The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog

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[Jump to navigation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_quick_brown_fox_jumps_over_the_lazy_dog#mw-head)[Jump to search](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_quick_brown_fox_jumps_over_the_lazy_dog#searchInput)

[A picture containing text, wooden

Description automatically generated](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:MetalTypeZoomIn.JPG)

The phrase shown in metal moveable type, used in printing presses (image reversed for readability)

"**The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog**" is an English-language [pangram](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pangram)—a [sentence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sentence_(linguistics)) that contains all of the letters of the English [alphabet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alphabet). Owing to its brevity and coherence, it has become widely known. The phrase is commonly used for touch-typing practice, testing [typewriters](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Typewriter) and [computer keyboards](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer_keyboard), displaying examples of [fonts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Font), and other applications involving text where the use of all letters in the alphabet is desired.

**Contents**

* [1History](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_quick_brown_fox_jumps_over_the_lazy_dog#History)
* [2Computer usage](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_quick_brown_fox_jumps_over_the_lazy_dog#Computer_usage)
* [3Cultural references](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_quick_brown_fox_jumps_over_the_lazy_dog#Cultural_references)
* [4See also](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_quick_brown_fox_jumps_over_the_lazy_dog#See_also)
* [5References](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_quick_brown_fox_jumps_over_the_lazy_dog#References)

History[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=The_quick_brown_fox_jumps_over_the_lazy_dog&action=edit&section=1)]

[Text, letter

Description automatically generated](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Boston_Journal_1885-02-09_(quick_brown_fox).png)

Item from the February 9, 1885, edition of *The Boston Journal* mentioning the phrase "A quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog."

[A picture containing text, clipart

Description automatically generated](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Fox_Jumping_Over_A_Dog_in_Signaling_for_Boys.png)

Pictorial depiction of the pangram from *Scouting for Boys*[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_quick_brown_fox_jumps_over_the_lazy_dog#cite_note-sfb-1)

The earliest known appearance of the phrase was in [*The Boston Journal*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Boston_Journal). In an article titled "Current Notes" in the February 9, 1885, edition, the phrase is mentioned as a good practice [sentence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sentence_(linguistics)) for writing students: "A favorite copy set by writing teachers for their pupils is the following, because it contains every letter of the alphabet: 'A quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.'"[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_quick_brown_fox_jumps_over_the_lazy_dog#cite_note-2) Dozens of other newspapers published the phrase over the next few months, all using the version of the sentence starting with "A" rather than "The".[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_quick_brown_fox_jumps_over_the_lazy_dog#cite_note-:0-3) The earliest known use of the phrase starting with "The" is from the 1888 book *Illustrative Shorthand* by Linda Bronson.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_quick_brown_fox_jumps_over_the_lazy_dog#cite_note-4) The modern form (starting with "The") became more common even though it is slightly longer than the original (starting with "A").

A 1908 edition of the [*Los Angeles Herald Sunday Magazine*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Los_Angeles_Herald_Sunday_Magazine) records that when the [*New York Herald*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_Herald) was equipping an office with typewriters "a few years ago", staff found that the common practice sentence of "now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of the party" did not familiarize typists with the entire alphabet, and ran onto two lines in a newspaper column. They write that a staff member named Arthur F. Curtis invented the "quick brown fox" pangram to address this.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_quick_brown_fox_jumps_over_the_lazy_dog#cite_note-5)

As the use of typewriters grew in the late 19th century, the phrase began appearing in typing lesson books as a practice sentence. Early examples include *How to Become Expert in Typewriting: A Complete Instructor Designed Especially for the Remington Typewriter* (1890),[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_quick_brown_fox_jumps_over_the_lazy_dog#cite_note-6) and *Typewriting Instructor and Stenographer's Hand-book* (1892). By the turn of the 20th century, the phrase had become widely known. In the January 10, 1903, issue of *Pitman's Phonetic Journal*, it is referred to as "the well known memorized typing line embracing all the letters of the alphabet".[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_quick_brown_fox_jumps_over_the_lazy_dog#cite_note-7) [Robert Baden-Powell](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Baden-Powell,_1st_Baron_Baden-Powell)'s book [*Scouting for Boys*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scouting_for_Boys) (1908) uses the phrase as a practice sentence for signaling.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_quick_brown_fox_jumps_over_the_lazy_dog#cite_note-sfb-1)

The first message sent on the [Moscow–Washington hotline](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moscow%E2%80%93Washington_hotline) on August 30, 1963, was the test phrase "THE QUICK BROWN FOX JUMPED OVER THE LAZY DOG'S BACK 1234567890".[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_quick_brown_fox_jumps_over_the_lazy_dog#cite_note-8) Later, during testing, the Russian translators sent a message asking their American counterparts, "What does it mean when your people say 'The quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog'?"[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_quick_brown_fox_jumps_over_the_lazy_dog#cite_note-9)

During the 20th century, technicians tested typewriters and [teleprinters](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teleprinter) by typing the sentence.[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_quick_brown_fox_jumps_over_the_lazy_dog#cite_note-10)

It is the sentence used in the annual Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting Competition, a [cursive writing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cursive) competition which has been held in the U.S. since 1991.[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_quick_brown_fox_jumps_over_the_lazy_dog#cite_note-11)[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_quick_brown_fox_jumps_over_the_lazy_dog#cite_note-12)

Computer usage[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=The_quick_brown_fox_jumps_over_the_lazy_dog&action=edit&section=2)]

[Text

Description automatically generated](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Ceefax_test_screenshot_1972.jpg)

The phrase being used in a [BBC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BBC) [Ceefax](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ceefax) test from 1972.

In the age of computers, this pangram is commonly used to display font samples and for testing [computer keyboards](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer_keyboard). In [cryptography](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cryptography), it is commonly used as a test vector for hash and encryption algorithms to verify their implementation, as well as to ensure alphabetic character set compatibility.[[*citation needed*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed)]

[Microsoft Word](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microsoft_Word) has a command to auto-type the sentence, in versions up to Word 2003, using the command =rand(), and in Microsoft Office Word 2007 and later using the command =rand.old().[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_quick_brown_fox_jumps_over_the_lazy_dog#cite_note-13)

**Examples of how the phrase is used in font display**

[Graphical user interface, text, application, chat or text message

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[Graphical user interface, application, table, Excel

Description automatically generated](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Comparison_of_Fonts.png)

Cultural references[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=The_quick_brown_fox_jumps_over_the_lazy_dog&action=edit&section=3)]

Numerous references to the phrase have occurred in movies, television, books, video games, advertising, websites, and graphic arts.

The [lipogrammatic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lipogram" \o "Lipogram) novel [*Ella Minnow Pea*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ella_Minnow_Pea) by [Mark Dunn](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark_Dunn) is built entirely around the "quick brown fox" pangram and its inventor. It depicts a fictional country off the [South Carolina](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Carolina) coast that idealizes the pangram, chronicling the effects on literature and social structure as various letters are banned from daily use by government dictum.[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_quick_brown_fox_jumps_over_the_lazy_dog#cite_note-14)

See also[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=The_quick_brown_fox_jumps_over_the_lazy_dog&action=edit&section=4)]

* [Filler text](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Filler_text)
  + [Etaoin shrdlu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Etaoin_shrdlu) – Common metal-type printing error
  + [Lorem ipsum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lorem_ipsum) – Placeholder text used in publishing and graphic design
* [Thousand Character Classic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thousand_Character_Classic) – Chinese educational poem that uses exactly 1,000 characters, each appearing once
* [Iroha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iroha) – Early Middle Japanese pangram poem, composed before 1079 in the Heian period

References[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=The_quick_brown_fox_jumps_over_the_lazy_dog&action=edit&section=5)]

* 1. ^ [Jump up to:***a***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_quick_brown_fox_jumps_over_the_lazy_dog#cite_ref-sfb_1-0) [***b***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_quick_brown_fox_jumps_over_the_lazy_dog#cite_ref-sfb_1-1) [*Baden-Powell, Robert*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Baden-Powell,_1st_Baron_Baden-Powell)*(1908).*[*Scouting for Boys*](http://www.thedump.scoutscan.com/yarns00-28.pdf)*(PDF). London: Pearson. p. 76.*[*ISBN*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISBN_(identifier))[*0-665-98794-3*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special:BookSources/0-665-98794-3)*.*
  2. [**^**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_quick_brown_fox_jumps_over_the_lazy_dog#cite_ref-2) [*"Current Notes"*](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Boston_Journal_1885-02-10.pdf)*(PDF). Boston Journal (morning ed.). Boston, Massachusetts. February 10, 1885. p. 1.*
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