

# How far can you go with letters?

Keep the basic shape of your letters conventional.

You do not want to have the same writing as everyone else but if you want people to be able to read it easily then you have got to keep within certain limits. As well as the list on page 40 there are other things to watch.

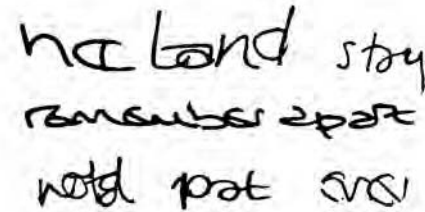
Adults do not read every letter of every word. They scan the general shape of the word, but when they come to a mixture of unusual shapes they have to stop and puzzle it out. Simple letters can be personalised and still be recognisable at speed, but unusual letter shapes cause confusion.

You need to keep the essence of each letter, so do not lose the differences between 'n' and 'u'.

The letter 'i' should have a dot and not a large circle. These circles can get so exaggerated that they suggest another letter.

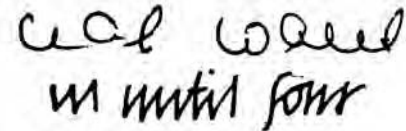
Those squiggles that are used to decorate 'g' and 'y' are also best kept for personal correspondence. They may be fun, but distract the reader and make your hand move in the wrong direction. An economical movement looks better and works better too.

Loops can get out of hand and your handwriting can end up looking like knitting.



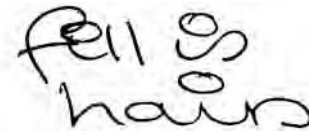
Handwritten examples of 'a' and 'e' written in various styles, some resembling 'n' or 'u'.

'a' and 'e' get the worst treatment.



Handwritten examples of 'u' and 'n' written in various styles, some with arches.

'u' and 'n' arches must look different.



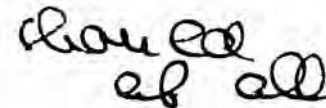
Handwritten examples of 'i' written with large circles on top.

Circles on top of 'i' look silly.



Handwritten examples of 'g' and 'y' decorated with squiggles.

Squiggles are confusing.



Handwritten examples of 'should' and 'at all' written with muddled loops.

Muddled loops. This says 'should at all'.