

# Why is Good Handwriting Important?



**True or False? (please tick your response)**

Statement	True	False
1. Good handwriting is important.		
2. Good handwriting is important because if your teachers cannot read what you have written, they will not be able to mark your work accurately.		
3. If your handwriting is difficult to read, it is also tough for people to tell if your spelling is correct.		
4. We have to keep working on our handwriting throughout our life – practice makes it perfect.		



The answers to the above quiz are all **TRUE**. Yes, good handwriting is important because if your teachers cannot read what you have written in your books or on test papers, they will not be able to mark your work accurately. That could mean losing some marks in exams and no one wants that to happen. Tests are already challenging enough! Plus, if your handwriting is difficult to read, it is tough for people to tell if your spelling is correct.



**How do you feel about your handwriting?**  
(please tick your response)

Think about this...	Yes	No	Why did you give that answer?
Do you like your handwriting?			Because....
Is your handwriting easy for others to read?			Because....
Are you proud of your handwriting?			Because....
Are you embarrassed by your handwriting?			Because...
Can you think of ways to make your handwriting better?			Because...
Why do you think it is important to have good handwriting?			Because...

**Did you know that “good writing” means:**

- All of the letters are formed properly;
- The writing slopes in the same direction;
- The writing is written on the line;
- Capital letters are larger than the lower case letters;
- The lowercase letters are all the same size;
- The words are spaced apart evenly so each word is clear.

## Tips: How can you improve your handwriting?

- First, look at your sitting position and your posture when you write. Make sure you're relaxed and not leaning on your writing arm too much. Perhaps you need to sit at a slight angle?
- Secondly, relax your fingers. It's important to learn to move the pen with your wrist and forearm and not squeeze the pen too tightly with your fingers or press down too hard on the paper. Instead, try to let the pen slide across the paper smoothly as you write.
- Thirdly, make sure you use a pen that feels comfortable in your hand. Some people like a fat pen while others like a skinny pen. Find one that suits you!
- Lastly, stay on line as you write and keep the words the same distance apart. An easy way to achieve this is try to write at the same speed and move your hand and forearm across the page slowly as you write.



