

Letters taught: U, y, qu

Also practices (by tracing and copying) the different letter pattern groups.

The easy, fun (and FREE!) way to teach handwriting.

Book 5: Making Waves:

- Teaches the "wave" handwriting pattern, which is used to form the letters 'u' and 'y,' and is also used extensively (later in school) when joined-up handwriting is taught.
- Teaches lowercase letters 'u' and 'y'
- Introduces the 'qu' letter combination.
- Also practices the basic letter-pattern groups.

Step 1

Print out these instructions and worksheets. For more than one student, print copies of the "Worksheets Only" version of this booklet.

Step 2

When doing more than one lesson a day, take a break between the lessons (a snack, a walk, a nap – whatever works). This helps to maximize the mental "processing" of the material

Lesson 1 (Part 1)

Verbal lesson: The wave pattern

This is the "wave" pattern (draw on blackboard or piece of paper) —



We use the "wave" pattern to write the letters $\langle u \rangle$ and $\langle y \rangle$ —





We also use the "wave" pattern when we do joined-up handwriting, which you'll learn about when you're a little bit older —

The gorilla is ill.
The gorilla is ill.

Lesson 1 (Part 1) continued...

Air "Writing"

"Write" some "waves" in the air, making ONE sound for each "wave" —

"Whoosh, whoosh, whoosh..." (or, "Whee, whee, whee," or any other sound of your choosing).

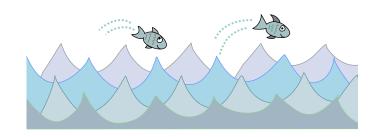
Then have your child/students "air write" "waves" in the air, also saying the sound out loud.

Notes: (1) Children/students need to make the sound — this is not a silent exercise. (2) Write BIG letters in the air. (2) Students should use the arm that they write with.

Lesson 1 (Part 1) Worksheet

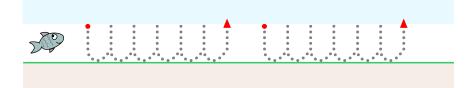
Verbal lesson: The wave pattern

















Cup cup cup





Lesson 1 (Part 2)

Verbal lesson: Letter 'u' versus letter 'n'

The letter <u> looks like an upside down letter <n> --





To help remember which is which, imagine that the letter <n> has feet.



If the letter <n> stands on its head, see what happens?

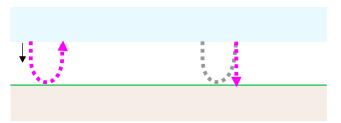
Its feet are up!





Lesson 1 (Part 2) continued...

To write the letter <u> -



Draw one wave, keeping it all in the middle area. Then, without lifting your pencil, draw a little line down.

Air "Writing"

"Write" the letter <u> in the air, using big arm movements, saying:

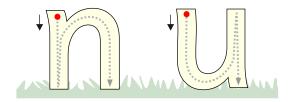
"One wave; then a little line down."

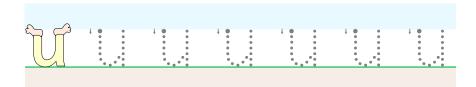
Then have your child/students "air write" the letter many times, also saying the steps out loud.

Lesson 1 (Part 2) Worksheet

Verbal lesson: Letter 'u' versus letter 'n'

(Name)















not up not up





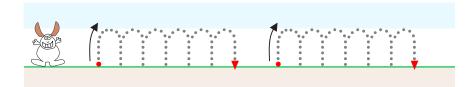
Lesson 2 Worksheet

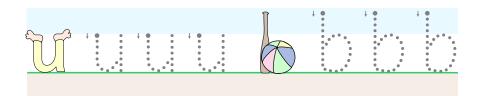
(no verbal lesson)













GEAD US bus us bus







GO US bus us bus





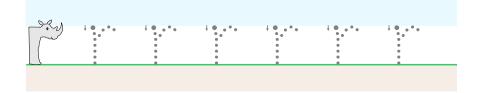
Lesson 3 Worksheet

(no verbal lesson)









(Name)



fun sun run







fun sun run





Lesson 4 Worksheet

(no verbal lesson)









(Name)



but cut nut







but cut nut





Lesson 5 Worksheet

(no verbal lesson)









(Name)







(A cub is a young animal, especially a young bear, fox, lion, wolf, etc.)



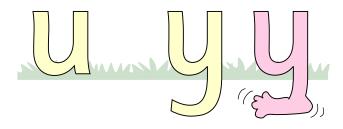




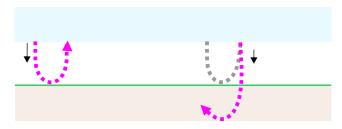
Lesson 6

Verbal lesson: How to write the letter 'y'

Writing the letter <y> is the same as writing the letter <u>, except that the <y> has a longer leg with a little curve, like a foot: (Draw on the blackboard or piece of paper.)



To write the letter <y> -



Start out like you're writing the letter <u>.

Then, without lifting your pencil, draw a long leg down, curling it up a little bit at the end.

Lesson 6 continued...

Air "Writing"

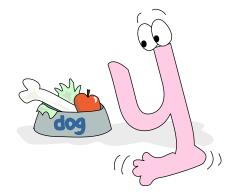
"Write" the letter <y> in the air, using big arm movements, saying:

"Draw a letter <u>; then a LONG leg down with a foot at the bottom."

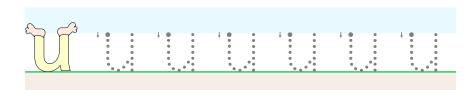
Then have your child/students "air write" the letter many times, also saying the steps out loud.

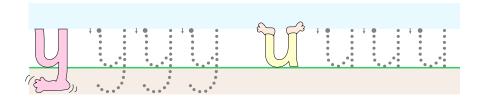
Lesson 6 Worksheet

How to write the letter <y>







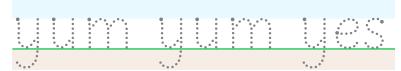


(Name)



yum yum yes









yum yum yes





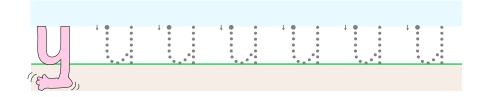


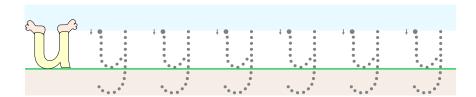
Lesson 7 Worksheet

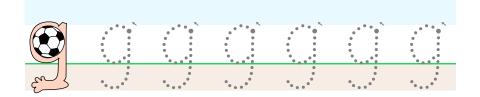
(No verbal lesson)

(Name)











bug hug jug







rug jug hug





Lesson 8 Worksheet

(no verbal lesson)



















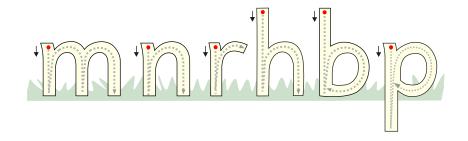
(doc is another word for doctor)

(Name)

Lesson 9 Worksheet

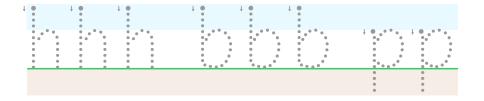
(no verbal lesson)













red man ran







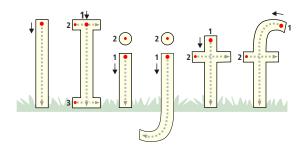
mop hop pop

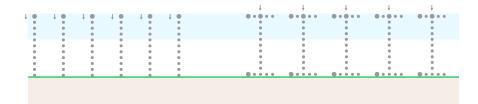


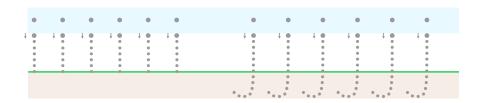


Lesson 10 Worksheet

(no verbal lesson)









(Name)



GO I fit in it







READ lip tip let jet





Lesson 11 Worksheet

(no verbal lesson)







(Name)









e wet vet van





Lesson 12

Verbal lesson: The 'qu' letter combination

This is the letter <q> (draw on a blackboard or piece of paper) —



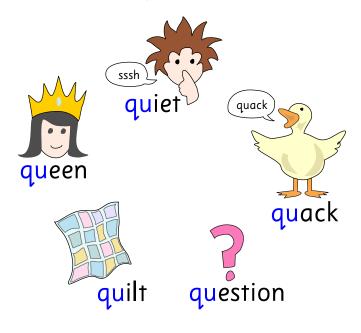
The letter 'q' almost always has the letter <u> next to it, like this:



Trivia for teachers and parents: According to one lexicon (word list), there are 2,108 English words that use the "qu" digraph, including plurals and all possible conjugations. Meanwhile, according to Wikipedia, there are only 71 words that use the letter "q" alone (without the letter "u,"), and all of these words have been "borrowed" from other languages.

Lesson 12 continued...

Together, the letters <q> and <u> make the "kwuh" sound, like in....



Why do we use TWO letters? Because we don't have a letter in the alphabet for the "kwuh" sound, so this is how we write it.

Note: If a child asks what the letter "q" sounds like all by itself, tell him/her that it sounds like the letter <k> — "kuh." But don't bring this up unless a child asks; it is not necessary to know this at this time.

Lesson 12 Worksheet

Verbal Lesson: The 'qu' letter combination



(Name)













Lesson 13

Verbal lesson: Letter 'q' versus letter 'g'

The letter <q> looks a lot like the letter <g> --



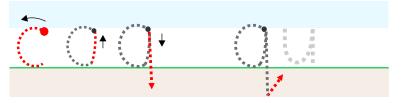


To help remember which is which, imagine that the letter <g> is sitting on his big foot.



But instead of a foot, the letter <q> has a hand, reaching up to make sure that his best friend, the letter <u>, is sitting next to him.

Lesson 13 continued...



Start like you are making a letter <g>.

Then, instead of curling it under to make a "foot," point the other way, like the <q> is reaching up to find his friend, the letter <u>.

Write the letter in <u>one</u> continuing movement. Don't lift your pencil until you are done.

Air "Writing"

"Write" the letter <q> in the air, using big arm movements, saying:

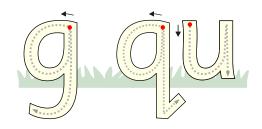
"Start like the letter <g>, but the <q> goes, "Yoo-hoo, where's my <u>?'"

Then have your child/students "air write" the letter many times, also saying the steps out loud.

Lesson 13 Worksheet

Verbal Lesson: Letter <q> versus letter <g>













get big dog







quit quiz quilt





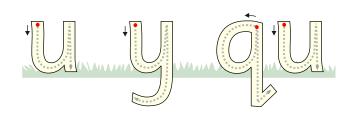
(quit means to stop)

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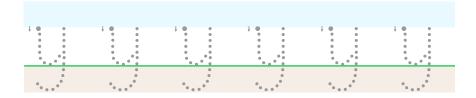
Lesson 14 Worksheet

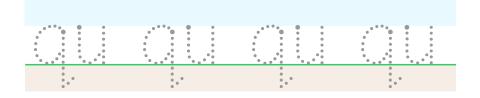
(No verbal lesson)

(Name)











up us yes yet









quit quiz quilt



