

12 rules of legibility

These points apply to separate letters as well as joined up letters:

1 Letters must be the correct height in relation to each other.

after class not aster class

2 Letters meant to be closed must look closed.

ing an not iny an

3 Letters that are meant to be open must look open.

hay out not bay out

4 Straight strokes must look straight.

all living not alliving
bit is not bit is

5 Curved strokes must look curved.

ice not iie

6 Parts of letters meant to be joined together must be joined.

backs not badks
pack not padc

7 Loops and arches must appear, also crossbars and dots on 'i'.

The who not The Ho

8 Overcurves and undercurves must differ.

hum not hum
or huuu

9 Space letters so that it is clear where one letter ends and the next begins.

aging bat not agng bat

These points apply to joined up letters:

10 Finish one letter before starting the next.

was we not was we

11 The joining stroke must be indicated or space left to show where one letter ends and the next begins.

her hair not her hair

12 The joining must not distort a letter so that it looks like another, or suggest an extra letter.

give way not give way