

COMPARISON OF FIVE HANDWRITING PROGRAMS

This is a comparative analysis of the letterforms of five commonly used handwriting programs. Both capital and lowercase letters are shown in the following chart. The number of letter shape and letter slope changes from manuscript to cursive in each program is documented below.

The GETTY-DUBAY ITALIC HANDWRITING SERIES uses an elliptical shape for lowercase letters which conforms to natural hand movement and requires very few pencil lifts. Palmer, Bowmar/Noble and Zaner-Bloser use manuscript lowercase letters of the "ball and stick" form requiring many pencil lifts and circular shapes which can be difficult for the beginning writer.

Getty-Dubay uses manuscript lowercase letters without serifs added to the basic letter providing a completely sans serif (no serifs) printed form of writing for the beginner. D'Nealian uses serifs on ten manuscript lowercase letters, so the beginning writer never learns a totally sans serif manuscript.

During the transition from manuscript to cursive (end of second grade and/or beginning of third grade), most handwriting programs require a traumatic relearning of lowercase and capital letter shapes. The GETTY-DUBAY ITALIC HANDWRITING SERIES provides a smooth transition from manuscript to cursive as only one lowercase letter and one capital letter change shape. The Getty-Dubay program builds on previously learned concepts as the manuscript lowercase letters are simply joined for cursive. Palmer, Bowmar/Noble, Zaner-Bloser and D'Nealian require the relearning of all or many letter shapes during the transition from manuscript to cursive.

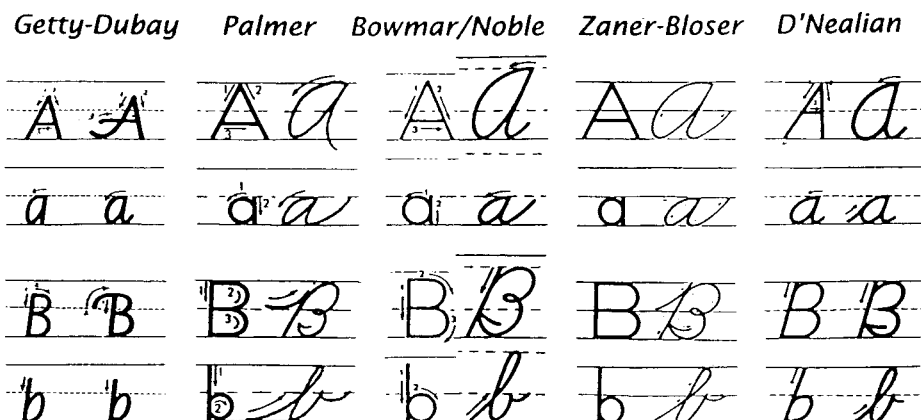
The Getty-Dubay program uses no loops, providing an uncomplicated cursive and thereby aiding legibility. In the other programs, the use of long looped ascenders and descenders in lowercase letters and looped serifs in capital letters are detrimental to legibility. (This is why we are a "Please Print" nation.) Getty-Dubay cursive capitals are logically based on the manuscript capitals. The cursive capitals used by Palmer, Bowmar/Noble, Zaner-Bloser and D'Nealian often bear little resemblance to the manuscript capitals.

In the Getty-Dubay program the relationship of capital height, lowercase ascenders and descenders to the body height is the same as the fonts used in most books and computers. This size of capitals, ascenders and descenders allows closer writing lines without tangling descenders with ascenders, thereby improving legibility.

The 5° letter slope of Getty-Dubay remains consistent in manuscript and cursive. This is a natural slope which is comfortable for the beginning writer. Palmer, Bowmar/Noble, and Zaner-Bloser require a dramatic change from 0° in manuscript to 27° in cursive besides the relearning of 52 new letter shapes. In D'Nealian both manuscript and cursive use a 17° slope, generally too sloped for the beginning writer.

The GETTY-DUBAY ITALIC HANDWRITING SERIES provides the easiest transition from manuscript to cursive with the fewest letter shape changes and the easiest consistent slope. The Getty-Dubay program also produces handwriting that is both legible and aesthetically pleasing.

HANDWRITING PROGRAM	LETTER SHAPE CHANGES: MANUSCRIPT TO CURSIVE		LETTER SLOPE CHANGES: MANUSCRIPT TO CURSIVE
	CAPITALS	LOWERCASE	
Getty-Dubay	1	1	None (all 5°)
Palmer	26	26	52 (0° to 30°)
Bowmar/Noble	26	26	52 (0° to 25°)
Zaner-Bloser	26	26	52 (0° to 30°)
D'Nealian	18	13	None (all 17°)



Getty-Dubay™
Italic

Palmer

Bowmar/Noble

Zaner-Bloser

D'Nealian



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