

Syl-la-dot *Cursive Program*

2

3

FREE

Instruction Manual



Carla Cox

Author

M.A. Reading

M.A. Special Education / Learning Disabilities

Reading Specialist

Teacher (35 years)

Owner of LTR Reading Clinic (42 years)



Day



Instructions



Answers

Tracing Cursive

1. Today we are going to continue making the transition from print / manuscript to cursive writing.
2. For this lesson, we will start by reading the manuscript passage found on these 2 pages together.
3. Do you remember what to do when you see a **green starting dot** or a **red stopping dot**?
Green starting dots help you know where to begin tracing a letter.
Red stopping dots are used for letters a, c, d, g, o, and q. The dots tell you to stop, backup, and retrace parts of the letter.
4. Uppercase and lowercase letters are treated differently when writing in cursive.
5. Uppercase cursive letters should be fully completed before moving on to the next letter in the word.
6. Ask yourself: Does this word contain the lowercase letters i, j, t, or x?
7. If yes, these lowercase letters should remain unfinished until after you complete writing the entire word.
Do not dot the letters i and j.
Do not cross the letters t and x.
8. Once the word is written, now is the time to go back and add dots and crosses to these unfinished letters.
9. Be sure to keep an eye out for **red stopping dots** while you trace.
10. Since not all uppercase letters connect with lowercase letters, some words may contain more than one **green starting dot**.
11. Let's begin tracing the passage in cursive. You will need to begin each word at the first **green starting dot**.
12. It is important to say each word out loud as you trace it.



Cursive To Print

1. For this activity, you will demonstrate your ability to read cursive and convert it to print / manuscript.
2. The passage presented on these 2 pages is written in cursive.
3. Let's read the passage together.
4. Next, you will now reread the passage out loud, while writing the words in print / manuscript on the lines provided.
5. It is important to check your work to ensure all capitalization and punctuation marks have been included.



Print To Cursive

1. Do you think you can write complete sentences in cursive?
2. The information presented on these 2 pages is written in normal print / manuscript.
3. Let's read the passage together.
4. Next, you will now reread the passage out loud, while writing the words in cursive on the lines provided.
5. Uppercase and lowercase letters are treated differently when writing in cursive.
6. Uppercase cursive letters should be fully completed before moving on to the next letter in a word.
7. When writing lowercase letters in cursive, you should not lift your pencil off of the paper, until you finish the word you are writing.
8. Ask yourself: Does this word contain the lowercase letters i, j, t or x?
9. If yes, these lowercase letters should remain unfinished until after you complete writing the entire word.

Do not dot the letters i and j.

Do not cross the letters t and x.
10. Once the word is written, now is the time to go back and add dots and crosses to these unfinished letters.
11. The entire alphabet is displayed for you at the top of the page, in case you need a reminder as to how a particular letter is formed.
12. It is important to check your work to ensure all capitalization and punctuation marks have been included.



68

A tornado is nature's most violent storm. It is a rotating column of air that touches the ground, causing death and destruction. Oklahoma is known as the tornado capital of the world.

70

Last year, I experienced my first flight. Before takeoff, the pilot showed me the cockpit where he and the copilot operated the controls. The flight attendant explained how to locate my seat.

72

It is important to stay hydrated. Your body needs between eleven to fifteen cups of fluids per day. Water is your best choice. Other options include sports drinks, milk, fruits, and vegetables.

74

Being the President of the United States is most difficult. The position sometimes requires twenty hours of work a day. The President must make decisions that will help the country.

76

Recycling saves natural resources such as water, timber, and minerals. Converting bottles, cans, paper, and cardboard allows us to make new furniture, planters, bike tires, backpacks, bags, and paper notebooks.



78

Law enforcement canine units use service dogs, such as German Shepherds, to perform the responsibilities of a general police officer. Police handlers train and care for their canine partners.

80

Mr. Crowley is our swimming coach at the fitness center. We practice on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The three swimming styles that I like best include the breaststroke, freestyle, and the backstroke.

82

Keeping indoor plants healthy requires some effort. In addition to water, sunlight, and soil, your plants may also require fertilizer. You should always avoid placing plants near heat vents or cold drafts.

84

Ranch horses are used mainly for cattle driving and for moving around the farm to check on animals, pastures, fences, and water troughs. Most working ranches use foundation-bred Quarter Horses.

86

A small bird landed on our front lawn looking for dinner. It poked around the yard before it found something. It pulled with all of its might and ended up catching a juicy worm.



88

The Erie Canal was the first navigable waterway connecting the Atlantic Ocean to the Great Lakes. Completed in 1825, ships could now transport people and goods without crossing the Appalachian Mountains.

90

Yesterday, I spotted a tarantula near the edge of the road. It was at least five inches long with eight hairy legs. The huge spider was quite docile and did not move.

92

Robin Hood was a legendary outlaw who lived in the Sherwood Forest of Nottinghamshire, England. With his "merry men", he robbed money from the rich and gave it to the poor.

94

Weston plans to enroll his puppy, Harley, in a dog obedience class. He wants Harley to learn basic commands such as sit, down, come, stay, leave it, heel, fetch, and roll over.

96

There is a bakery downtown that offers the most delicious baked goods that I have ever tasted. They sell fresh bagels, cookies, cakes, cheesecakes, pies, muffins, doughnuts, and warm cinnamon rolls.



98

Nocturnal animals are active at night and sleep during the day. Some examples include bats, skunks, owls, and armadillos. These creatures have highly developed senses of hearing, smell, and adapted eyesight.

100

Getting enough sleep each day is essential for optimum health and brain memory functions. Younger children need about nine to eleven hours of sleep, while adults only require seven to nine hours.

102

A volcano is an opening in the earth's crust through which lava, volcanic ash, and gases escape. The largest active volcano in the world is Mauna Loa, located in Hawaii.

104

When you look across an ocean's surface, you see miles and miles of waves. These wind-driven or surface waves are produced by friction that develops between the wind and the ocean's water.

106

Carlos and Maria like to walk to the track behind the school and run laps. They are always preparing for upcoming track meets. Carlos runs long distances; Maria prefers sprinting.



108

Where Clark lives, there are no buses available to take him to and from school. So, he rides his pony to the closest neighbor's farm. Then he walks the last mile.

110

Someday I would like to work as a flight attendant. You get free flights and travel opportunities. There are also flight benefits for your family and friends. Flexible scheduling is also a plus.

112

Many female turtles travel to find ideal places to lay their eggs, sometimes even crossing busy roads. Please keep a lookout for these slow-moving animals while you're driving.

114

The Forest Service has been managing wildland fires in national forests and grasslands for more than one hundred years. However, wildland fires are a force of nature and are difficult to prevent.

116

Solar energy is generated by the sun. Homeowners can install solar panels on their rooftops to harness the sun's energy. Special batteries can even be purchased to store energy for evening hours.



118

Victor earns a weekly allowance for cleaning his room, vacuuming the carpet, taking out the garbage, mowing the yard, raking the leaves in the fall, and shoveling snow in the winter.

120

Pet resorts have become quite popular. They offer a variety of services such as overnight boarding, daycare services, bathing, grooming, and turnout. Your pet may be able to socialize with others.

122

I have an appointment with the dental hygienist to get my teeth cleaned tomorrow. This process involves removing tartar, stains, and plaque from my teeth. A fluoride treatment is then applied.

124

Justine is excited about taking dance lessons. She is starting with a combination class that introduces ballet, tap, and jazz. Later, she would also like to learn basic tumbling and acrobatic skills.

126

Most hurricanes in the Atlantic Ocean occur between the months of June and November. Each hurricane is given a name by the World Meteorological Organization. Names are rotated every six years.



128

If you have ever used a computer, you will understand the importance of good keyboarding skills. There are courses designed to teach you how to type with both speed and accuracy.

130

The town has designated next weekend as an official Garage Sale Weekend. Our neighborhood is already collecting games, toys, clothing, storage containers, tools, and even ladders. We are expecting a big crowd.

132

A small kitten became trapped in the tree. We all tried to help, but no one could even reach the lowest branch. The fire department had to come and rescue the distressed creature.



134

The most common kind of avalanche is called a snowslide. It consists of a mass of snow, rock, ice, soil, and other materials that slide swiftly down a mountainside. Skiers beware!

136

Learning how to speak a second language now, can help improve your career choices in the future. Also, if you're interested in traveling abroad, being able to speak different languages is beneficial.

138

When shopping for a new computer, you need to decide whether to purchase a desktop or a laptop. A desktop is larger and more stationary; a laptop is small and transportable.



140

There was a serious automobile accident on the highway and traffic began to back up. Police and other emergency vehicles arrived at the scene to provide help and medical assistance.

142

The Robinson Family decided to move away from the busy city and find a more rural setting. They thought about locating closer to the mountains, maybe an hour or so away.

144

Leaves on the trees begin to turn yellow, orange, red, and brown. The amount of daylight grows shorter, and temperatures become cooler. Wild animals prepare for the months ahead. Welcome to autumn.



146

Two cousins planned an overnight trip. Brian packed the sleeping bags and flashlights. Samuel brought food to cook for breakfast, including cooking utensils. Unfortunately, they forgot to pack bug spray.

148

Trisha has a secret box that she stores under her bed. Anytime she wants to save a unique item, she simply places it in the box with her other precious treasures.

150

Our mystery book club meets once a month. The goal for each member is to read one mystery book and then share it with the group. We mostly read fictional stories.



152

Rodney and his family visited a local farm. They got to milk a cow, feed the chickens, and ride the ponies. Everyone enjoyed the hayride tour, complete with milk and cookies.

154

Washing windows is not an easy task, especially if you have high windows that are difficult to reach. I have found that squeegees, step stools, and ladders certainly come in handy.

156

Jumping into a river for a quick swim can be refreshing; however, is it safe? Stay out of the water if it looks cloudier than usual, is discolored, or smells bad.



158

One evening, a skunk was found wandering around a parking lot with a plastic cone stuck on its head. A police officer saw the situation and successfully removed the cone.

160

Angela wants to open an ice cream shop on Main Street. Since she needs to appeal to a wide range of ages, her menu items will include both coffee and pastries.

162

More than two hundred people attended the Riley Family Reunion held at Lake Orion Metro Park. The main highlight of the day was the competitive race that offered prizes.



164

If your mailbox is attached to your house, your mail carrier has a walking route. The mail carrier only uses the truck as a movable relay station, known as "Park and Loop".

166

Nimbostratus is a low-level cloud that makes rain and snow. The cumulonimbus or thundercloud produces lightning and other severe conditions such as tornadoes, damaging winds, and hailstones.

168

Hot air balloons work by using a burner to make the air inside the balloon lighter than the air outside. As hot air fills the balloon, it rises upward into the sky.



170

My sister is learning how to tell time. She is able to read a digital clock, but has difficulty understanding the hour and minute hands on an analog clock.

172

Clay activities can help to promote hands-on opportunities for youngsters learning about letters, numbers, and colors. Clay also helps to improve finger strength for those getting ready to write.

174

Red, yellow, and blue are considered primary colors. The three secondary colors include orange, green, and violet. You can form six additional colors by mixing a primary with a secondary color.



176

Participating in team sports has many benefits. Besides getting regular exercise, players learn how to work as a team. They build friendships and develop both critical thinking and leadership skills.

178

Last year, we experienced a severe windstorm that uprooted a large tree on our road. Unfortunately, the tree landed on electrical wires that took out our power for five days.

180

Eye doctors recommend that children receive annual eye exams to monitor their vision health. As children mature, there may be changes that require glasses, eye exercises, medications, or even surgery.



182

Learning multiplication and division facts can be tricky. Some students try to memorize facts using flashcards without much success. Most would benefit by using a multisensory approach.

184

Eliza and Mathew have made a list of school supplies they need to purchase. Pencils, pens, notebook paper, folders, pencil sharpener, crayons, markers, scissors, and glue are their priority items.

186

Zeke was sleeping when suddenly he heard a smoke alarm. Flames were already at one end of the house. He quickly warned family members and then called the fire department.



188

Cheerleading helps children develop a sense of body awareness as well as motor coordination skills. Due to body development, children should not perform stunts until they reach age eight.

190

Do you like to chew gum? According to the American Dental Association, chewing sugarless gum increases saliva and reduces plaque. It also strengthens teeth and reduces tooth decay.

192

Queen bees are a vital part of a beehive, because they are the only females that can lay eggs. Without a queen bee, a colony's population would eventually die out.



194

Xylophones are percussion instruments that play melodies. They have tuned bars that are arranged like a piano keyboard. Each bar produces a single note when struck by a rubber mallet.

196

Zebras are black and white striped mammals belonging to the horse family. As a herd animal, zebras graze together on grasslands, savannas, woodlands, and shrublands across eastern and southern Africa.

198

Quicksand, also known as sinking sand, is a mixture of fine sand, clay, and water. When water is unable to escape, the soil becomes saturated, loses strength, and cannot support weight.



200

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

201

Farmer Jack realized that big yellow quilts were expensive.

