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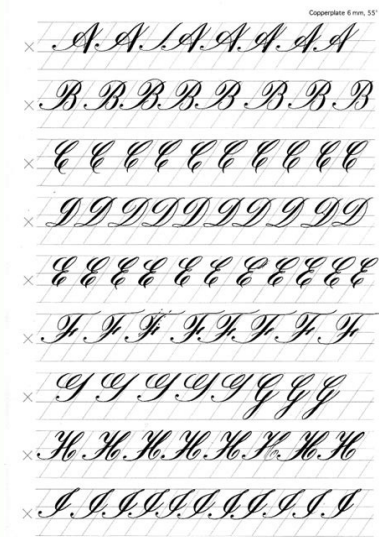
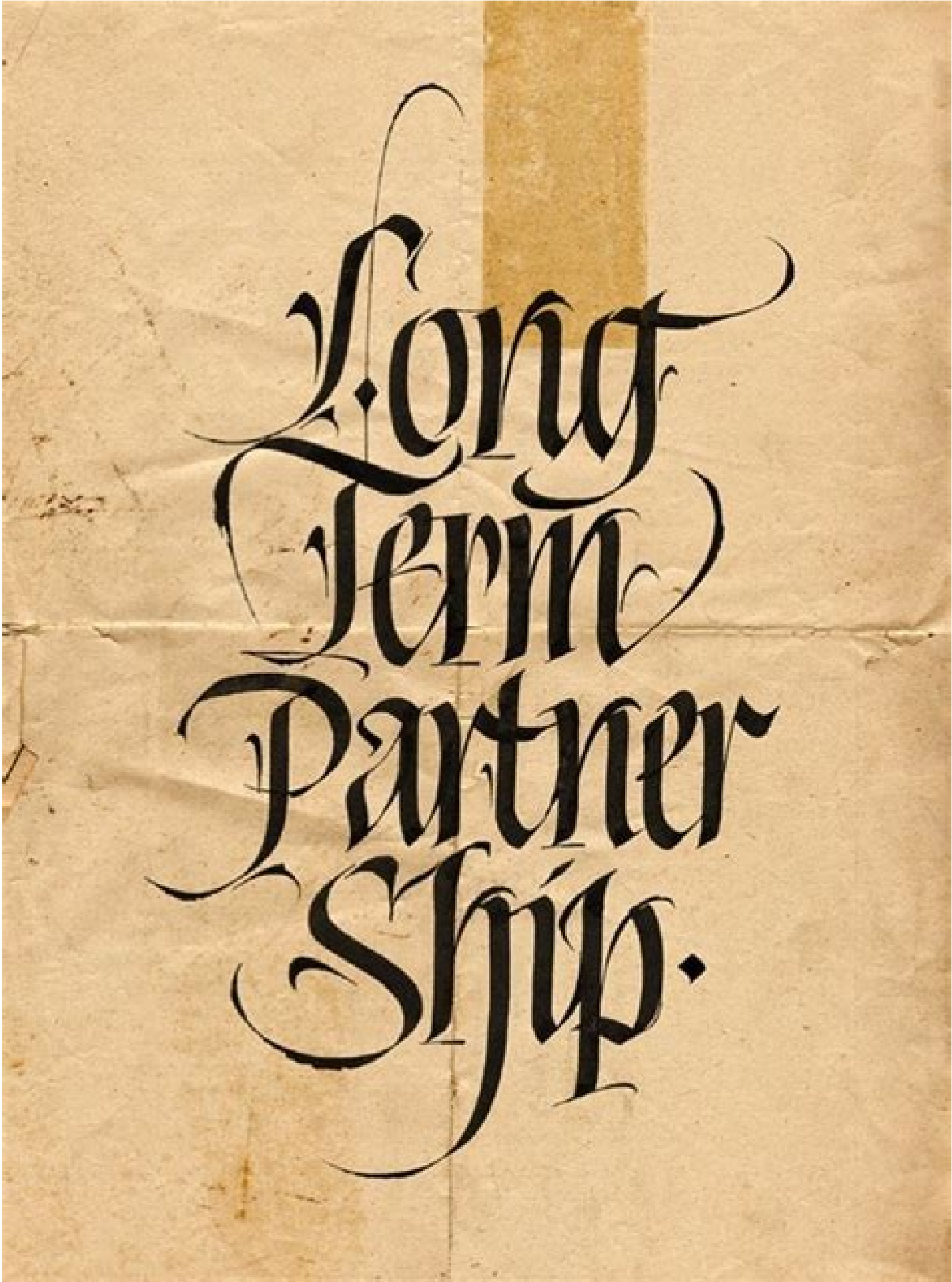

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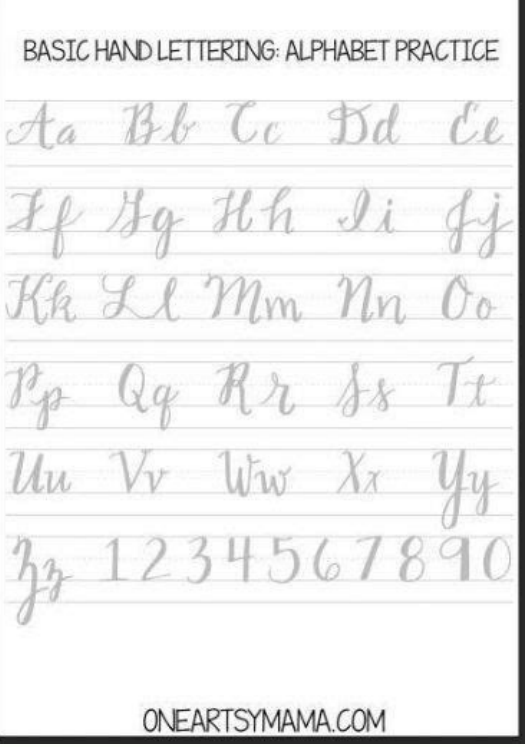
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How to Learn Calligraphy Minuscules & Numerals





There is always room for improvement and by analyzing your work you can pinpoint your weaknesses and improve them in your next practice session. This is of course, a very brief overview, and I will make sure to write a separate post for it. FREE Downloadable Faux Calligraphy Worksheets I created free printable worksheets so you can practice faux calligraphy by yourself. They include - Faux calligraphy capitals Faux calligraphy minuscules (lowercase) An empty sheet with guidelines for word practice Drop your email below, follow the instructions, and you will receive instant access to all of the worksheets inside the Lettering Crate. FINAL WORDS There you have it folks! Faux calligraphy for beginners I hope that this tutorial managed to shed some light on the subject. On top of that, faux calligraphy is a great way for beginners to learn about the basic letter structure and the way they interact with each other. That will make more sense once we get to the actual step by step tutorial part. You should also take note of details such as whether or not the pen has a cap and what type of tip it has. Here you can see an example of the basic strokes, and how to combine them in order to achieve different letterforms. 2. Getting into the zone. On some letters you may want to leave a slight gap (like the letter p in the example below) - but this isn't a must. Check out the example below - By always adding the thick part on the inside of the letters, we ensure consistent spacing between the letters. It puts you in a high-focused state of mind and you give it your best shot. Ballpoint, rollerball and fountain are the most common types. There are 8 basic strokes that you can use to combine and form nearly every letter of the lowercase (minuscule) alphabet. Where to add the thick downstrokes - leaving enough space One particular thing I see beginners struggling with faux calligraphy is - adding the downstrokes. You have to be mindful about which side you add your downstrokes, otherwise you end up with inconsistent spacing. What I do and recommend is - always add the thickness to the inside part of your letters. I recommend it because I believe it helps - especially if you are just getting started. As we already said several times in our previous articles, calligraphy is the art of beautiful writing, and depending on the script (style) it requires specific tools. Faux calligraphy is simply a fun and easy way of imitating the look of these specific tools. I've already covered this concept more in-depth in my modern calligraphy guide, and I definitely recommend you check it out. By using these basic strokes, we can achieve a much cleaner and more consistent look in our calligraphy. The less distractions you have the better. Pick a word or a phrase (quote) and only write that for practice session. Don't just spend your practice sessions on scribbling randomly on a piece of paper. Here is how I usually structure my practice sessions (it varies depending on styles and techniques) - Warm up with drills. It's also great for the beginner, who may want to get into traditional calligraphy or brush lettering in the future. Here is an example of guidelines and their terminology. Another super important mention for consistency when it comes to faux calligraphy is to keep your down-strokes with the same thickness. Step 5 - erase the pencil marks Give it a few minutes for the ink to completely dry off. Modern calligraphy, sometimes referred to as faux calligraphy, doesn't require any special tools. But first, let's have a quick overview of the needed tools. Get yourself a proper work environment. If you plan to practice while lying on the couch and watching Netflix - don't have high expectations. You need to sit with the correct posture on a table with the proper height along with adequate light. When it comes to getting a proper setup, I always recommend everyone to watch these three videos on YouTube by my friend Paul. I HIGHLY recommend you watching them! This is essential for all calligraphy styles and techniques. Faux calligraphy (also known as fake calligraphy) is a fun and simple way to practice calligraphy. If you make a mistake, it's all good! That's why we use the pencil first, so we can fix these mistakes and get it right. At the same time, if you only practice for 30 minutes a day, you shouldn't spend most of your practice time on trying to create something you are still not ready for. Take it one step at a time and enjoy the process - I guarantee that you will see much better and faster results if you gradually expand your skills. 3. Using the Sakura Micron, go over the pencil sketch. Now that we have our base laid down, it's time to identify our downstrokes. Remember - Your house is only as strong as it's foundation! To keep things simple, I will just mention 3 core rules that you should keep in mind when practicing faux calligraphy - Basic strokes Consistency Where to add the thick downstrokes - leaving enough space 1. This way I will be sure that all my letters are consistent. Guidelines - No matter what style or technique you practice, guidelines are always helpful - especially if you are just a beginner. Try to be mindful about your guidelines - maintain the same heights and angles. Here is an example - 3. For now, the word will be in a monoline, and as mentioned earlier, make sure to leave enough space for your downstrokes. I do several attempts and sketches before choosing the final one. Create a final piece. The important is that you are aware of spacing and consistency. Faux calligraphy in 5 simple steps - Step 1 - Draw your guidelines For this example I will write out the word - Beauty Grab your ruler and draw your guidelines like so - This is precisely why I like to use the rolling ruler - it makes this process so easy! If you are wondering at what angle your slant lines should be - you decide! What matters is that your letters actually follow these guides. Guidelines will help you to keep your letters at the same height and angle. Remember - a house is only strong as it's foundation! Stick to the basics, be consistent and mindful about your practice and I promise - you will make progress! If you have some questions or you need some help you can always reach out to me. However, I would highly recommend you join our official Facebook group. It's a place where you can - Share your work Get constructive feedback Network with fellow lettering & calligraphy artists Ask specific questions about lettering & calligraphy Much more! Thank you for checking this tutorial out, and until the next time - Stay AWESOME! Pin me! Using the rolling ruler and the pencil, start drawing your guidelines. Just remember that graphite can be erased while ink can't. Ok, now that we covered the needed tools for faux calligraphy - it's time to roll up our sleeves and get to work! The 3 core rules for faux calligraphy Before we jump right into the writing part, I feel it's essential to cover a couple of fundamental rules - especially if you are just getting started. The better you understand the basics, the easier it will be for you to learn, improve, and gradually expand your skills. Still, at the same time, you want to avoid a noticeable difference in the thickness of your downstrokes. If you find that you enjoy these free calligraphy practice sheets, you may want to consider taking a calligraphy class. We also said to add the downstrokes on the inside part of each letter. That being said, on each downstroke, I will add weight, like so - Step 4 - Ink it and fill it Now that we have our sketch ready, it's time to ink it and fill the downstrokes. Like so - Using the pencil along with the basic calligraphy strokes, write down your letters. That will make it easy to determine exactly what kind of refill to search for. When There's No Cartridge or the Cartridge Provides No Info In cases where the pen is empty or has an ink cartridge with no discernible identifying information, you'll need to do a bit more digging. The best part is that you can do faux calligraphy with any sort of writing tool that you have. If you are looking to learn about faux calligraphy and how to get started - you've come to the right place! In this tutorial, I will show you everything you need to get started, and I've also included some worksheets to help you with your further practice. Here is a quick overview of what you will be learning - What is faux calligraphy? What tools do I need for faux calligraphy? The 3 core rules for faux calligraphy Faux calligraphy in 5 simple steps FREE downloadable practice sheets! Final words Without any further ado, let's get started! Let me give you a bit of context, so you have a better understanding of the topic. It takes you just a few seconds to draw a couple of lines with a ruler, and it helps to keep our letters nice and consistent. Sketching - often perceived as something tedious, sketching is an excellent way to prep your letters. There you have it, folks. Faux calligraphy in a nutshell Please leave a comment on the blog or share a photo on Instagram Consistency Consistency is a crucial element for calligraphy. There are practice worksheets that teach you brushstrokes, help you relax your breathing, and even teach you a few different styles of the alphabet. Archive.org - Highly recommended An incredible website cataloging scans of vintage books and leaflets, including a huge number of calligraphy and type specimens; just search for "calligraphy" and "hand lettering" The Book of Kells High resolution scans of every page IAMPETH - Highly recommended This collection contains dozens of digitized, rare books on calligraphy, penmanship, and flourishing IAMPETH on Archive.org - Highly recommended This is such a brilliant, extensive archive of vintage calligraphy books that it deserves its own entry. Manuscriptorium Free digital library of old manuscripts Masgrimes Archive Download high-resolution scans of some of calligraphy's most important historical exemplar books; compiled and run by calligrapher David Grimes The Penman's Repository High resolution scans of this 18th-century book on Copperplate, Old English, flourishes, and German text. Penna Volans - Highly recommended A beautiful, well-organized archive of copybooks online, as well as catalogues of individual letters. Speedball Letter Specimen Book - Highly recommended Free online! All the amazing pages of this historic book scanned and available to view in high resolution Tubbs Wood Type - Highly recommended A 176-page exemplar book of wood type from the 1880s; so inspiring! A Tutor to Penmanship High resolution scans of this 17th-century book on script and flourishes Typographie rétro - Highly recommended A Flickr account of scanned retro type specimens, posters, ads, and books Vintage Lettering Scans on Flickr Inspiring vintage type compiled by Flickr user Patricia M. Bonus tips for faux calligraphy beginners 1. I find this step crucial. If you feel confident enough, you can grab a pen/marker straight away. Once the pen is open, take out the cartridge and see if it has any identifying marks on it. Try to be critical to yourself even if you believe you did great. Practice is important but... It is obvious that by practicing you will improve, however, the way you practice makes a tremendous difference. 2. It's really perfect for someone who is looking to improve their handwriting. Basic strokes Writing calligraphy (at least this particular style) is a combination of upstrokes and downstroke motions. Note any special instructions for replacing the cartridge in your pen, and consider buying an extra refill so you won't need to wait to replace the cartridge next time it runs out. You can do the same, or you can do something totally different. Note that when you buy pens online, you'll probably have to use some form of digital currency, like a credit card or online payment system. Don't rush it, it's not a race. It's better to take your time and get it right. The most important thing to always remember is - Upstrokes are thin Downstrokes are thick Like so - The best way to learn and practice calligraphy is by using the basic strokes. Different pens open in different ways - for example, some unscrew at the point while others come apart in the middle. By that, I mean that it's better to practice every single day even if it's just 15-20 minutes than practicing twice a week for two hours. Step 3 - Identify your downstrokes Remember what we previously said - Up is thin while down is thick. These free calligraphy practice sheets will teach you the basics of modern calligraphy. If you want some tips on how to improve your outlining and inking, I wrote a separate article for that, and you can check it out here. This is usually just a simple choice of ink color, but some pen refills may offer different ink types as well. Order Your Refill Once you've zeroed in on the right refill cartridge for your pen, you can place your order. I will show you how simple and effective sketching can be, and if you then decide to skip this step, it's totally up to you. The best part, is that you can use any writing tool that you have! Whether it's a pencil, marker, fineliner, pen, chalk - you can use it to create faux calligraphy. Faux calligraphy is also a great technique if you want to emulate the calligraphic look on surfaces where you can't really use regular calligraphy tools. Surfaces such as - Chalkboards Walls Wood Clothing Glass Etc. Of course, you don't need to go crazy with mathematical precision. This is something that requires consistent practice. Note - if you wish to add them on the outside, that's totally fine as well. If it doesn't look perfect the first time, don't be surprised. For now keep it in a monoline style, as we will add the weight later on. I really like to fill my letters with this line pattern. You can do the same, fill them with a solid color or try something totally different. That's it! Faux calligraphy in a nutshell! Once you get more comfortable with the very basics, you can start tweaking things and even develop your own style. For now I will add the downstrokes using the mechanical pencil, like so - Take your pen and go over the pencil marks. Fill your letters and delete the pencil marks. Here is an example - The word above - I firstly drew the guidelines using my rolling ruler and then laid down the letterforms. The word below - I wrote the word without guidelines, and then added the guidelines afterwards. And more practice! You've probably heard it so many times already, but it's true! The more you practice, the better you will become. Tools needed for faux calligraphy As mentioned earlier, one of the best parts about faux calligraphy is that you can do it with nearly any writing tool that you have. For this tutorial, we will use a few additional items (besides just a pen) that will help us achieve better results. Here is a list of items that I will use (links to amazon) - If you are wondering why I included the pencil and the ruler on the list, Here is why - We are going to use the pencil and the ruler for two essential elements in the process. MORE FROM QUESTIONS ANSWERED.NET This post and the photos within it may contain affiliate links. I really like adding this line pattern to my letters. This way, you avoid getting those pesky ink smudges all over your fresh piece. By creating a final piece you really push yourself to a whole different level. In short, consistency makes the difference between good and lousy calligraphy - one that is pleasant to look at and one that it's not. This short guide will put you on the right path to finding the right kind of replacement online. If the Pen Has a Cartridge Inside The first step to find a refill for a pen is often to check whether there's a cartridge inside the pen. This is just to show the inconsistencies of the letters. Sure, the basic strokes help us with consistency, but another super helpful way to achieve consistency is by using guidelines. 3. After a couple of attempts, they immediately jump straight to long quotes, layouts, flourishing, details, etc. You gotta slow down, chief! I'm not saying that you should never try to practice anything besides the basics. Rollerball pens tend to have a more liquid ink, while ballpoints tend to have a more gel-like consistency that doesn't bleed through paper as much. Using an Online Identification Tool to Find the Right Refill Online specialty pen stores that focus on selling refills may offer special identification tools to help you find the right refill. Being able to write using modern calligraphy means that you can write beautiful notes and letters impressing all your friends and family. Whether you have an expensive heirloom fountain pen or a favorite ballpoint that's been with you for years, refills for pens are important when the ink runs dry. Of course, you keep each piece for future comparison. Analyze your work. This may not be necessary if you've been writing with the pen for months and know for sure it's not empty, but it's still helpful to take the pen apart and look. Using the mechanical pencil (or just a regular pencil) and the basic calligraphy strokes, start writing your word. I choose to do that on the inside part of the letters. This is usually a necessary move only if your pen is empty or if the cartridge inside the pen doesn't have identifying information. Know What You Want Before you shop pen stores for a refill, you may want to know exactly what you're looking for so you can quickly zero in on the right product and compare prices between different retailers. If you purchase something through the link, I may receive a commission at no extra charge to you. But remember, to make better and faster progress - you must have a good foundation! Before we wrap things up for this tutorial, here are a couple of bonus tips. All you need is an everyday writing utensil and some paper. See if the pen has a manufacturer's brand name on the outside; if the pen came in a box, you may be able to find information there. Practice, practice, practice.... If you are starting out stick to shorter single words A common mistake I continuously see beginners make is that they tend to rush too much. Try to keep a light hand so it will be easier to erase it later. As mentioned in the tutorial it's best to add them consistently to the same side. However, consistent practice will beat intensive practice pretty much always. Step 2 - Sketching time! Quick note - Sketching is purely optional.

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