

Basic Strokes & Drills

If you would like to learn brush calligraphy, then I am here to help you. You can watch my lettering videos on Instagram @kellycreates or check out my YouTube channel “Kelly Creates” and also my Facebook page (Kelly Creates Studio). I invite you to join my Facebook group “Kelly Creates Art & Calligraphy” where I will be sharing lots of tips & tutorials, and where you can show your work and enjoy a community of other like-minded creatives who love letters as much as I do!

15 HELPFUL HINTS

1. Print onto **smooth paper**. I recommend HP Laser jet 32lbs or something similar. You do NOT need a laser jet printer. Any printer will do. Regular printer paper will damage (fray) your brush pens.
2. These worksheets are intended for use with **large brush pens**, such as the Tombow Dual Brush pen, Kuretake Brushables or Fudebiyori, Marvy Uchida Le Plume II, Sakura Koi Coloring brush and more. You will find which pens and papers I recommend under the “**Products I Use**” tab on my website.
3. Save paper and print on both sides, which is possible with the heavy weight HP Laserjet paper. Trace over the strokes and shapes many times before printing off more sheets. **Let’s try to keep hand lettering environmentally friendly** by recycling our used worksheets.
4. **Try using tracing paper placed on top of the worksheets** instead of writing directly on them. This is a great alternative to printer paper because it’s super smooth and won’t damage or fray your brush tips. I use washi tape or removable painters tape to hold down my tracing paper on top of my worksheets.
5. If you have never tried brush lettering before, please watch my **YouTube videos** to get started: “3 Top Tips For Learning Brush Lettering” is a good one, and you will learn about the pen angle and your grip and other helpful points. Here is a link to my YouTube channel:
www.youtube.com/user/kellycreates
6. Each row begins with strokes that have dotted line arrow guides. **Start at the DOT**. Remember all upstrokes are light pressure and all downstrokes are heavy pressure.
7. Yes, everyone has shaky upstrokes when beginning. That’s normal and totally ok. You will get better. Your hand is used to writing much smaller (or not at all), so the larger size strokes are unfamiliar, and **it will take time to build muscle memory**.
8. Even the ‘pros’ do drills every day and practice. Warming up with drills before practicing letters and words is an excellent lifelong lettering habit. **Use a pencil** to practice and save your brush tips. You can still apply the same pressure and release with the exact technique to help build muscle memory.
9. I recommend following the order that the worksheets are presented. **Learn the 10 basic strokes from easiest to most difficult:** Upstrokes/downstrokes, underturns, overturns, compound curves, ascender loops, descender loops, ovals.

10. Most people find the Oval drills (and reverse ovals) to take the most time to improve. Don't worry...you'll get there. **Avoid comparing your progress to someone else.**
11. Slow down. And then **slow down some more.** It's easy to go fast when tracing, but then you will not be developing muscle memory. Most strokes should take you at least 3-6 seconds from start to finish.
12. This is not handwriting. You are drawing letter forms. Be deliberate and focused. **And BREATHE.** Holding your breath will work against you and you will tighten up your grip and tense your shoulders instead of relaxing and drawing the strokes.
13. The thin upstrokes do not have to be hairlines (super skinny). Instead **focus on being steady and even.** Your goal is to have a contrast of thin and thick strokes, not hairlines.
14. These tracing worksheets will improve your brush lettering skills, but it takes time. Even for myself, I see improvement and style changes every week. . When I was learning, I saw improvement after 4 months of daily practice!
15. First goal: consistent thin and thick lines. Second goal: clean transitions (changing pressure smoothly) **MOST IMPORTANT GOAL: Enjoyment!**

Breathe. Write. Relax.

Brush Lettering ~with Kelly Creates~

copyright Kelly Klapstein

copyright Kelly Klapstein

copyright Kelly Klapstein

Brush Lettering ~with Kelly Creates~

Start at the dot

Brush Lettering ~with Kelly Creates~

Start at the dot

Brush Lettering ~with Kelly Creates~

Start at the dot

copyright Kelly Klapstein

copyright Kelly Klapstein

copyright Kelly Klapstein

copyright Kelly Klapstein

Brush Lettering ~with Kelly Creates~

Start at the dot

The image shows a handwriting practice sheet with six rows of blue-lined guides. Each row contains five large, grey, cursive 'u' characters. The first 'u' in each row has a small black dot at the top left and a small arrow pointing downwards, indicating the starting point and direction of the stroke. The second row has a small black arrow pointing to the right at the end of the row. The fifth row has a small black arrow pointing to the right at the end of the row. The sixth row has a single 'u' character with a small black arrow pointing to the right at the end of the row. The text 'copyright Kelly Klapstein' is written in small blue font at the end of the second and fifth rows.

Brush Lettering ~with Kelly Creates~

Start at the dot

copyright Kelly Klapstein

copyright Kelly Klapstein

copyright Kelly Klapstein

copyright Kelly Klapstein

copyright Kelly Klapstein

Brush Lettering ~ with Kelly Creates ~

Start at the dot

copyright Kelly Klapstein

copyright Kelly Klapstein

copyright Kelly Klapstein

copyright Kelly Klapstein

Brush Lettering ~with Kelly Creates~

Start at the dot

The image displays seven rows of handwriting practice on a four-line grid. Each row contains five 'overturn' strokes. The first row includes a starting dot and arrows indicating the direction of the stroke. The second and fourth rows have a 'copyright Kelly Klapstein' watermark. The seventh row shows a single stroke with a starting dot and an arrow.

Brush Lettering ~with Kelly Creates~

Start at the dot

Brush Lettering ~with Kelly Creates~

Start at the dot

copyright Kelly Klapstein

copyright Kelly Klapstein

copyright Kelly Klapstein

copyright Kelly Klapstein

Brush Lettering ~with Kelly Creates~

Start at the dot

Handwriting practice sheet for brush lettering the letter 'P'. The sheet consists of five rows of horizontal lines. The first row contains six 'P's: the first is dashed with arrows indicating the stroke direction (down, then up and over), and the others are solid. The second, third, fourth, and fifth rows each contain six solid 'P's for tracing. The sixth row contains a single solid 'P' with a dashed outline and arrows. Small 'copyright Kelly Klapstein' text is visible on the right side of the second and fourth rows.

Brush Lettering ~with Kelly Creates~

Start at the dot

Brush Lettering ~with Kelly Creates~

Start at the dot

Handwriting practice sheet for brush lettering ovals. The sheet consists of ten rows of horizontal lines. Each row contains a series of ovals. The first oval in each row is dashed with a small arrow pointing to its top starting point. The second oval in each row is solid. The first row ends with a solid arrow pointing to the right. The final row contains only the first dashed oval with an arrow pointing to the right.

copyright Kelly Klapstein

copyright Kelly Klapstein

copyright Kelly Klapstein

Brush Lettering ~with Kelly Creates~

Start at the dot

copyright Kelly Klapstein

copyright Kelly Klapstein

copyright Kelly Klapstein

Brush Lettering ~with Kelly Creates~

Start at the dot

© copyright Kelly Klapstein

© copyright Kelly Klapstein

© copyright Kelly Klapstein

Brush Lettering ~with Kelly Creates~

Start at the dot