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# Spencerian Copybooks 1-5, Set, Without Theory Book (Spencerian Penmanship)



## Synopsis

In the mid-1800's, the Spencerian form of penmanship became a standard. An elegant handwriting was much prized. Today, in our computer age, a fine, beautiful, and legible handwriting brings a warm personal touch to our correspondence. These books, 5 copybooks (available separately or as a set), may be used to introduce cursive writing to second or third graders or to improve the handwriting of older students or adults.

## Book Information

Series: Spencerian Penmanship

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (100 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,444 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 inÂ Books > Reference > Words, Language & Grammar > Handwriting #65 inÂ Books > Education & Teaching > Schools & Teaching

## Customer Reviews

I am really enjoying learning the script through these copybooks even though it is so simple. It takes me back to my school days when we practiced cursive, which I thoroughly looked forward at the time. I wanted to address something that a number of people had commented on regarding the quality of the paper. I am using a fine mechanical pencil for practicing the strokes in the copybooks. The purpose of the practices in these books is to create the hand/ brain connection: for you to get the feel of making the movements. It is not necessary to use pen and ink, and in fact, I think that it is distracting as you would be trying to master two things at once. For that reason my suggestion is to use a mechanical pencil that is fine ( it will stay "sharp" like a nib pen ) and focus on getting the form down. If you feel excited to try pen and ink, you can certainly do that with the appropriate paper as a separate exercise. My second suggestion is to skip the first row on each page of the copybook. Start on the second row and continue to the end moving along in a fluid relaxed manor. (Preferably in one sitting). Then when you get to the end of the page, go back and complete your practice on the first

row. It is fun to see how far you have come by comparing the second row (your first practice row) and your first row (your last practice row), and also see how close you are to the sample row above. It is reassuring to see how, when I worked in a relaxed way, there was a lot of improvement from first to last. My hand did begin to get the "feel" of the movements! Enjoy!

This is an excellent course in elegant nineteenth century longhand. I also brought the theory book. I am an artist by profession and I wanted to learn the beautiful script of the nineteenth century, but I immediately noticed that the different way you are taught to hold the pen made it, while more difficult, far more easy to control and manipulate your pen. I decided to completely change the way I hold my writing/drawing pens and to adopt this manner for all my work. This is hard and causes my hand to cramp up now and then but it is worth the effort. Maybe the Spencerian manner of holding a pen is of even greater importance than the writing! The covers contain extra instructions, also that you are meant to use these books with pencil. The paper will bleed through with fountain pens. I think that one needs a lot more practice anyway than just the booklets give you space and I find some letters more difficult than others so devote more pages to them. So I have brought the Clairefontaine french ruled exercise books. Look for the wire bound larger books, I found sellers with really good deals on the net. Clairefontaine paper is made for fountain pens and is a joy to use. It makes your writing easier too, to have proper paper. The French ruling is the perfect help. I am really enjoying the books, I am half way now, and my "normal" handwriting has improved noticeably. Another thing I really liked, and I don't know if it was in the theory book or in the instruction books, but in the end, after you mastered the lines and letters, you are free to develop further into your own style. To make the beautiful thick/thin lines you will need a flexible fountain pen, or a dip pen with flexible nib. A "calligraphy" nib will not give you the right effect and will not teach you the difference in pressure needed. That means a vintage pen or a very expensive modern gold flexible nib fountain pen, or, the only affordable modern flexible nib fountain pen: the "Noodler's Ahab". (this is a pen for people who like to fiddle with their pens). I love it, use it for sketching too as the difference in pressure and line is an important part of my style. I prefer the Ahab now for sketching as a flexible dip pen (besides the need for an inkwell and constant dipping), tends to snag very easily unless you have very smooth paper, which means you'd have to make your own sketchbooks. And the same goes for writing obviously. If you want to learn beautiful elegant longhand and learn a superior way of holding pens, I wholeheartedly recommend these books. I hope this review was helpful to you.

Take a look at this method and you'll see why the people of yesteryear had such nice handwriting. This is a pretty flowery style of writing and not really "basic" cursive, but if you want to write better, this method will get you there. The books are classy and made well. Recommended.

I bought this handwriting set after a handwritten letter to my grandmother looked so awful that I was almost ashamed to put it in the mail. Completing the set takes time and patience, but if you stick with it, the results are absolutely worth it. Rather than having to learn both a new pen and a new handwriting style at the same time, I completed these books using cheap ballpoints, but now that I have the muscle memory to shape each letter, transitioning to nicer fountain pens is much easier. The set starts by having you practice individual lowercase letters, the capitals, short groups of letters, and finally whole phrases. Although at first you have to go quite slowly to form each letter correctly, by the time you get into Book 5, your writing speed is pretty close to "normal." I actually found it quite therapeutic practicing each movement in repetition. And OH the difference! I get compliments on my handwriting ALL the time now, both from people who know me and from complete strangers. I also find that I get a lot of enjoyment out of practicing it as well. I have the best written grocery lists and to do lists on the planet, because writing is nerdily-fun now. I get requests from people to address envelopes for them because "your handwriting is just so pretty." This set is totally worth the investment, both in time and money. If you stick with it, your handwriting WILL become something to be proud of.

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