



Grade 1

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Introduction

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We are sometimes asked why we make these lessons available for free. The answer is simple: we believe that you and your students will find these powerful lessons to be both useful and enjoyable. These lessons are a small part of a larger, complete classroom program. We are confident that you and your students will enjoy using these lessons and that they will prove to be useful teaching tools.

If you do find them to be useful tools, we hope you will consider purchasing the complete program which is reasonably priced and available from TREEHOUSEPRESS.COM.

About These Lessons

The purpose of these lessons is twofold. The first purpose is to help students learn the proper formation of printed letters. The second part deals with beginning writing skills.

Some educators may not feel the need to teach printing because students today use computers and other media to express themselves. Here are some good reasons why it is imperative to teach young children how to make proper letter formations.

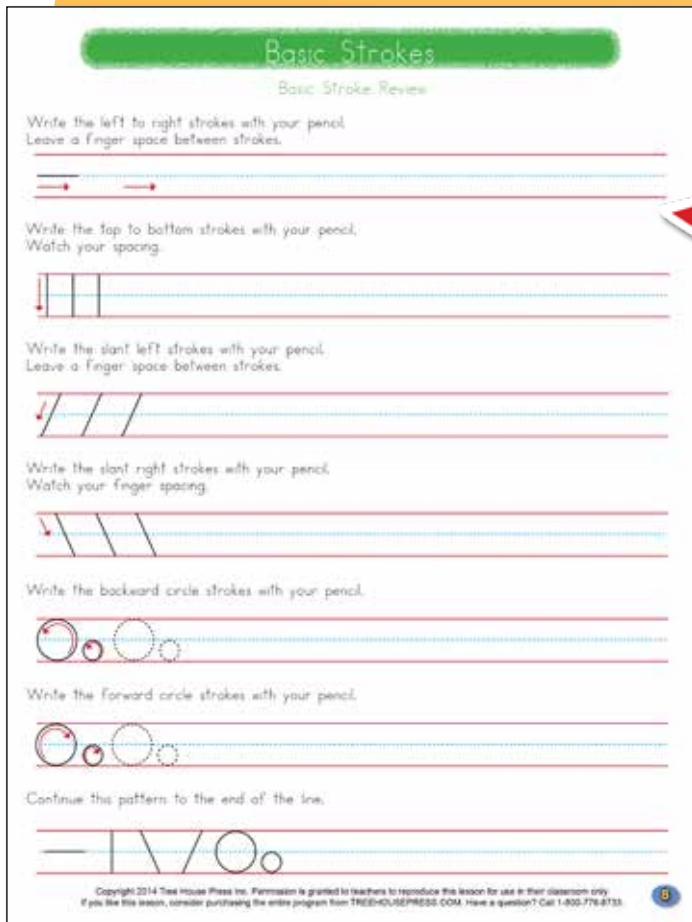
Good printing skills help:

- develop hand-eye coordination
- organize visual-spatial skills
- make transcribing easier and faster when printing is involved
- foster pride and confidence when presenting written work
- ensure that written communication is clear and easy to read

The second part of this book helps young children to begin to understand the fundamentals of written language skills. This is accomplished in a variety of ways.

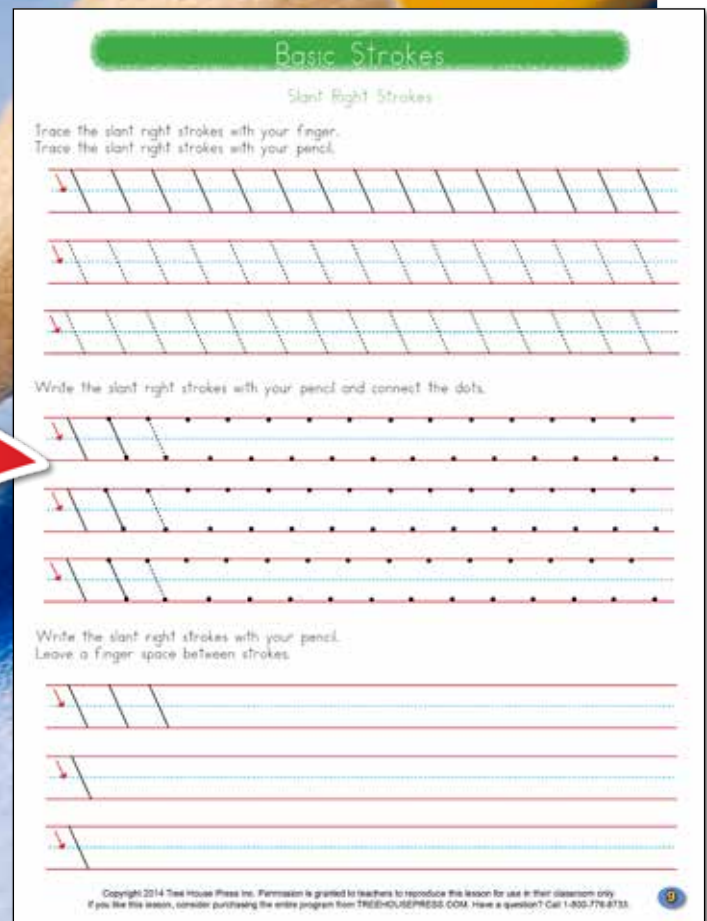
- The vocabulary is organized by themes (At the Farm, At the Pet Store) and uses familiar words. The theme approach is also useful in teaching unfamiliar words to special needs students or those new to the English language.
- Students learn to write simple sentences using pattern sentences.
- The basic conventions are taught such as using a capital letter at the beginning of a sentence and a period at the end.
- By using a repetitive patterned approach, many children will remember the correct spelling of some words and will therefore be able to write more independently.
- With these basic writing skills mastered, students can then begin to use written language skills to express their creative ideas.

Features of This Lesson



The initial lessons introduce students to the basic strokes required for good printing. These six fundamental strokes should be practiced thoroughly. Correct letter formation will be learned much more quickly if this has been done. Students need to learn to follow the arrows.

Students practice each of the six basic strokes required for proper letter formation. They simply follow the arrows.



Features of This Lesson

Basic Strokes

Backward Circle Stroke

Trace the backward circle strokes with your finger.
Trace the backward circle strokes with your pencil.

Write the backward circle strokes with your pencil.

Write the backward circle strokes with your pencil.
Leave a finger space between strokes.

Continue this pattern to the end of the line.

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In this case, students will practice the backward circle stroke.

For each letter of the alphabet students first trace, and then print. Again, they are encouraged to follow the arrows.

E is for eagle.

Trace the letter with your finger. Trace the letter with your pencil.

Print the letter. Leave a finger space between letters.


Trace the letter with your finger. Trace the letter with your pencil.

Print the letter. Leave a finger space between letters.

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Features of This Lesson



F is for frog.

Trace the letter with your finger. Trace the letter with your pencil.

Print the letter. Leave a finger space between letters.

Trace the letter with your finger. Trace the letter with your pencil.

Print the letter. Leave a finger space between letters.





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Some students will require more practice to become proficient printers. Use whatever printing resources you have available to provide students with the practice they need.





Once students have learned correct letter formation, they are ready to print theme words with the support of picture prompts.

At the Pet Store

Directions: Look at the picture for each word. Trace the letters with your pointing finger. Trace the letters with your pencil. Print the word on the lines.

	cat	cat	
	bird		
	dog		
	fish		

Directions: Name the pets in the picture. Print the word for each pet on the lines below.

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Features of This Lesson

Feed Your Pets

Directions: Name the pets in the pictures. Write the word for each pet on the lines below. Read each sentence.



Feed a cat.



Feed a



Feed a



Feed a



Feed a



Feed a



Pet a cat.



Pet a



Pet a

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Next, the theme words are used to complete pattern sentences. Picture prompts are still used.

The theme words the students have learned to print are now used to write simple stories. A word bank and picture prompts support this process.



At the Pet Store

Directions: Look at the pictures in the box. Read the words in the box. Use the words in the box to write a story.

	bird		fish		lizard
	cat		dog		rabbit
feed	at	the	pet	store	

Write your story. Begin each sentence with a capital letter. End each with a period.

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Features of This Lesson

At the Zoo

Directions: Look at the picture. What is happening in the picture?



Tell what is happening in the picture. Use the ideas in the picture.
Use the words below.

More Story Words	zoo	feed	look	bus
	trip	animals	lunch	teacher

Handwriting practice lines for the 'At the Zoo' lesson.

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Now students advance using theme words, in this case, zoo words, and various prompts to write longer stories.

Monkey Business

Directions: Look at the picture. What is happening in the picture?



Finish the story below.

Our class went to the zoo. The door to the monkey house was open.
All the monkeys escaped.

Handwriting practice lines for the 'Monkey Business' lesson.

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Now students write on their own using theme words they have learned how to print, a topic, and a picture prompt.

Basic Strokes

Basic Stroke Review

Write the left to right strokes with your pencil.
Leave a finger space between strokes.



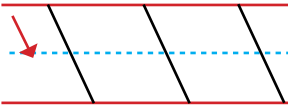
Write the top to bottom strokes with your pencil.
Watch your spacing.



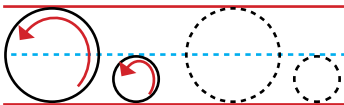
Write the slant left strokes with your pencil.
Leave a finger space between strokes.



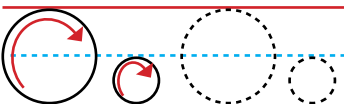
Write the slant right strokes with your pencil.
Watch your finger spacing.



Write the backward circle strokes with your pencil.



Write the forward circle strokes with your pencil.



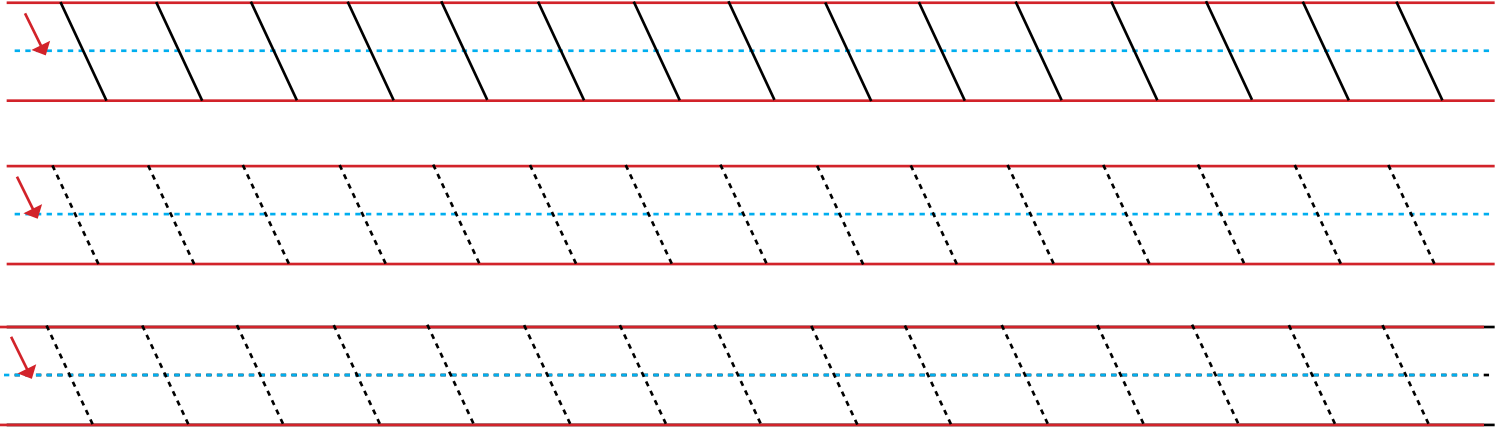
Continue this pattern to the end of the line.



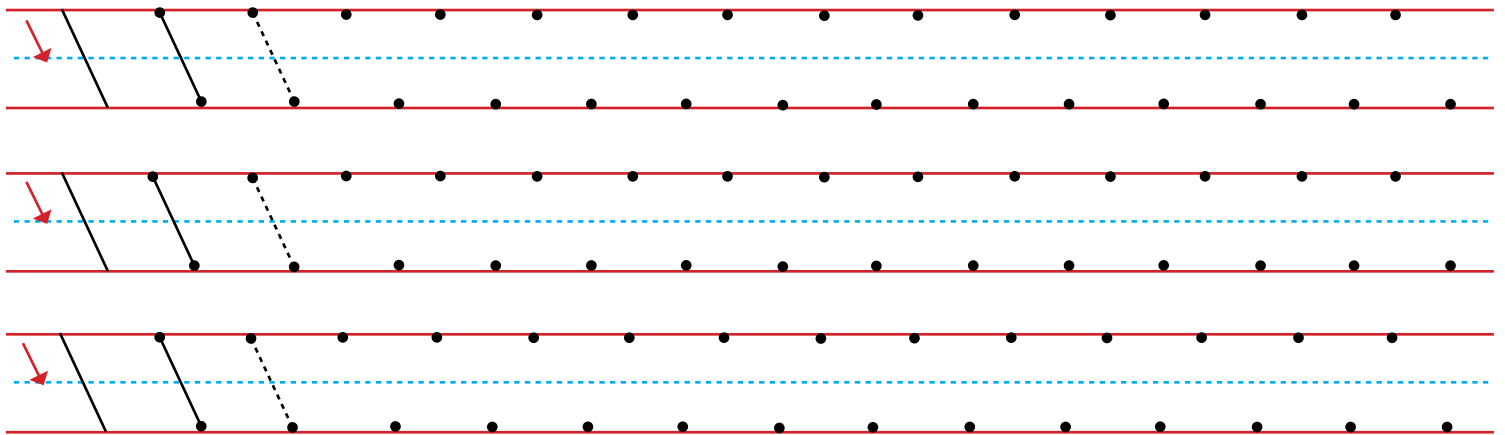
Basic Strokes

Slant Right Strokes

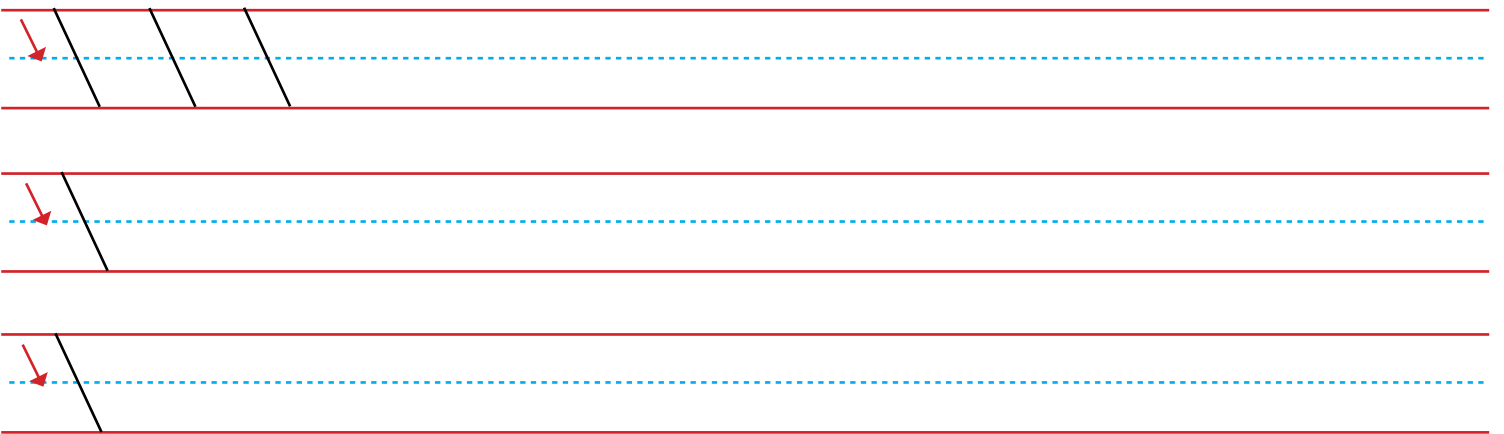
Trace the slant right strokes with your finger.
Trace the slant right strokes with your pencil.



Write the slant right strokes with your pencil and connect the dots.



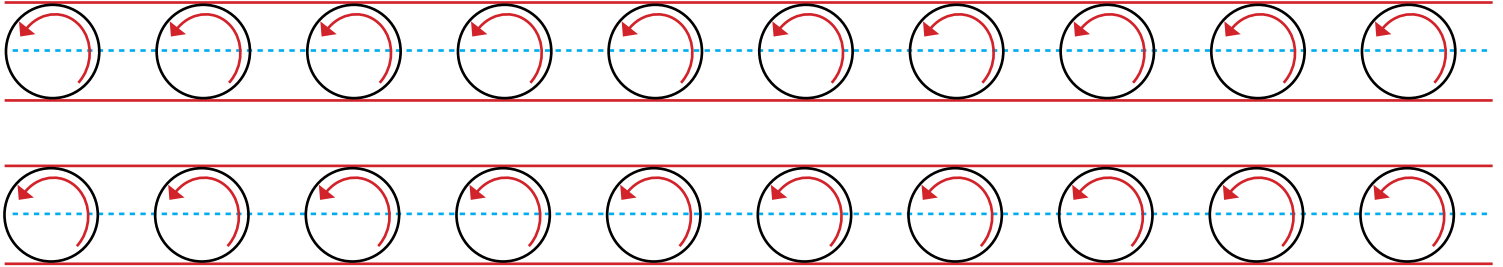
Write the slant right strokes with your pencil.
Leave a finger space between strokes.



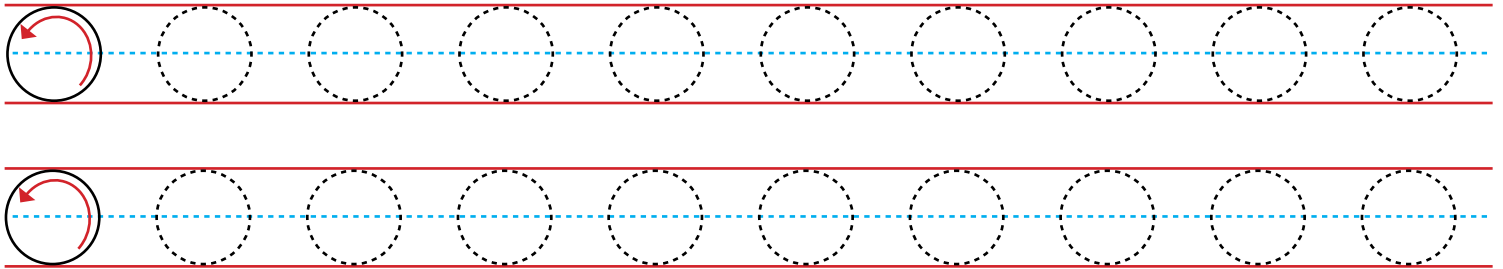
Basic Strokes

Backward Circle Stroke

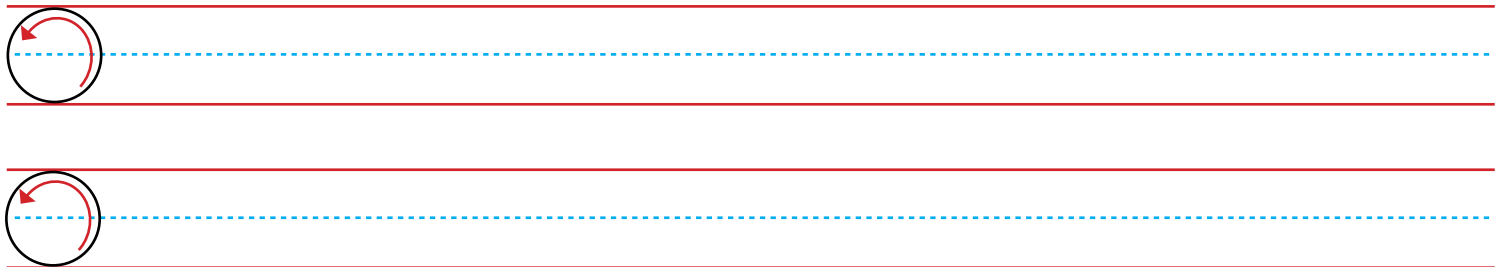
Trace the backward circle strokes with your finger.
Trace the backward circle strokes with your pencil.



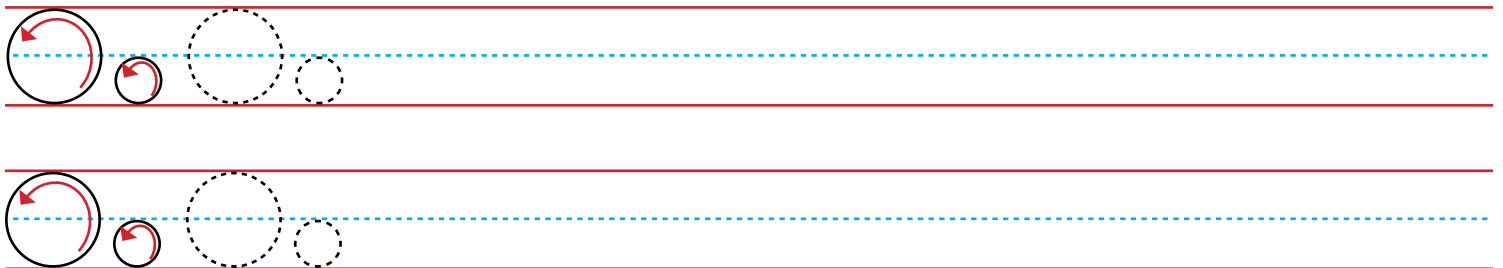
Write the backward circle strokes with your pencil.

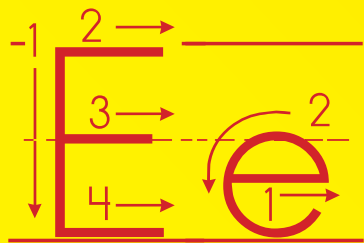


Write the backward circle strokes with your pencil.
Leave a finger space between strokes.



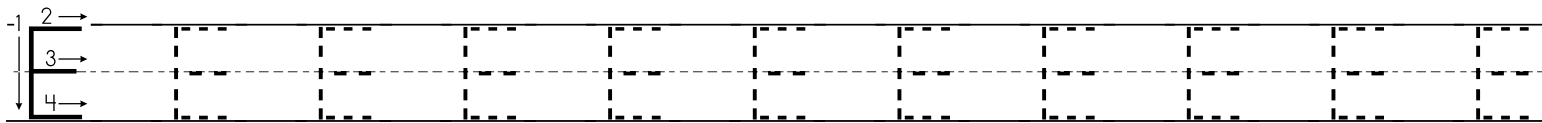
Continue this pattern to the end of the line.





E is for eagle.

Trace the letter with your finger. Trace the letter with your pencil.



Print the letter. Leave a finger space between letters.

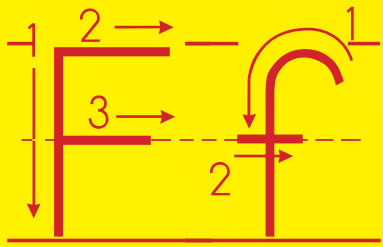


Trace the letter with your finger. Trace the letter with your pencil.



Print the letter. Leave a finger space between letters.

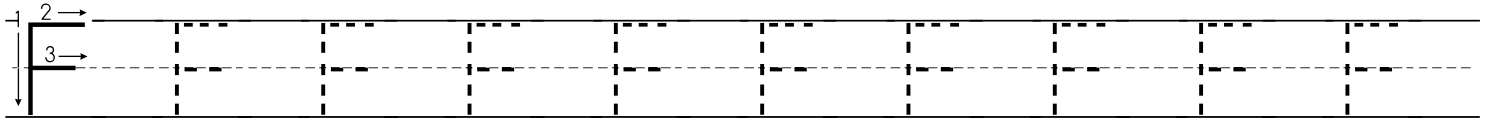




F is for frog.



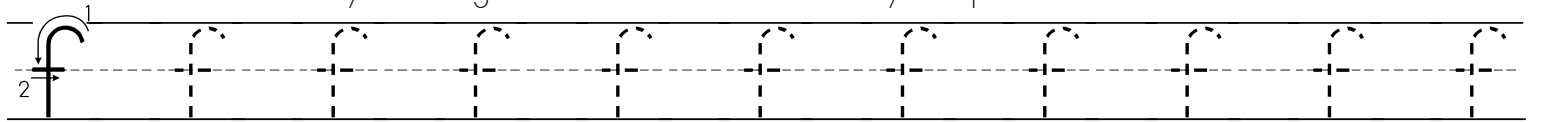
Trace the letter with your finger. Trace the letter with your pencil.



Print the letter. Leave a finger space between letters.



Trace the letter with your finger. Trace the letter with your pencil.



Print the letter. Leave a finger space between letters.



At the Pet Store

Directions: Look at the picture for each word. Trace the letters with your pointing finger. Trace the letters with your pencil. Print the word on the lines.



cat

cat



bird



dog



fish

Directions: Name the pets in the picture. Print the word for each pet on the lines below.



Feed Your Pets

Directions: Name the pets in the pictures. Write the word for each pet on the lines below. Read each sentence.



Feed a cat.



Feed a



Feed a



Feed a



Feed a



Feed a



Pet a cat.









Pet a



Pet a

At the Pet Store

Directions: Look at the pictures in the box. Read the words in the box. Use the words in the box to write a story.

	bird		fish		lizard
	cat		dog		rabbit
feed	at	the	pet	store	

Write your story. Begin each sentence with a capital letter. End each with a period.

This image shows a full page of handwriting practice paper. It features four identical sets of horizontal guidelines arranged vertically. Each set is composed of three lines: a solid red line at the top, a dashed light blue line in the middle, and another solid red line at the bottom. The sets are separated by white space, providing ample room for practicing letter formation and alignment. There is no text or other markings on the page.

At the Zoo

Directions: Look at the picture. What is happening in the picture?



Tell what is happening in the picture. Use the ideas in the picture.
Use the words below.

More Story Words	zoo	feed	look	bus
	trip	animals	lunch	teacher

Monkey Business

Directions: Look at the picture. What is happening in the picture?



Finish the story below.

Our class went to the zoo. The door to the monkey house was open.
All the monkeys escaped.

Thank You for Using These Lessons with Your Class

Thank you for using these lessons with your class. Hopefully you found them very useful. With these lessons, your students should have learned that printing is a process. They will have learned how to print many theme words. They will also have experienced a wide-variety of strategies and practical writing tools that guided them through the steps to beginning writing. Most importantly, they will have created several pieces of writing that they and their family can be proud of.

Consider Ordering the Complete *Personal StudentBOOK*

If you found these lessons helpful, imagine using an extensive collection of printing and writing lessons across the school year. These free lessons are part of an extensive collection found in our Tree House Press *Personal StudentBOOK* titled Writing A (see below for the link). We encourage you to share this information with your principle and colleagues. This highly effective book contains many of the benefits and features you experienced using these free classroom lessons.

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For more information or to order this complete program, visit:

TREEHOUSEPRESS.COM/products/writing-a

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