

Types of Print

by Denny Dart

As the technology of printing has evolved, so have the letters of the alphabet. The earliest hand-written letters probably took their shape from objects. The letter "A," written point down, looked like a cow. Can you see the triangular face with two horns on top?



When hand-writing a document, scribes could make letters in all different shapes. When printers began using metal type, they could etch or cast finer letters. Today, with computers, artists can easily design new type styles. The only limit is the reader. If a designer changes a letter too much, however, people won't be able to recognize it!

For example, can you find the two lower case "g"s in the list below that might be mistaken for the letter "s"? See answer below.



Now, try your hand at turning a letter into a picture:

1. Choose a letter from the alphabet.
2. Think of the name of something that starts with your letter—for example: "apple" for "a" and "bat" for "b."
3. Draw your letter so that it looks like the object you have chosen. You can squish your letter or stretch it, but be sure to keep the basic shape of the letter. 🎨

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Answer: These "g"s look like the letter "s":

