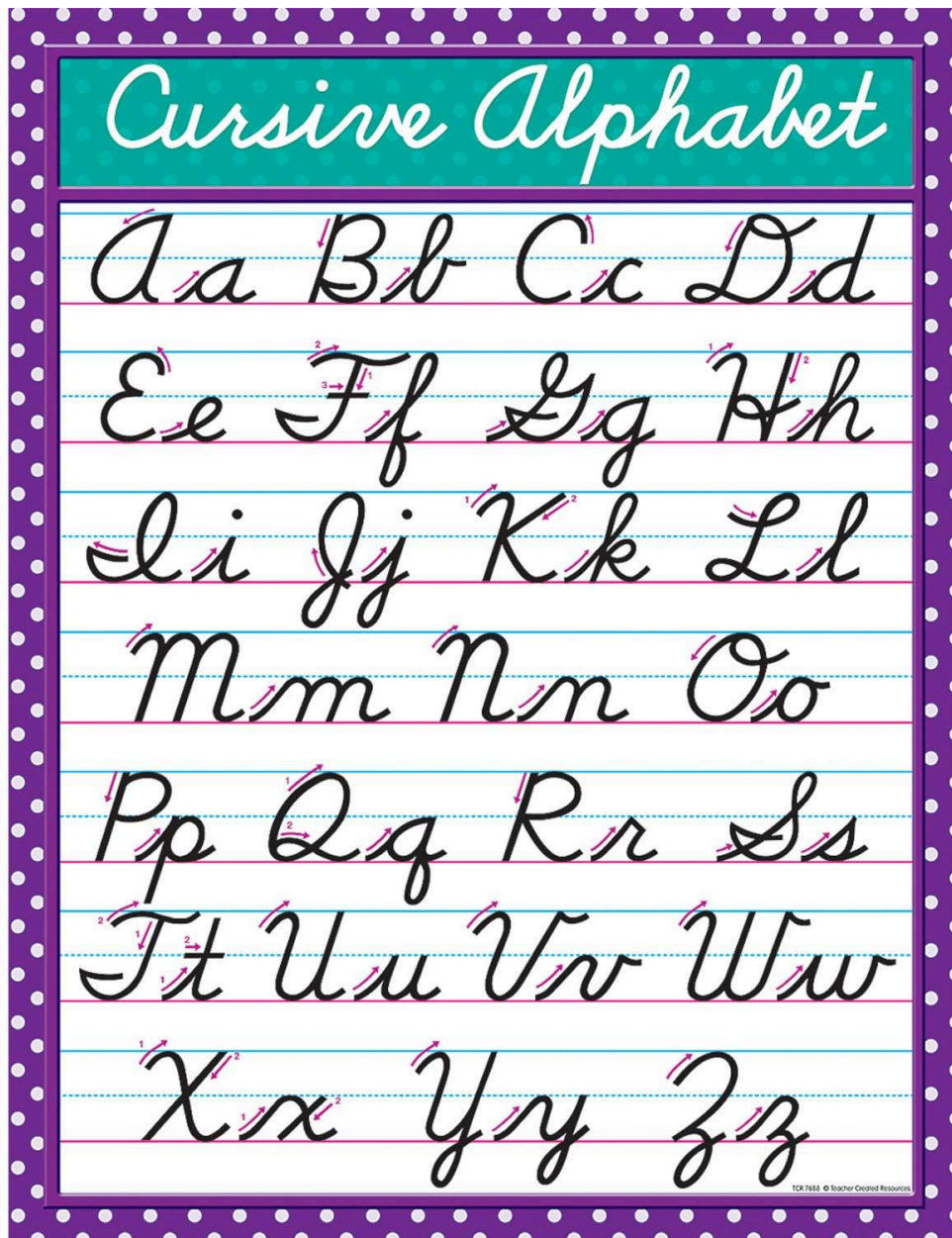


Lesson 1 Beginner English Guide:

We learned in class today how to **print**, or write individual letters by hand. For **B1** students and brave **A2** students, we learned **cursive** letters.

Knowing how to write at least your name in cursive is very important as it is still used to sign legal and important documents. (Note: "Sign" here implies you are writing in **cursive** not print.)

Here is a guide that shows what the cursive letters look like:



I have also included a PDF in our drawer that has both **print and cursive** practice for the alphabet and 100 important words in English.

This was the majority of our lesson today! We spent the last 15 minutes going over **Slides 30-37** in our PowerPoint, which is also in the English Drawer. It includes suggestions for self-study at the end of each lesson. Feel free to study ahead to get a feel for what we will be covering in later lessons.

If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to send a message in English General or shoot me a quick Direct Message. I know it can be scary to ask a question in front of a lot of people so just let me know if any concepts are difficult.

If the sounds of the English language are difficult for you, please check out the video I included on American Dialect pronunciation:

[▶ How to Say EVERY SOUND in American English | 44 Sounds of American English](#)

Remember: English is (generally) a self-correcting language. If it doesn't sound right when you say it out loud, it *probably* isn't right.

Tips for Remembering: Taking a nap after you study (if you can) is a good way to remember what you learned.

To improve speaking: Listen to someone say a sentence and then record yourself saying the exact same sentence. Play back the recording and notice any differences.

Lesson 2 Beginner English Guide:

This lesson we talked about **questions** and how to ask them. This topic is covered in **slides 38-42**.

There are several ways to ask a question in English such as:

- Raising your voice at the end in **pitch** not volume
- Using a question word (5W and 1H, for example)
- Adding a **negative contraction** (example: shouldn't, can't) at the end for someone to agree with you by saying "yes"
- Adding a **positive contraction** (example: can they?, right?) for someone to agree with you by saying "no".

To **request** something (an object, help, a favor) or ask a polite question we 'soften' our question by adding words such as "Can you..." or "May I..."

If you do not add these to a request it can sound like a **demand** which is not polite in English in most situations. You don't **demand** something of your boss, your parents, or a server.

Sometimes using a question word can be rude if it is **too direct** such as "Why do you think that?" or if the question is too broad such as, "What's the whole thing about?"

To improve speaking: Try to mimic the sounds of your favorite Youtuber or TV show, this will help you learn how to form words in English. I also recommend reading out loud anything you write before you check grammar. This will help you learn to recognize mistakes. Don't be afraid of making mistakes, it means you're improving.

To improve spelling: Spelling in English is very difficult, to improve it, be sure to have a dictionary on hand and try to write a sentence or two about your day. You could even write a To-Do list.

As far as dictionaries go, I recommend [Merriam-Webster](#) which also has a [Word of the Day](#) option to help improve your vocabulary (as an English native I find this a lot of fun as it's entirely random.) If you click on "See Entry" it will even take you to the word page where you can hear the word of the day read out loud.

Note: if you use the **thesaurus** it will give you **synonyms**, or words that are similar to a word but do not mean the same thing. This can be a bad thing as while you may try using a larger word, it may have a different enough definition that it will make your sentence sound weird.

How to check your progress: Go back and read something you wrote even a month or two ago, if it sounds strange to you, you improved! It takes a long time to learn a language and sometimes those changes can be so subtle you might miss them.

Lesson 3 Beginner English Guide:

This lesson we talked about mistakes that native English speakers make that you may encounter (come across) while on the internet or in day-to-day activities. We also discussed idioms and contractions between two words. You may even have seen a contraction like this: **y'all'd've** (You all would have) which is typically heard in some dialects in the country/ southern part of the United States. It's pretty famous online but don't worry, you won't come across it in writing unless it's in a meme.

But this is a good example of how English speakers tend to slur (or string together) words. If people speak quickly you'll hear more examples of these verses if someone speaks slow and deliberate.

It is important to note that contractions are used to speed up and shorten sentences. Typically we don't break apart a contraction unless we are emphasizing it. You may startle someone if you do this but you will have their attention.

A homophone is a word that sounds the same but has different spelling and meaning like **here** and **hear**.

Here- A place

Hear- The verb “to listen”. You can remember this because hear has the word “ear” in it and we listen with our ears.

We also went through slides **43-53** in the PowerPoint

Additional notes: If you want to improve your listening, listen to everything you can in English!

Disney movies are great because the language they are animated in first is English. This means that not only will they use simple structures for children to understand, but the mouth shapes will have a closer resemblance to shapes we make in English.

Another Movie would be Don Bluth’s *Anastasia* which was **rotoscoped** or traced over footage of real people.

TV shows include: *Avatar the Last Airbender* which is a favorite enjoyed by all age ranges in the United States. A couple of other good ones are the older *Spongebob* from 1999-2002 (If the picture is square-shaped it’s the right one) and *Teen Titans*. I don’t *really* recommend watching any animated TV shows if you’re a beginner from post 2005/2008 as they become a lot faster in both speech and pacing. A popular live action TV show from this period in the United States was *Mythbusters* which has a lot of science vocabulary.

Books: A lot of books can be read to you on Audiobook, if you want to improve your reading you can always read American comics/ webtoons, but you may find that manga is more popular in the United States over comics. This is because we see manga *volumes* as a better deal due to the higher page count compared to comic *issues* which are more like thin magazines.

Games: For B1 people I recommend games with text and speech (such as Genshin Impact), for A2 people I recommend games with only text (such as Stardew Valley) or text and speech. For A2 people, try not to go for games with a lot of story or lore for B1, try to go for games that have more story and **subtext**, which is text that has a double meaning to it, and will expose you to more B2/C1 topics.

English Spelling Rules: [Here’s a few spelling rules that are the most important from Grammarly](#)

Lesson 4 Beginner English Guide:

This week we went over **Slides 54-58** and talked about how English speakers can analyze text for things such as news articles and academic print.

Sometimes, analyzing and actively reading are used for stories that we enjoy to add another layer of interest. For example, in your native language, you are actively reading a story when you pick up on things like knowing that a character's plan is going to fail or that they might not be strong enough to beat the bad guy.

Here are two websites that have questions that you can practice with for active reading and analyzing.

Remember: the best way to learn these skills is through repetition and re-reading. It may be difficult at first, but it is very rewarding.

Active Reading Questions: [A Guide to Active Reading](#)

Analyzing Text Questions: [How to Analyze a Written or Visual Work](#)

These are subjects that may be difficult at first, if you are new to this start with "Active Reading Questions" If you have been B1/B2 for a while or are a brave A2 learner "Analyzing Text Questions" is the way to go and will be more in-depth.