

READ THE  
DRAGON



Challenge 1: Match the letterforms



a



n



s



b



d



c

## Challenge 2: Trace the Prayer Book

With a pencil or pen, trace the letterforms in the word below from the *Dragon Prayer Book*.



Then, try to write out a few of the letters.

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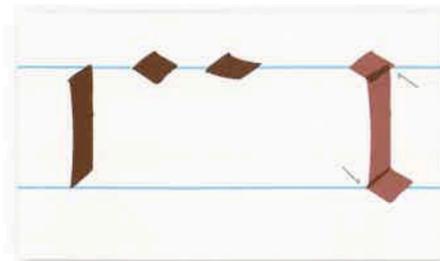
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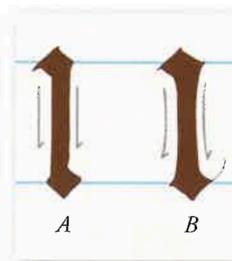
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### Basic construction

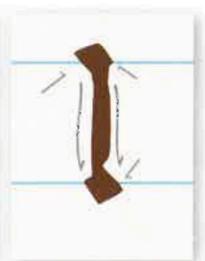
This script is written with a constant pen angle of 45°. Begin by making regular basic strokes then add nuances based on their position in the letter. The delicate curving in of the stems makes the form more dynamic and prevents monotony, which often makes the letter illegible.



*Three basic strokes are used: one stem and two diamonds—one short (as for the i) and the other long (base of the e). The superposition of the forms (right) highlights the slight difference between the tops of the diamonds.*



*Crude strokes (A) result in a rigid form. By curving the vertical stroke (B), the form becomes more delicate.*



*Common beginner mistakes: the diamonds are not aligned and the stem, not curved in, has a bulging look.*

# The Gothic Script



Flat nib  
of 1.5 to  
4 mm



Calame



Quill

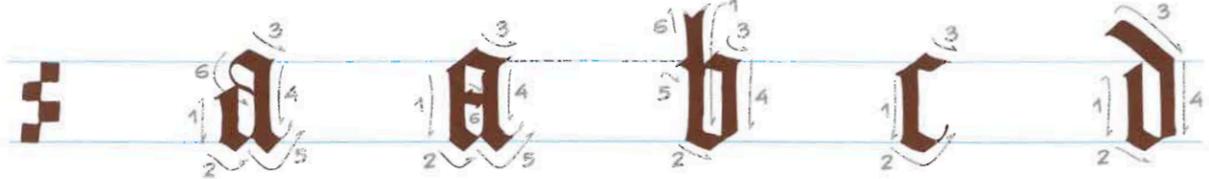


Pen  
angle  
45°



Module:  
4 nib  
widths

Each arrow represents one continuous stroke.  
The order of the strokes is indicated by small numbers.

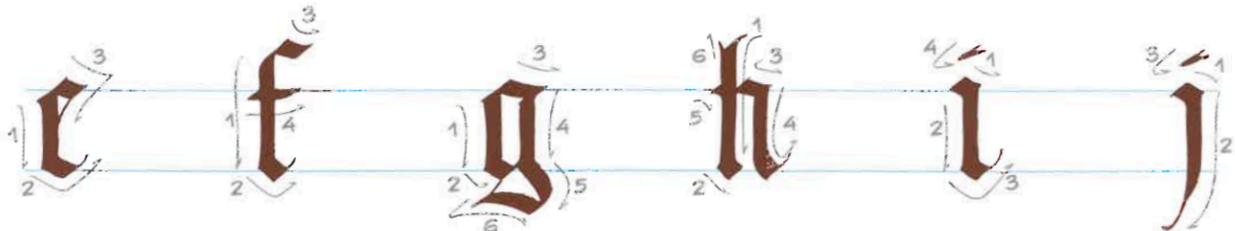


The a is always difficult to make.  
For it to succeed, follow the ductus closely.

The entrance stroke of stroke 1  
is made with the edge  
of the tool.

Stroke 3 must  
remain extended  
to the right.

The basic form of this  
letter, with an uncial  
origin, is the o.



The top part must  
remain open.

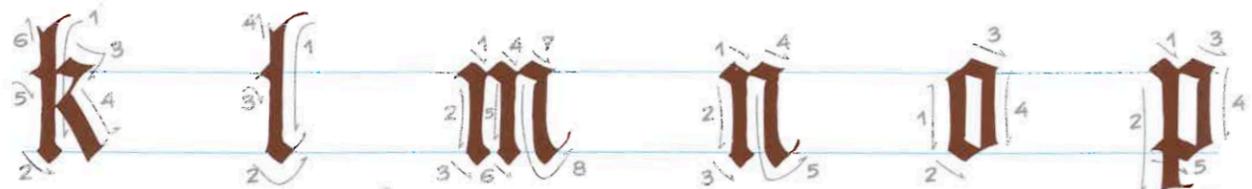
To make a thin cross-  
stroke, change the  
angle of the pen.

This complex form must  
be drawn slowly,  
separating the strokes.

Keep the counter open  
all the way to the  
bottom of the letter.

In this basic Gothic  
form, bring the final  
stroke back up.

Thicken the dot  
to make a  
dynamic point.



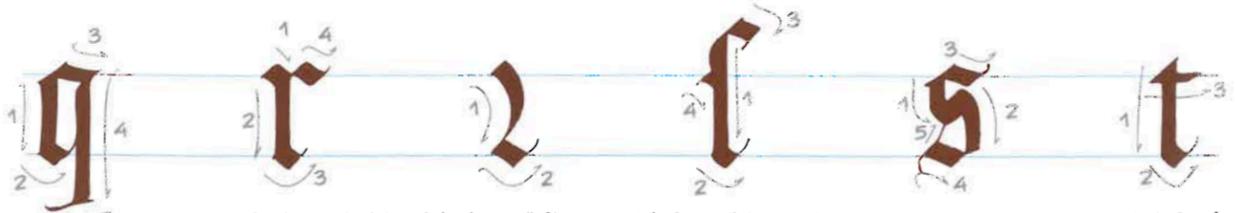
To accentuate the  
legibility of this letter,  
curve stroke 3 inward.

The small apex allows  
you to connect the l to  
the letter that precedes it.

The diamonds on the bottom are centered in relation  
to the stems to allow blank space in the letter.

In this form, all  
the strokes must be  
curved inward.

Stroke 6 must  
be finely  
retouched.

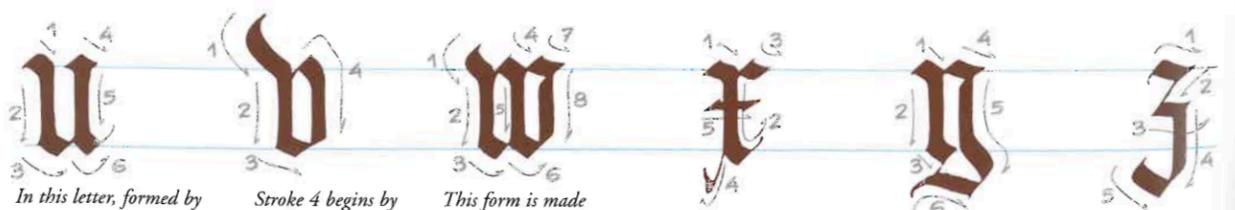


Stroke 3 passes to  
the right to allow  
the ligature.

The classic r (right) and the demi-r (left)  
remain legible, even when they are  
connected to the preceding letter.

The long s (left) is used in the word and the other  
(right) at the end of a word or line. This final s,  
based on the diagonal, is difficult to write.

As with the f and  
the x, the bar is  
slightly thinner.



In this letter, formed by  
connecting two i's, the  
second upper diamond is  
centered.

Stroke 4 begins by  
going up from the  
first stem.

This form is made  
with a fluid motion.

The thin bar makes  
the letter more legible.

This form is a mixture  
of the g and the u.

For the final z, choose a  
form inspired by the  
capital letter.

### Challenge 3: Learning and Using Abbreviations

Write a word or two in English or Latin using abbreviations found in the *Dragon Prayer Book*, such as the abbreviations below.

ꝑ

p(er), *but within a word can also represent -p(ar)- and -p(or)-*

ꝑ

p(ro)

Ꝣ

(con)-

ex. “(con)fessoris”



Ꝩ

-(us)

ex. “dyabol(us)”



Ꝟ

q(uia)

ex. “q(uia)”



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#### Challenge 4: Decoding the *Dragon Prayer Book* (Easy)

For your first challenge, decode a line from the *Dragon Prayer Book* with no abbreviations.



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#### Challenge 5: Decoding the *Dragon Prayer Book* (Difficult)

For your next challenge, decode a moderately abbreviated line from the *Dragon Prayer Book*.



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letter "a" from  
page 0015



letter "a"  
from page  
0015



letter "b"  
from  
page  
0016



letter  
"c"  
from  
page  
0015



letter "d"  
from page  
0015



letter "e"  
from  
page  
0015



letter "f"  
from page  
0015



letter "g"  
from  
page  
0015



letter  
"h"  
from  
page  
0016



letter "i"  
from  
page  
0015



letter "j"  
from  
page  
0015



letter  
"l"  
from  
page  
0015



letter "m" from  
page 0015



letter "n"  
from page  
0015



letter "o"  
from page  
0015



letter "p"  
from  
page  
0015



letter "q"  
from page  
0017



letter "r"  
from page  
0015



letter "r"  
from  
page  
0015



letter "s"  
from page  
0015



letter "s"  
from page  
0015



letter "t"  
from page  
0015



letter "u"  
from page  
0015



letter "v"  
from page  
0015



letter "v"  
from page  
0016



letter "x"  
from page  
0015



letter "y"  
from  
page  
0016