



How to...

DID YOU KNOW?

Calligraphy is a highly valued art in China that dates back more than 3,000 years.



Learn the art of calligraphy

Find out how you can create your own beautiful lettering.

Calligraphy, which is also sometimes known as lettering, is the art of beautiful handwriting. It also can be a good way to reduce stress because practicing calligraphy is a mindful and meditative exercise. More people are discovering the joys of this creative art. Here's how you can get started.

Gather supplies

All you need is blank paper, a few markers, and a pencil. Craft stores also sell calligraphy markers and "brush pens." Brush pens have a flexible tip for making light or thick lines depending on the pressure you put on the pen. Once you have your supplies, take time to try them out. Try holding your writing instrument at a 45-degree angle to the paper. Experiment with putting various amounts of pressure on the pen or writing lines with the marker's pointy tip or its chiseled side.



A calligraphy marker

Practice the basic strokes

Start by making a row of "upstrokes." These are thin lines to draw starting from the bottom and finishing at the top. On the next row, make "downstrokes." These are thick lines drawn from top to bottom. Draw

each line slowly, which will help you more easily transition between them as you begin to combine these strokes to make letters. You can find examples of more basic calligraphy strokes to practice on the YouTube channel "The Happy Ever Crafter."

Design a special font

Write a word in pencil lightly on paper. It could be any word you like, such as your name or initials.

You can write uppercase letters, lowercase letters, or a combination. You can even create your own font by leaving extra space around each letter to add special flourishes. For example, you might try adding polka dots, curlicues, or a nature theme of leaves and bees. If you'd like, give your font a name. (You may want to name it after yourself!)

Choose your color palette

When your marker dries, you can go back and erase some of the pencil lines. Next, you can add color to your letters. To give them a consistent look, choose two or three colors to use on each letter. When you're done coloring the letters, you can make them stand out by outlining them in a fine-tip marker.

3 fun ways to use it



Here are a few ideas for sharing your new calligraphy skills.

Cards You can give a friend or family member a card with a message you have lettered by hand. You could also write a holiday greeting or words of support to cheer someone up.

Party invites Make invitations to an upcoming celebration stand out by writing them by hand. You can also design place cards with people's names on them to use at the event itself!

Gifts You can write an inspiring or fun quote in calligraphy and frame it for yourself or someone else. It will be extra special because it's in your handwriting.