

# How much space is enough?

It is difficult to give rules about spacing joined up letters. They must hold together as words but each letter must be separately recognisable. You need to space your words out enough to be able to tell where one ends and the next begins. That is obvious – but how much space is enough? It is common sense.

Large, loosely spaced letters need more space between words than smaller and more compact ones. The space between words varies with the size of the letter and width of joining stroke. That is why it does not work too well when people with tiny writing try to make it more legible by leaving large gaps between words. It only breaks the page up and makes matters worse.

neat print script with ~~joined~~ writing  
neat print script with joined writing

The space of an 'o' of the same size as the writing is sufficient for print script. For cursive writing, it is safer to say that you need the space of an 'o' with enough room for a joining stroke on each side. It is all related to your writing, but when the spaces are too wide white patches all down the page will distract the reader.

Some of you may remember being taught to use a thumb or finger to space between letters. At five years old you may have been told to place it on the paper. later on you used it as a mental spacer. Forget that lesson. Your thumb has grown with age and your writing has shrunk. Your spaces would be huge.

Most of the i  
the only town

Fat writing, wide spacing.

living mainly by fishing.  
the only town on the is

Smaller writing, closer spacing.

small island whose inhabit  
town on the island als

Small writing, rather wide spaces.

wre and yo.  
Blut when his  
he ren all

Much too wide word spacing.