Thank you
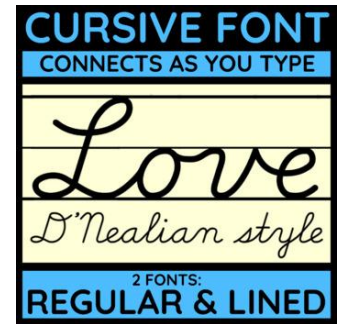
Thank you for downloading and trying out my font on TeachersPayTeachers. I would greatly appreciate it if you like the resource page.

This font is for trial purposes only. If you want to continue using it, please purchase one of the paid resources, such as Regular & lined.

The next pages of this document contain the documentation provided with the paid resources. When reading the documentation, please keep in mind the following differences between the demo version and the paid versions:

	Demo resource	Paid resources
Styles	One style: *Without lines*	Two matching styles: *Without lines* *With lines*
Lowercase	All except *m*	All lowercase letters
Uppercase	Only *C, D* and *S*	All uppercase letters
Numerals	None	All numerals

I would love to receive feedback from you.

I would love to hear how I can improve my resources for use in your classroom. Since I do my own font development, I also welcome feedback about specific letters in the font and how I can improve to make the font match your existing materials better.

Thank you,

Liesbeth Flobbe

email: liesbeth@cursiveworkshop.com
https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Liesbeths-Cursive-Workshop

The School Cursive font family

School Cursive is a font family for handwriting instruction. It is inspired by the style found in handwriting curricula common in the United States since the 1970's, especially the D'Nealian style. School Cursive fonts are fully connected: all lower case letters form appropriate and fluent connections to all other lower case letters.

School Cursive ("Regular")

Almost before we knew it, we had left the ground.

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii
Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr
Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 $ € ¥ £

á â à ä å ã æ ç é ê è ë í î ì ï ı ñ
ó ô ò ö õ ø œ š ß ú û ù ü ý ÿ ž

Available School Cursive fonts

Font name & sample	Resource on TPT
School Cursive Demo *Almost before we knew it...* This free demo is identical to the School Cursive Regular font, but contains only 25 lowercase letters and 3 uppercase letters.	CURSIVE FONT — CONNECTS AS YOU TYPE — *Love* — D'Nealian style — FREE DEMO
School Cursive ("Regular") *Almost before we knew it...* **School Cursive Guides** *Almost before we knew it...*	CURSIVE FONT — CONNECTS AS YOU TYPE — *Love* — D'Nealian style — 2 FONTS: REGULAR & LINED
School Cursive Dotted *Almost before we knew it...* **School Cursive Dotted Guides** *Almost before we knew it...*	CURSIVE FONT — CONNECTS AS YOU TYPE — *Love* — D'Nealian Style — 2 DOTTED FONTS WITH & WITHOUT LINES
School Cursive Arrows *Almost before we knew it...* **School Cursive Arrows Guides** *Almost before we knew it...* **School Cursive Arrows2** *Almost before we knew it...* **School Cursive Arrows2 Guides** *Almost before we knew it...*	CURSIVE FONT — CONNECTS AS YOU TYPE — *Love* — D'Nealian style — 4 ARROW FONTS FEWER / MORE ARROWS WITH / WITHOUT LINES

- The TPT resource "Regular & Lined" was previously described as "FREE VERSION".
- For the differences between Arrows and Arrows2, see the appendix on page 13.
- If you purchased one of these font resources in the last 365 days and then buy the Font Bundle that contains them all, you are entitled a refund for your original font purchase. Use the TPT Contact form with "Refund Request" as topic, and explain that you made a duplicate purchase.

Installing the fonts

To install the fonts, open the InstallableFonts-folder in your resource and double-click on each font file. Then confirm that you want to install the font in the preview window.

Essential: enabling contextual alternates

Most modern applications enable contextual alternates by default. In Microsoft Word, they need to be enabled manually.

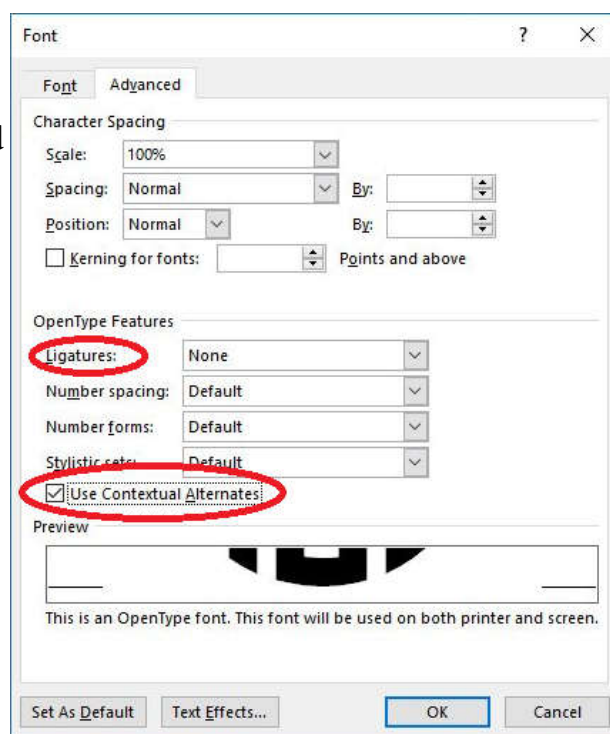If your application doesn't have contextual alternates enabled, text in School Cursive will look like this:

We love cursive!

With contextual alternatives, it will look like this:

We love cursive!

When creating a new document in Microsoft Word in which you will use the School Cursive font, you need to enable contextual alternates. You can do this by choosing Format > Font or by entering Ctrl+D. In the dialog that appears, go to the Advanced tab and check the checkbox before 'Use Contextual Alternatives'.

You should also go to the dropdown behind Ligatures and choose 'Standard ligatures'; this feature will connect the two horizontal bars when you type a double t: *tt*

You can enable these features on a selected piece of text, but also for the entire document. There is absolutely no harm in enabling these features for text in other fonts than School Cursive.

Optional: kerning

Kerning is a font feature that automatically adjusts the white space between letters based on context. The School Cursive font family uses kerning in two situations:
  • Strings of multiple uppercase letters.
  • Uppercase letters that are immediately followed by interpunction.

Kerning can be enabled in Microsoft Word through the font dialog shown above, by placing a checkmark before the text 'Kerning for fonts'; Word will automatically fill in the field behind it with the current font size.

Kerning is not available for fonts with integrades guides, because it would introduce white 'gaps' between the guides. When using these fonts, you will have to manually insert a space character whenever you notice insufficient space after an uppercase character.

Kerning enabled	Kerning disabled (without manual adjustments)
OBrian, ACT!	*OBrian, ACT!*

When an uppercase letter is followed by a lowercase letter (compare *Fun* with *Flee*), all School Cursive fonts use contextual alternates to achieve the necessary white space adjustments, so that a lack of kerning does not cause problems.

Optional: accessing optional features through stylistic sets

The font contains a number of optional features that can be enabled or disabled through stylistic sets. In Microsoft Word, stylistic sets can be configured using the same dialog through which you enable the contextual alternates. To configure stylistic sets, you should make certain that your selection contains only text in School Cursive font and no text in other fonts, otherwise the option may not appear in some applications.

Instructions on how to use stylistic sets for various Apple applications can be found in this article: https://www.macworld.com/article/227757/how-to-access-advanced-opentype-features-in-a-variety-of-mac-apps.html

No tails on letters s and p

By default, the letters s and p at the end of the word will end in a tail (exit-stroke). If you enable stylistic set 1, you will suppress the tails when these two letters occur at the end of a word. Letters in the beginning or middle of a word are unchanged.

Stylistic set 1 disabled	Stylistic set 1 enabled
kiss plop	*kiss plop*

Disconnect the uppercase letter I ( )

By default, the uppercase letter I will connect to lowercase letters. Although standard in common handwriting curricula, it is undesirable according to some educators because it forces the student to start the letter at a part that in other uppercase letters is considered the 'tail'. If you enable stylistic set 2, the letter I will not connect to lowercase letters. If you enable this stylistic set in the Arrows or Arrows2 font, the arrow on the letter I will also change position.

Stylistic set 2 disabled	Stylistic set 2 enabled
Iglo Ink *Iglo Ink*	*Iglo Ink* *Iglo Ink*

Math-friendly settings

The numerals in School Cursive are quite a lot taller than the lowercase letters. This makes it very difficult to design characters that are needed both in text and in mathematics, such as the hypen, which is also needed as a minus sign.

Enabling stylistic set 3 makes a number of changes that make it easier to write nicely aligned mathematical expressions:
- the space character becomes as wide as a numeral, so a single space character can be used to 'skip' a digit and line up numbers
- the plus, minus and equals sign become bigger, and become exactly as wide as a numeral
- the comma and period characters will not take up any width, so that they do not interfere with lining up numbers
- you can use the letter 'x' and the slash character '/' to input the multiplication and the division sign: $\times$ and $\div$. This is optional; you can also input the multiplication and division sign through Insert > Symbol.

Stylistic set 3 disabled	Stylistic set 2 enabled
12.25+6.75= 9.00-3.50= 3x1.25=	12.25+6.75= 9.00−3.50= 3×1.25=

Note that this stylistic set should only be used on mathematical expression and not on text. When used on text, it leads to commas and periods overlapping with letters, as well as unnaturally wide word spacing.

Using fonts with integrated guides

The School Cursive font family includes fonts with integrated guides ('guidelines', 'lines'). This can sometimes cause difficulties with the spaces between words.
- spaces *should* automatically be shown *with guides*, but if for some reason they are not, use the | ('vertical bar') character on your keyboard to create a space with guides
- if you want space between words *without* any guides, use the ~ ('tilde') character on your keyboard to get a space without guides
- do not *justify* text, because this will add extra space between words and this extra space will show up without guides
- when using strings of uppercase letters, you may have to insert spaces, because *kerning* does not work in fonts with integrated guides
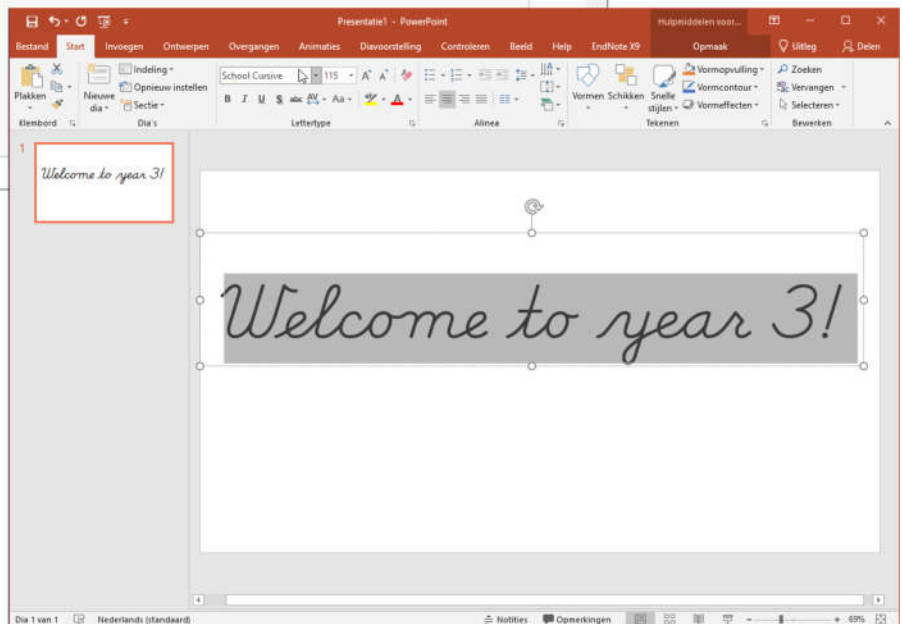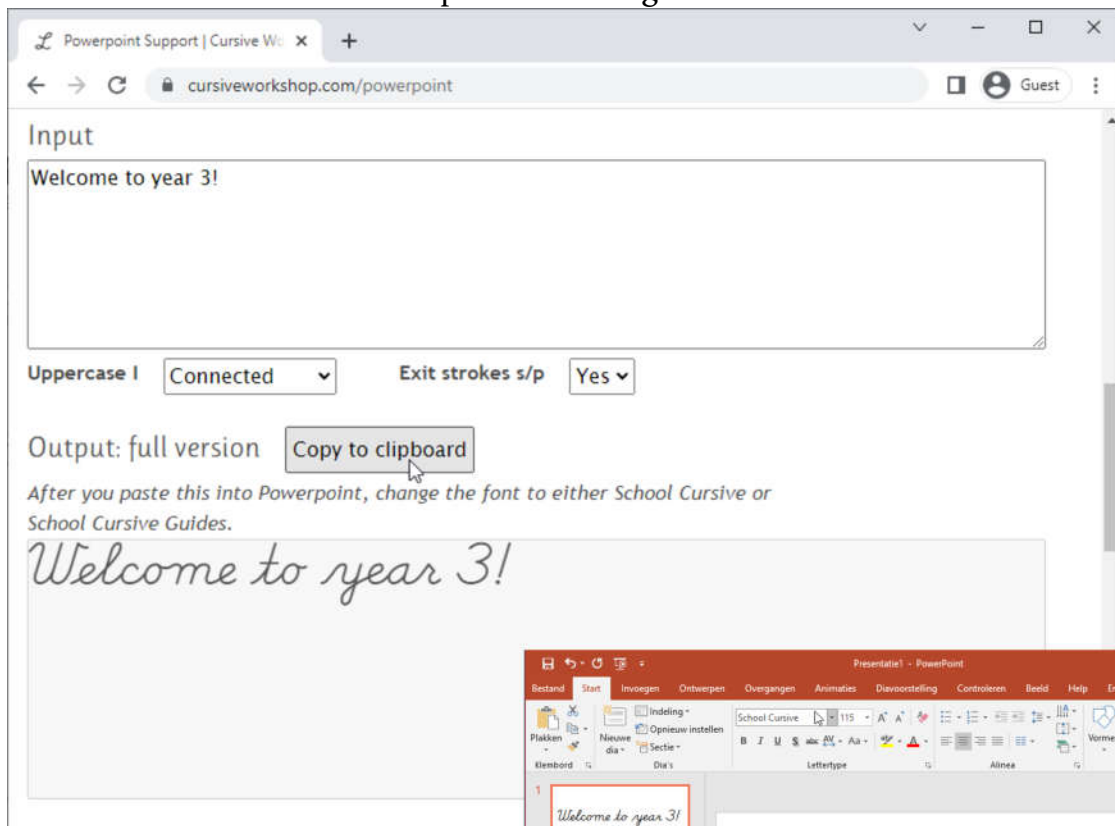
Using applications that do not support OpenType features

Unfortunately, some applications – Powerpoint among them – do not support advanced OpenType features. As a result, it's not possible to type cursive text directly into Powerpoint. However, you can use a webpage to generate text that you can copy & paste into Powerpoint.

If you have only just installed the font on your computer, close and fully restart your web browser before accessing the webpage.

Steps:
- Go to https://cursiveworkshop.com/powerpoint
- Type your text into the Input box.
- Find the Output box for your version (full version or free demo).
- Click the "Copy to clipboard" button.
- Paste the text into Powerpoint using Ctrl-V.
- Select the text in Powerpoint and change the font to a School Cursive font.

Properties of the School Cursive font family

Handwritten
The letters have no properties that can not be produced with a pen. The letters have a constant line thickness and rounded ends, exactly what you get if you write with a round tipped pen.

All lowercase letters are connected
Every lowercase letter can connect to every other lowercase letter. There are no gaps and no discontinuities.

Connections from *b*, *o*, *v* and *w* remain close to the midline
The 20th century limitations on computer fonts have led to a large number of fonts in which the connections from *b*, *o*, *v* and *w* dip very low, so that these letters can attach directly to a standard version of the next letter. This is however inconsistent with actual handwriting, and it runs the rist of children confusing *o* with *a*, or *u* with *v*.

School Cursive: connections from b, o, v and w remain close to midline	Connections from b, o, v and w dip very low.
bowl *beaver*	*owl* *ve*

Connections flow smoothly from one letter to the next, without discontinuities
Even fonts that contain a second variant of each letter (to be used after *b*, *o*, *v* and *w*) often suffer from discontinuities in the connections between letters: instead of a smooth curve, there is an angle in the line. The connections to *e* and *r* are especially susceptible. School Cursive fonts have 14 variants of each letter, to ensure smooth connections between any two letters.

School Cursive: 3 of the 14 variants of *e* that are present in the font, and 3 of the variants of *l*
seven little owls *seven little owls*

Contrast between 'undercurves' and 'overcurves'
The font makes a clear distinction between undercurves and overcurves. The overcurves make a rather large curve against the midline, while the undercurves don't create an angle but raher a 180° reversal against the midline. These contrasting connections are a faithful reproduction of the connections used in the D'Nealian based curriculum.

However, a downside of this style of connections is that if you remove the connections, it turns out that the amount of space between letters is quite uneven. The D'Nealian style is very different from styles common in Europe, in which connections are mostly straight, and curves against the midline are very tight, leading to less contrast between different types of connections and more even spacing between letters.

School Cursive: a clear distinction between undercurves and overcurves leads to uneven distance between letters	**Getty-Dubay:** straight segments and tight curves in the connections lead to narrow and even letter spacing

Traditional cursive uppercase letters
The font uses traditional cursive uppercase letters. It is no longer customary in handwriting education to connect all uppercase letters to lowercase letters, so the font makes no attempt to do so.

School Cursive: connected uppercase	**School Cursive:** not connected uppercase	Old-style connections

Letter variants are chosen automatically for you
In the past, fonts had letter variants that might be hard to access: they might need you to input special symbols, or switch between related fonts, or use a macro in a specific application. Thanks to the OpenType 'contextual alternates' feature, such cumbersome methods are no longer necessary. School Cursive chooses the correct letter variants for you as you type, and updates them as you make changes.

Slant
School Cursive has a slant angle of 17° to the right.
The slant is consistent between letters. The letters with tall loops (*l*, *h*, *b*) have the same slant as the other letters. Every letter *e* slants to the right, even the ones that follow a *b*, *o*, *v* or *w*.

School Cursive: Consistent slant	Inconsistent slant: the *b* leans left	Inconsistent slant: the *e* leans left
Alfalfa eleven		

Length of ascenders and descenders
Ascenders and descenders have the same height as the small letters. That means you can used standard guided paper in which the lines are divided into 'zones' of equal height.

Supports Spanish and French
The font contains all the accented characters and interpunction needed for the Spanish and French language.

«Ne jetez pas d'œufs» a crié le garçon.
¿Qué niño tiró esos huevos?

Font sizing guideline
Use this table to match School Cursive font sizes to traditional lined paper sizes.
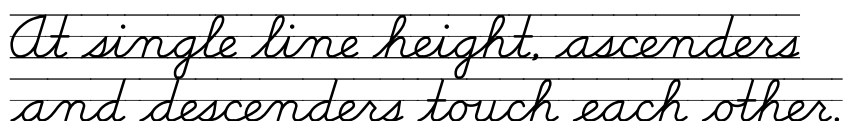
Line height (baseline-top)	School Cursive font size (points)
2/8"	27pt
3/8"	41pt
1/2"	55pt
5/8"	68pt
3/4"	82pt
1"	110pt

For metric countries, use the following conversion table:

Distance baseline-midline	School Cursive font size (points)
2 mm	17pt
3 mm	26pt
4 mm	35pt
5 mm	43pt
6 mm	52pt

Line height

At a line height of 1 ('single'), ascenders and uppercase letters will touch the descenders from the preceeding line. Ascenders and descenders will not overlap.

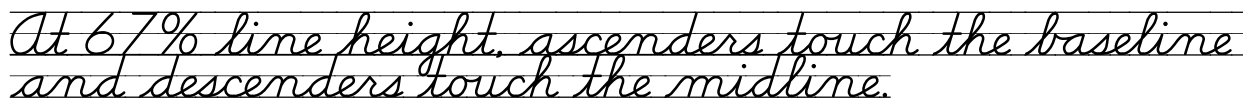*At single line height, ascenders and descenders touch each other.*

Line spacing in Microsoft Word

Because of the potential overlap between descenders and accented uppercase letters, Microsoft Word will not set the line height to single when the option 'Single' is selected. The only way to get single line height is to set the line height to the exact same number of *points* that the font size is also set to. In editing and print preview mode, descenders may be 'cut off' when line height is single or less. However, in 'reading mode' and when actually printing (or producing a PDF through the print dialog), the missing pieces of descenders will be restored.

If you don't let your text 'wrap around' but instead use Enter to go to the next line, Word regards every line as a separate paragraphs. In addition to changing the line height, you should also set the paragraph spacing to 0.

Overlapping descenders and ascenders

In some handwriting curricula, ascenders don't touch the descenders of the previous line, but its *baseline*. This also means that descenders touch the midline of the next line, and therefore, touch the small letters. To achieve this effect, set the line height to .67. If you are using exact point sizing, set the line height to 2/3 of the font size, so if the font size is 24, set the line height to 16.
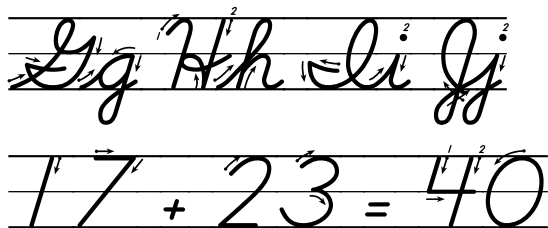
At 67% line height, ascenders touch the baseline and descenders touch the midline.
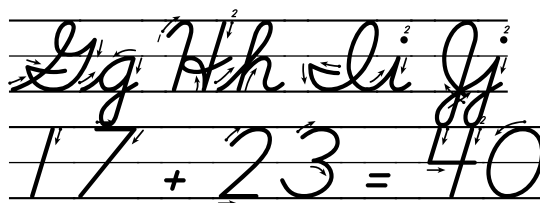
Line height in the Arrows and Arrows2 fonts

The arrows for uppercase letters and numbers can stick out above the top line. These arrows can get covered by descenders from the previous line. Therefore, for the Arrows fonts, I recommend using a line height larger than 1:
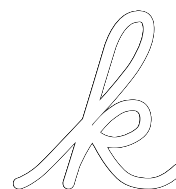
Line height 1.15

Line height 1

Producing outline letters

On my webpage, there is a guide on how to create outline letters:
https://cursiveworkshop.com/article/how-create-letter-outlines-any-font

Producing PDF documents

The built in 'Export to PDF' function in Microsoft Word and LibreOffice does not produce optimal results. It is better to print to a PDF 'service' from within your print dialog. This will produce much better quality PDFs.

Free Demonstration Font

The free demonstration font contains 25 lowercase characters and 3 uppercase characters. It does not contain any numerals. It does contain the same lowercase diacritics as the full font. You can use the free demonstration to evaluate the quality of the font and how it works in your preferred design applications.

Copyright

The School Cursive fonts were developed by Liesbeth Flobbe, and are available from her TeachersPayTeachers store:
https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Liesbeths-Cursive-Workshop

Terms of Use

What you can do

- You can install the fonts on your computer, or on multiple computers that you use.
- You can use the fonts to create documents.
- You can distribute *printed materials* that use these fonts to your students.
- You can distribute *digital materials* that use these fonts to your students, provided that the digital materials use a document format that does not allow editing of the cursive text and that does not allow font extraction. PDF documents and images (PNG, JPEG, GIF) use safe document formats that you can distribute to your students.
- If you have a commercial business focused on teaching or tutoring, you are hereby expressly permitted to distribute materials that use these fonts to the students that you personally teach or tutor.

What you can't do

- You can not distribute the installable font files to other teachers or students.
- You can not distribute *editable digital documents* that use these fonts to other teachers or students. You can not embed the fonts in a Word document and distribute this Word document.
- You can not sell or give away materials that use these fonts to students that you do not personally teach or tutor.
- You can not sell or give away materials that use these fonts on TeachersPayTeachers.
- You can not create a derivative font. You can not add missing letters to the Demo font.
- You can not claim the fonts as your own.

Appendix: Comparison between the Arrows and Arrows2 fonts

Both fonts use arrows to indicate the start of letters, the connections between letters, and for extra strokes that are placed after lifting the pencil. The Arrows2-font uses additional arrows to show changes of direction (reversals and sharp angles). In the Arrows2-font, some arrows have a small circle added to them, indicating that the pen is placed down there after a pencil lift.

- **Arrows at the start of a word or single letter:** Both fonts show arrows at the start of a single letter or word. The Arrows2-font adds a small circle at the start of these arrows.

School Cursive Arrow   School Cursive Arrows2

- **Numbered arrows for extra strokes after lifting the pencil:**

School Cursive Arrow   School Cursive Arrows2

- **Arrows for connections between two letters:**

School Cursive Arrow   School Cursive Arrows2

- **Arrows to indicate a change of direction:** *only in the Arrows2 font*

School Cursive Arrow   School Cursive Arrows2

Note: to highlight specific arrows, an imaging editing program was used. When using the font, text and arrows will all have the same color.

School Cursive Arrows: all characters with arrows

Almost before we knew it,

we had left the ground.

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii

Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr

Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 ? !

School Cursive Arrows2: all characters with arrows

Almost before we knew it,

we had left the ground.

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii

Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr

Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 ? !

Other common interpunction characters are present but do not have arrows.