

Exaggerated Loops & Upstrokes

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baseline

descender

ascender

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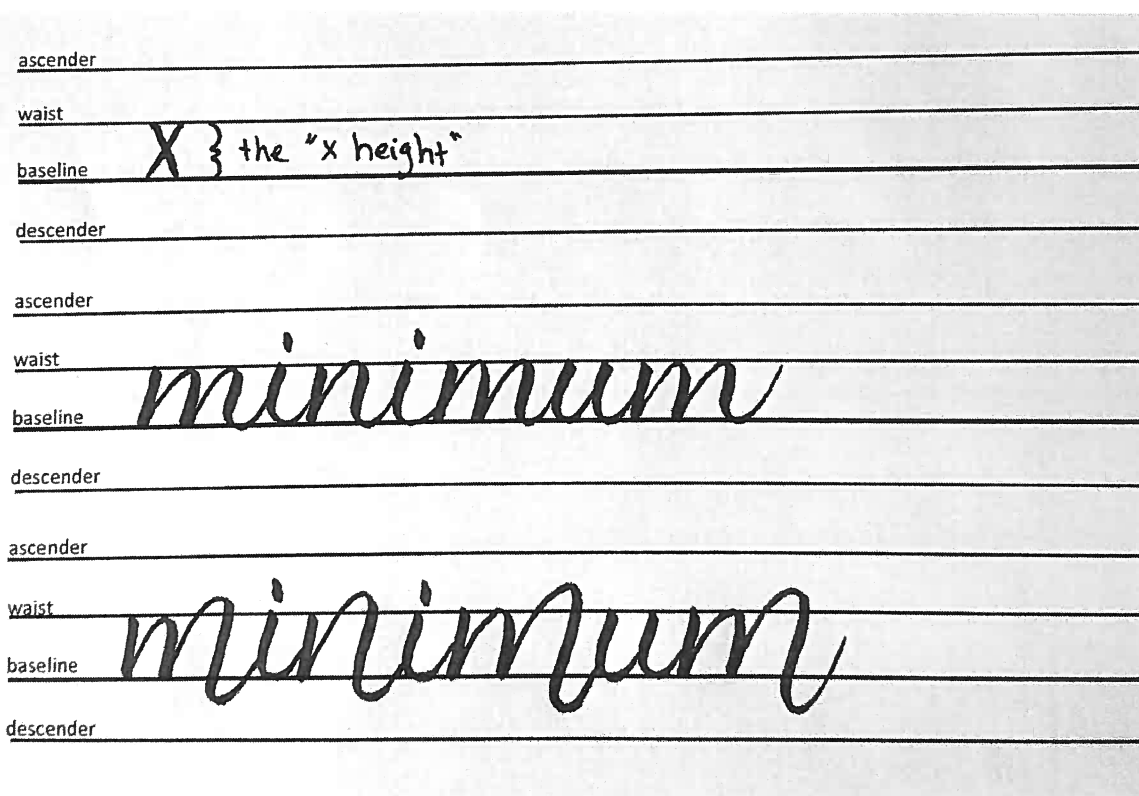
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The "x height" in calligraphy is the area between the base line and waist line and is the height of the lowercase letters (except for the ascending and descending strokes). "Bouncing" your lettering means to extend some of the strokes outside of the x height (or above the waist line or below the base line). Doing this adds style to your words.

Look at the word *minimum* below. The first time it is written, all of the letters are of the same x height. The second time it is written, some of the strokes were extended above the waist line and some below the base line. There are no rules that state which strokes should be "bounced." Just keep in mind that you will not want to bounce every single stroke; this will create a word that is difficult to read.

I practice this style by writing a word several times, playing around with extending different strokes to determine which I like best. Use tracing paper on the blank practice sheet at the end of the workbook to practice bouncing your name and various words. The next couple of pages are just a few examples of words that I have "bounced" to give you a place to start.



Bouncing

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Bouncing

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calligraphy

ascender

waist

baseline

descender

Flourishing

ascender

waist

baseline

b

d

descender

ascender

waist

baseline

f

f

descender

ascender

waist

baseline

g

i

descender

ascender

waist

baseline

k

g

descender

ascender

waist

baseline

z

t

descender

ascender

waist

baseline

e

y

descender

Flourishing

ascender

waist

baseline

descender

y

y

ascender

waist

baseline

descender

w

w

ascender

waist

baseline

descender

art

ascender

waist

baseline

descender

win

ascender

waist

baseline

descender

mom

ascender

waist

baseline

descender

fancy

The Lowercase Alphabet: Reference Sheet

Modern Calligraphy

The majority of the alphabet is a combination of these 8 basic strokes. Some letters have variations; refer to the Intro to Calligraphy Workbook for the step-by-step letter formations.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

		<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>
<i>c</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>f</i>
<i>g</i>	<i>h</i>	<i>i</i>	<i>j</i>
<i>k</i>	<i>l</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>n</i>
<i>o</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>q</i>	<i>r</i>
<i>s</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>u</i>	<i>v</i>
<i>w</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>

The Uppercase Alphabet: Reference Sheet

Modern Calligraphy

Many hand letterers of modern calligraphy take liberty with the capital letters, so feel free to develop your own style as you master calligraphy. The letters on this page are considered the traditional lettering.

A

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

I

J

K

L

M

N

O

P

Q

R

S

T

U

V

W

X

Y

Z

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