

Cursive
Handwriting
HOME USERS' GUIDE



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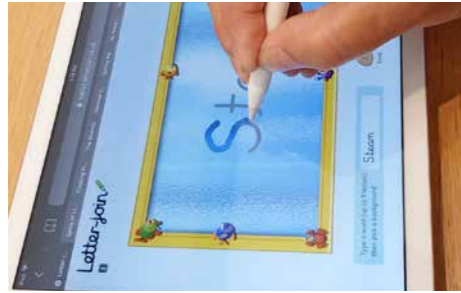
Welcome to Letter-join!

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

This guide shows how to use Letter-join's key resources chosen for their suitability for practising at home.

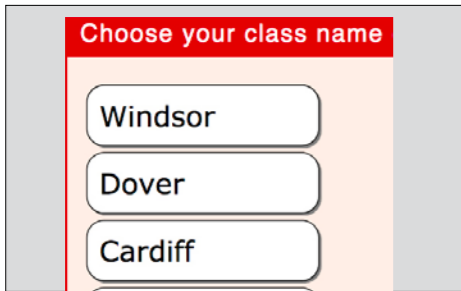


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Log-in and get started with Letter-join at home

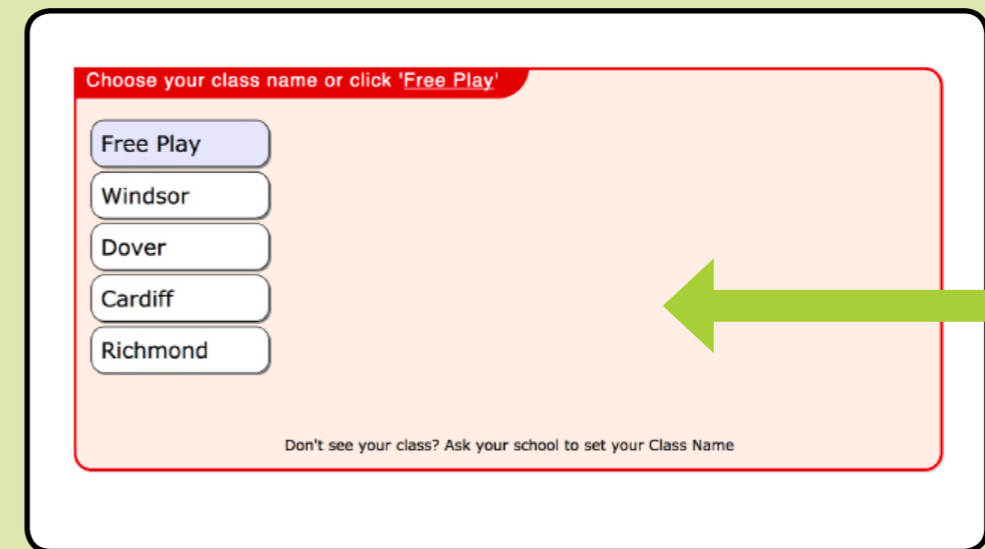


Login:

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

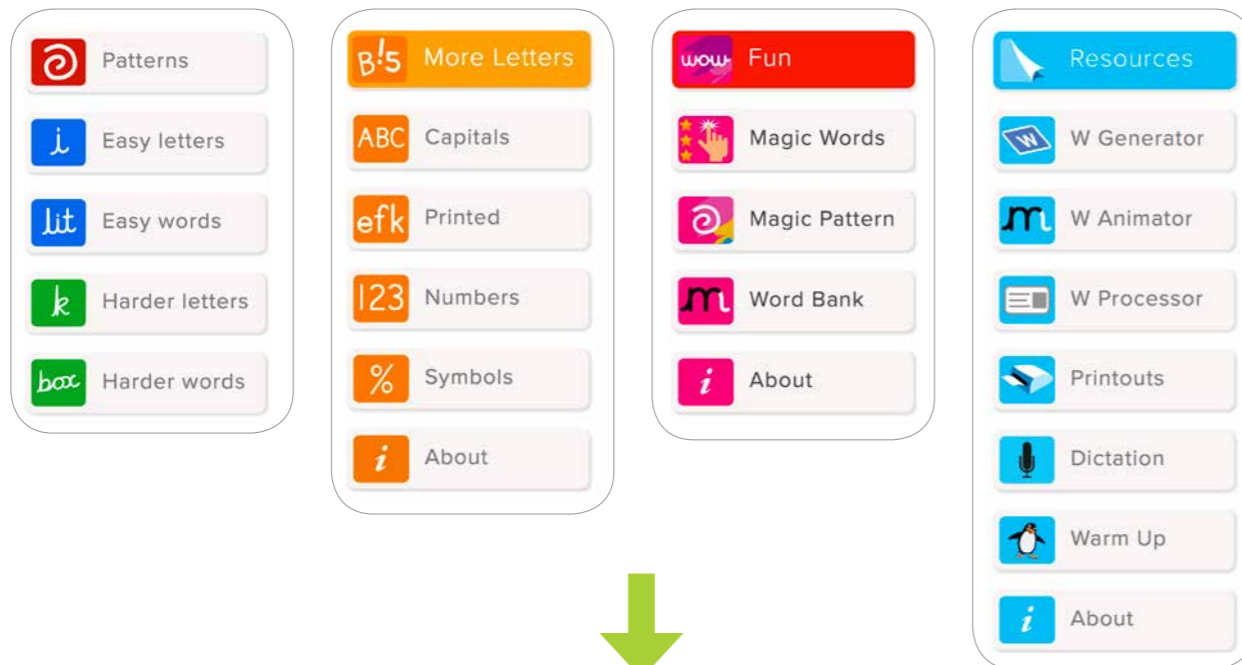


Apple Safari

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.

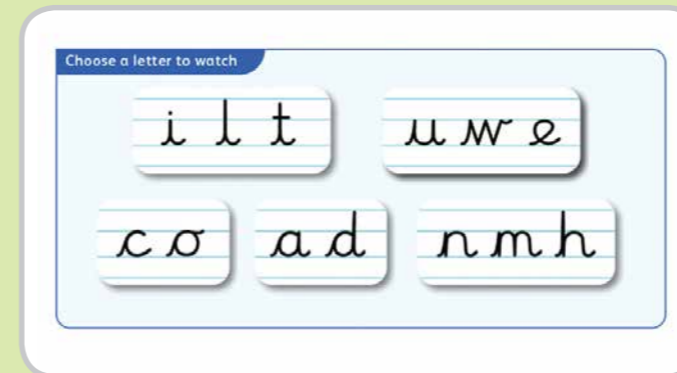
The Letter-join menu



Choosing letters and words to practise

Letter-join Workflow: Animation to Worksheet

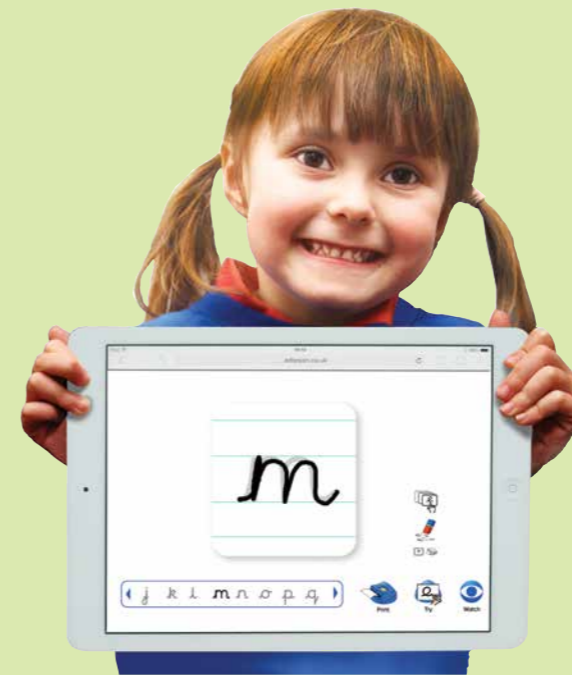
Animations for individual letters include voiced instructions and link to an accompanying practice worksheet.



Choose a letter to watch



Animations with spoken instructions



Touch-screen activities for IWBs, iPads and tablets

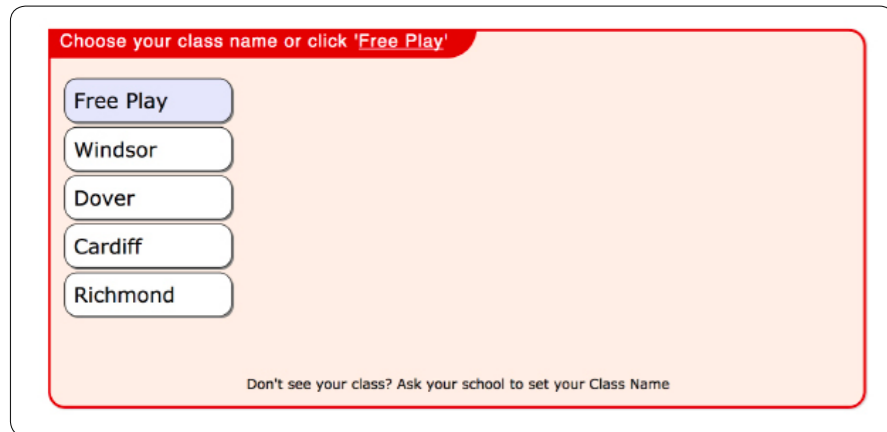


Practice worksheets accompany all sections

Access your classroom's Word Bank at home

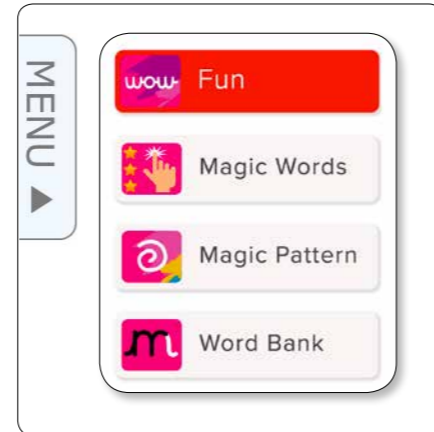
Word animations that are produced for pupils by class teachers can be watched and practised at home on PCs and iPads/tablets.

How to find your classroom's Word Bank



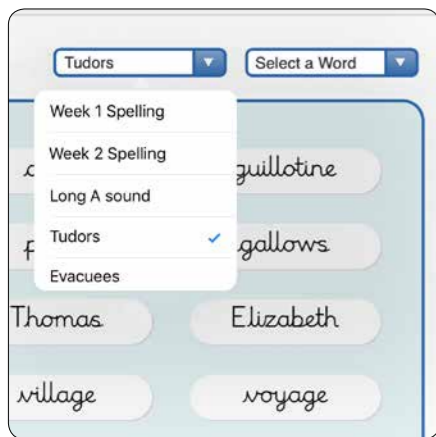
1) Log in to Letter-join

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



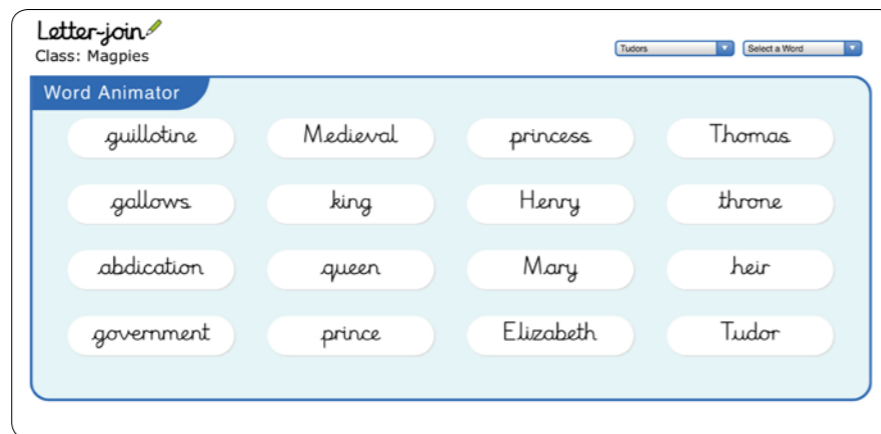
2) Choose 'Fun'

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



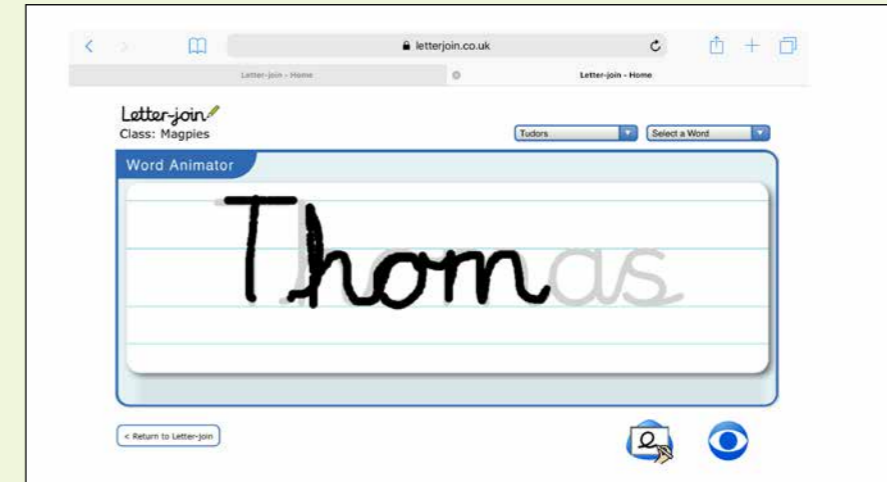
3) Select a Word Bank

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



4) Select a word to watch

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



Watch

(5) 'Watch'

Select 'Play' to see the word being written on a PC or tablet.



Try

(6) 'Try'

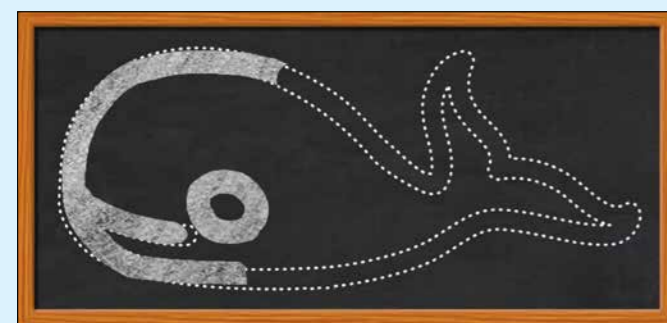
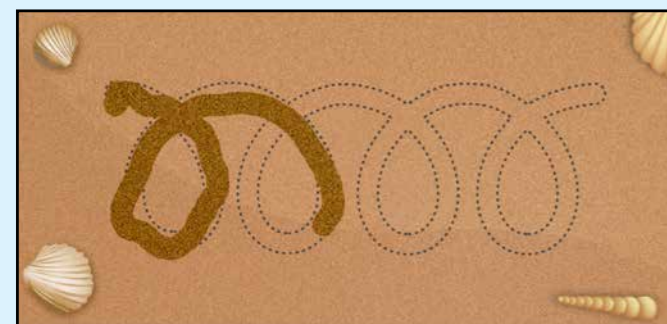
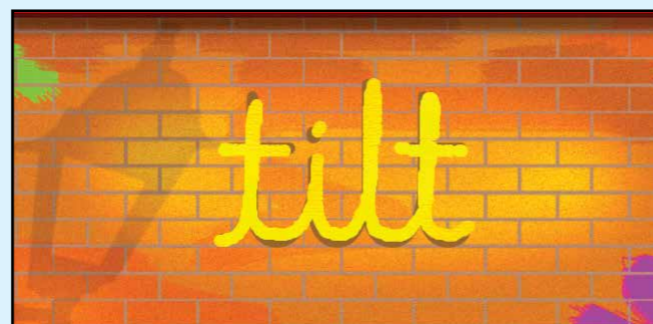
Choose 'Try' to practise writing words on an iPad or tablet.

Early Years, Foundation Stage

Colourful, touch-screen handwriting practice for tablets



Under the Fun tab you'll find Magic Patterns and Magic words 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.



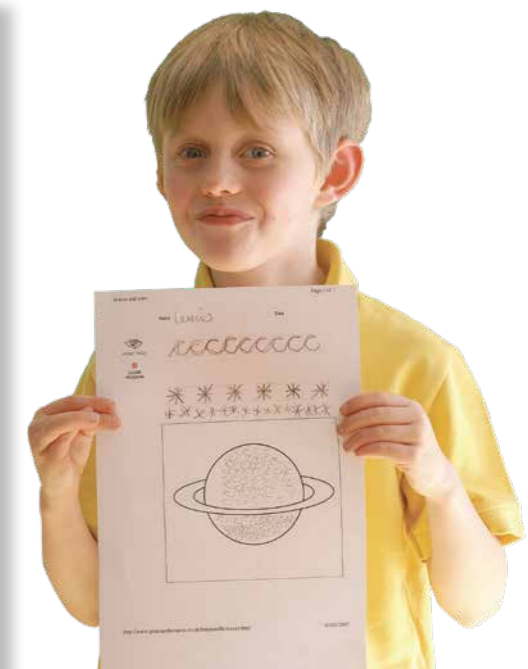
Magic Patterns showing a pre-cursive pattern and a fun shape to trace.

Examples of Magic Words. Any word can be typed in to trace over.

Develop writing skills with pre-cursive patterns



Help children develop handwriting skills by tracing on tablets.



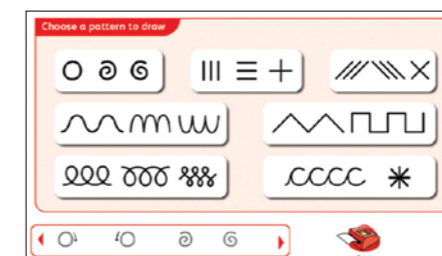
Use the worksheets for real handwriting practice.

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.

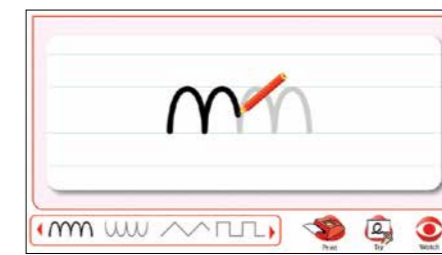
Letter-join's pre-cursive patterns are grouped into logical sets of similar shapes, and each pattern is animated, accompanied by exciting sounds.

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

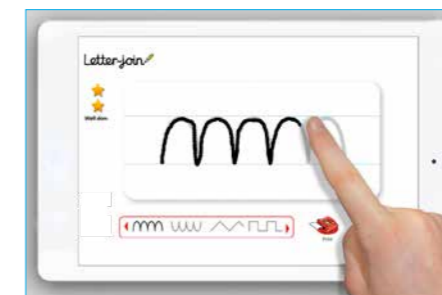
Finer control can be gained by finger writing on tablets or with a pencil using the worksheets. Worksheets consist of lines of patterns for tracing using a pencil or crayon and a simple drawing which can be 'coloured-in' using the patterns of that group.



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.

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.

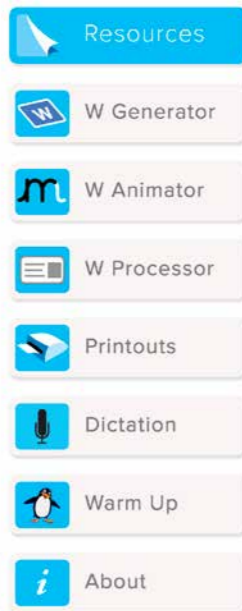
KS1 is the time to introduce new characters; capital letters, numbers, printed letters, mathematical symbols and punctuation. Letter-join animates all of these to show the correct formation and provides ready-made worksheets.



Key Stage 2

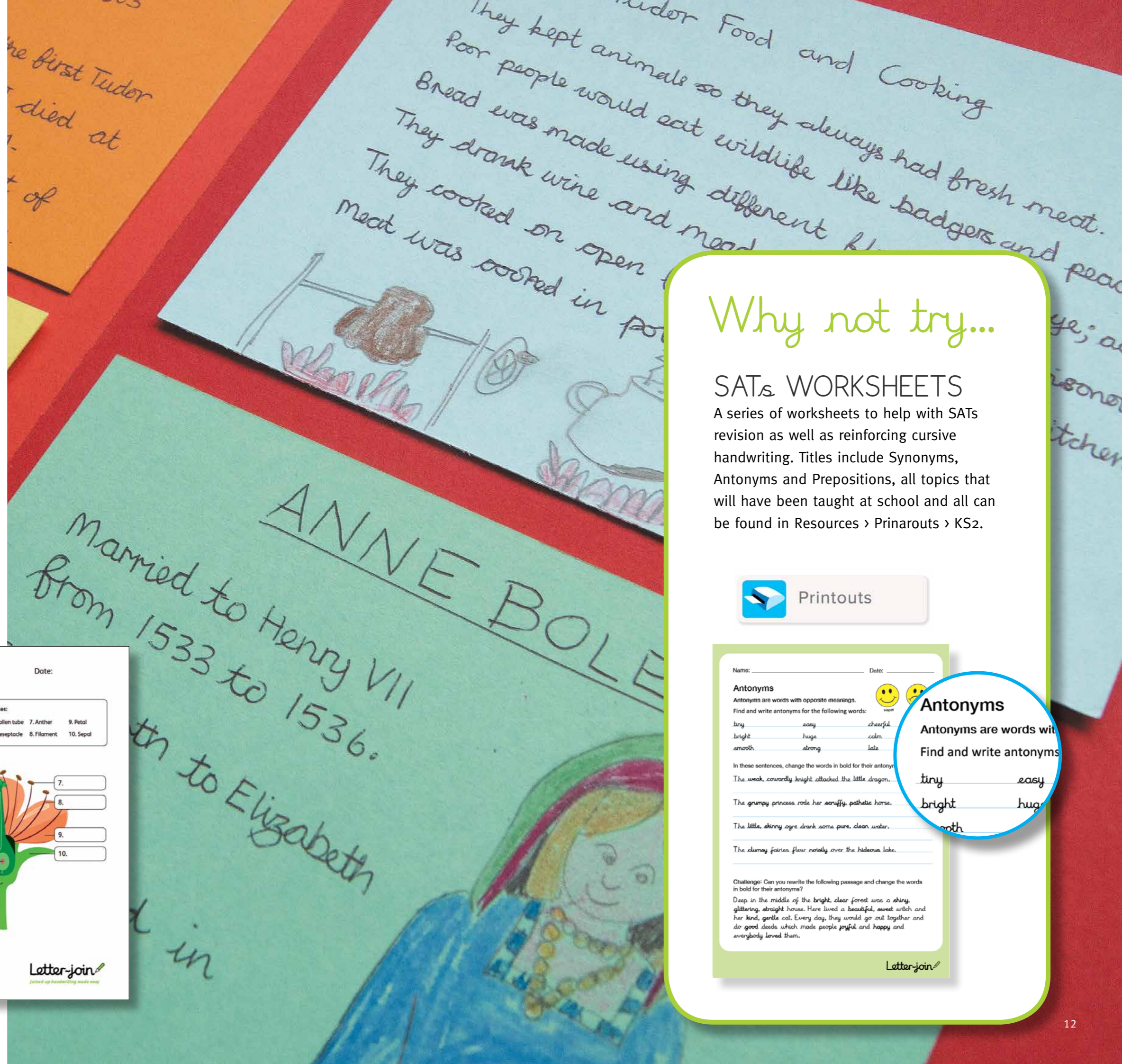
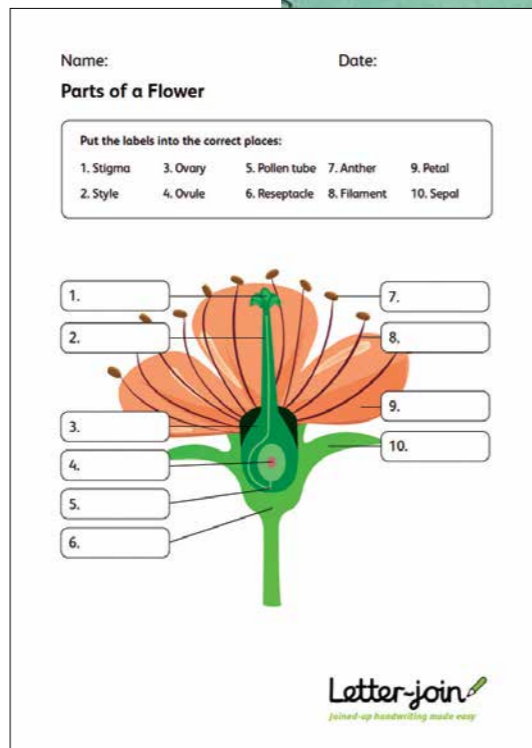
Longer passages of text, written speedily and neatly, are the aims of KS2.

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.

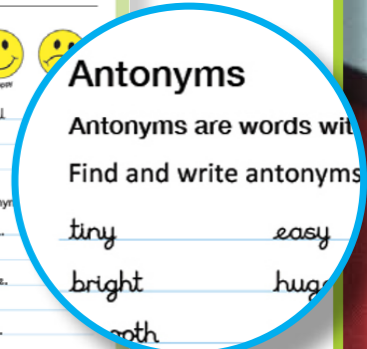
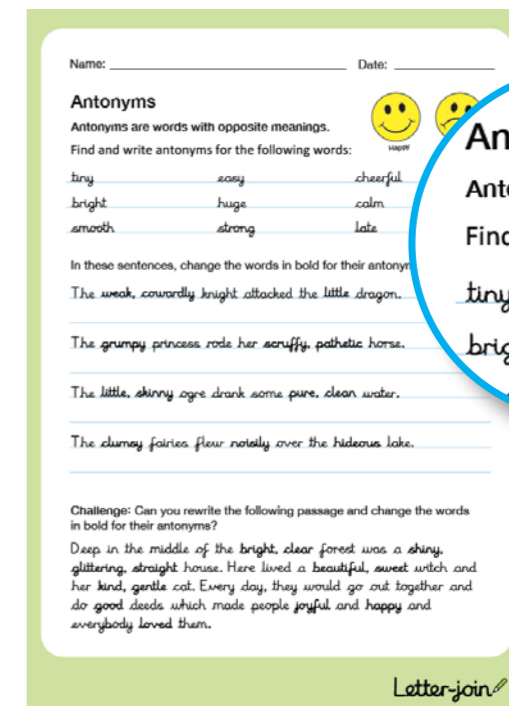
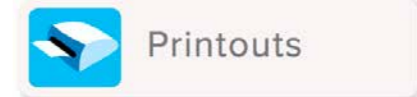
Don't forget to practise Printed Letters by using the form-filling and labelling worksheets.



Why not try...

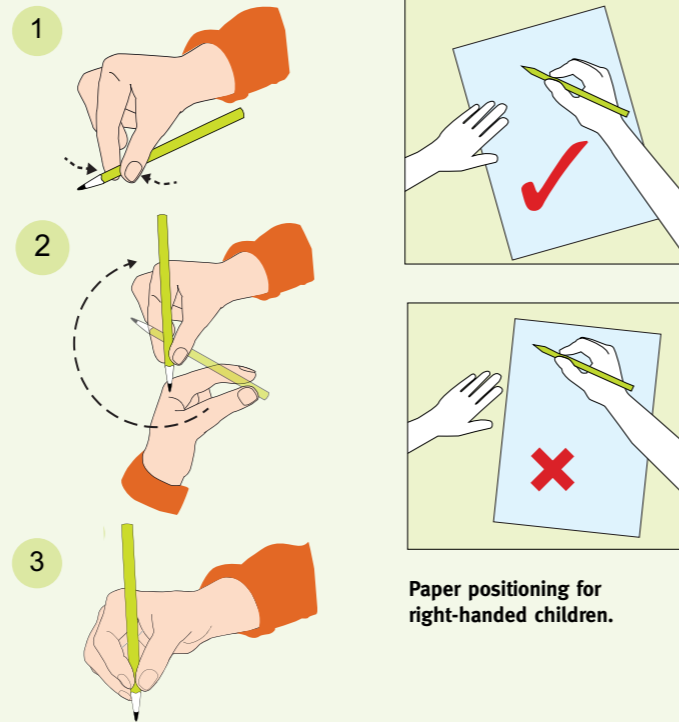
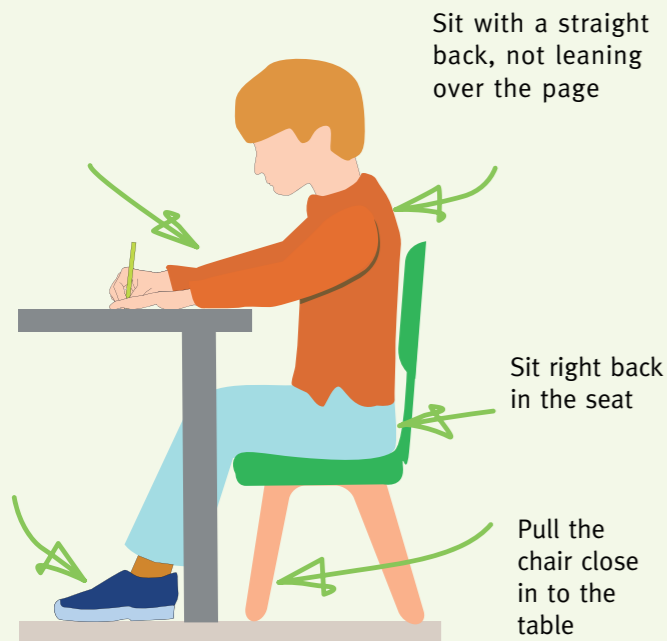
SATS WORKSHEETS

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.



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.

