

LESSON ONE *Italic,*

also called chancery, originated in Italy during the Renaissance (fifteenth-sixteenth centuries) and was a style of writing used at all levels of society—from official documents of government to personal correspondence. Leonardo da Vinci wrote an Italic hand. To this day papal briefs are written in Italic.

Italic is by far the most popular style among modern calligraphers. Perhaps this is because the style has beauty, legibility, and can be lettered rapidly. It is a style which is appropriate for about any occasion. Because Italic is so useful, it is the first alphabet presented in this course.

The alphabet presented here is a modern version which eliminates some difficult forms and gives more uniform slant and proportion than some of the original models.

The correct writing instrument for this lesson is a felt-tip pen or a soft lead pencil. The use of calligraphy pens will be taken up subsequently.

LETTER-FAMILIES

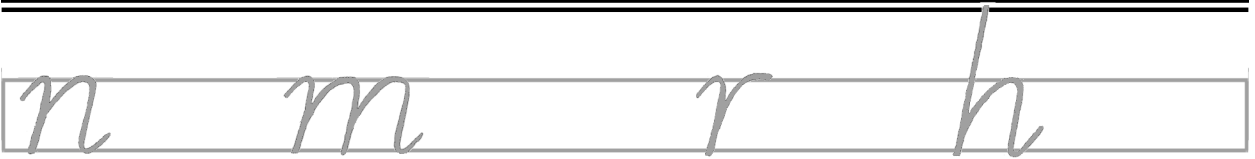
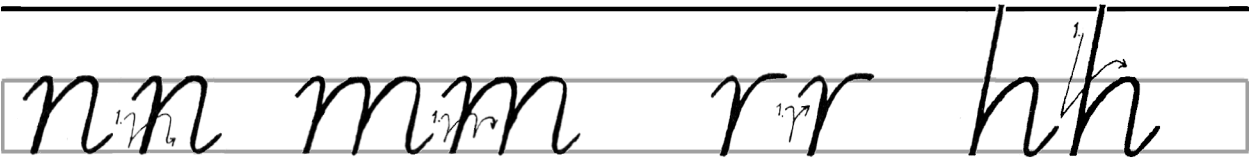
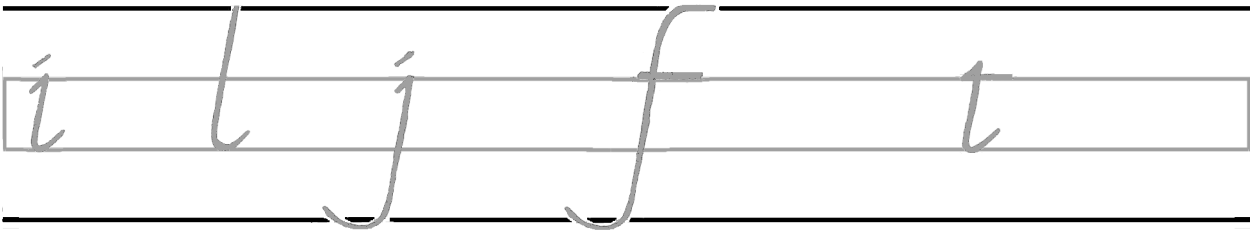
The lower case letters of the Italic alphabet can be divided into six groups or 'families' according to their relationships to six basic, structural forms:

1. THE STRAIGHT LINE - *l* — Notice how they lean to the right
2. THE 'N' SHAPE - *n*
3. THE 'U' SHAPE - *u*
4. THE 'O' SHAPE - *o*
5. THE 'X' SHAPE - *x*
6. THE 'V' SHAPE - *v*

To draw the 6 forms correctly, it is helpful to imagine a rectangle like this:



Lesson 1 Calligraphy by Correspondence to be used with pages 42—53



u u u u u u u

u u y y a a

u y a

g g q q d d

g q d

o o o o o o o

o o c c e e

o c e

X X X X X X

X X S S Z Z

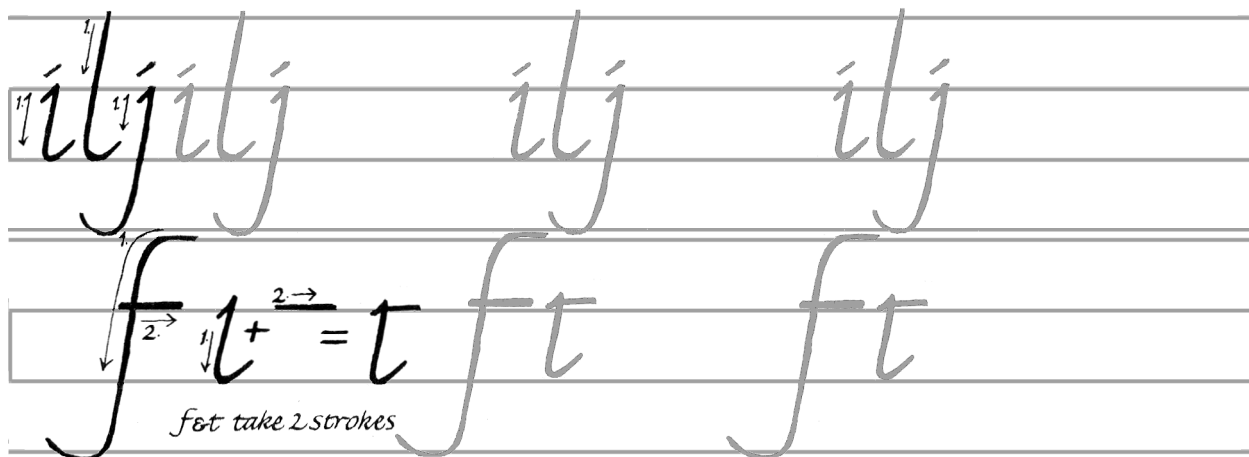
X S Z

V V V V V V

V V W W

V W

Additional Practice



n n n n n n n m

r h b r h b r h b

k p k p k p

n n r h b k p

o c c e o c e o c e

o c e

a b c d

e f g h

i j k l

m n o

p q r s

t u w

v x y z

able

hello

cap

drink

early

full

gong

jam

lamp

irate

often

tale

knock

me

nibble often prepare

quick rough saunter

tale usually virtual

was x-ray yam zinc

one two three four

five six seven eight

nun onion wow aim

little mum hominy

mint success name

squawk snow dozen

settlers letters such

hello fluffy tomato

hickory-dickory dock,

the mouse ran up the

clock. hey, diddle-diddle,

the cat and the fiddle,

the cow jumped over

the moon. calligraphy

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