Join	Example	Your Turn - write out 3 letter pairs	
wh	whwh		
ot	otot		

Name:		Page 2		
	1st Letter ends <u>at</u> t	ursive Connections he Waist Line on the <u>Right</u> low) v w f		
Go to Waist Line on the Right -adgq				
Join	Example	Your Turn - write out 3 letter pairs		
Va	va va			
Go below the Waist Line on the Right -cos				
Join	Example	Your Turn - write out 3 letter pairs		
Wo	W0 W0			
00	00 00			
Go below the Waist Line on the Left -e				
Join	Example	Your Turn - write out 3 letter pairs		
Ve	ve ve			
fe.	fe			