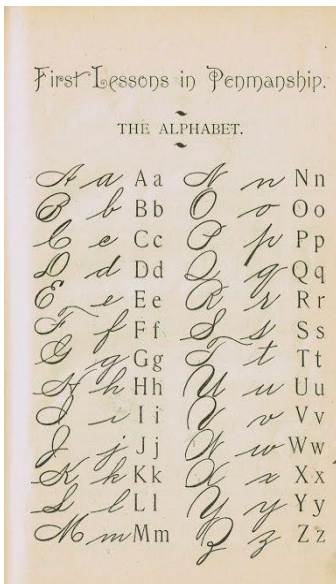
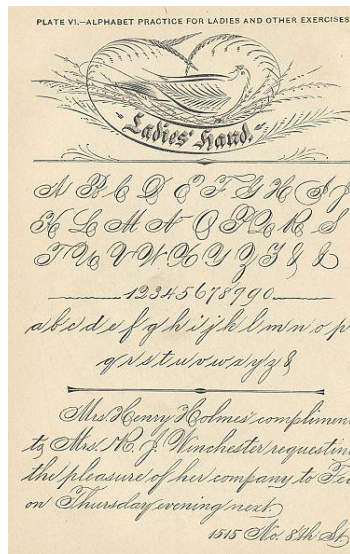


A Christmas Carol Vocabulary

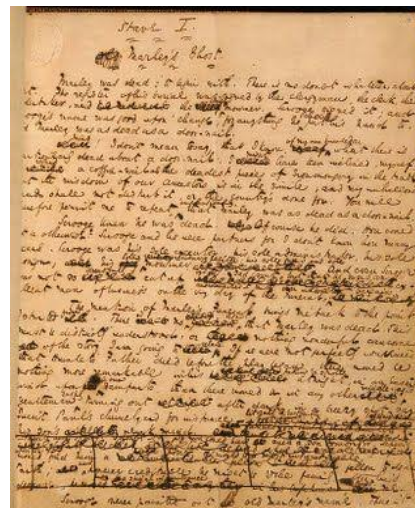
A *Christmas Carol* was written in 1843 during the Victorian era (1837-1901). Dickens wrote the entire manuscript by hand, a task which might seem unimaginable for writers today. However, penmanship was an essential art that was practiced both at school and at home. The primary form of communication was writing letters, and lots of them! Did you know that in 1889 London, letters were delivered twelve times a day? Thus students spent an extensive amount of time practicing neat, round, cursive writing called *Copperplate*, so named because students' copy books were printed from copper plates. This is what it looked like:



First penmanship lesson from a student copy book ca. 1895



Alphabet practice page for ladies ca. 1880



The first page of Dickens' manuscript. He only wrote one single copy of *A Christmas Carol* and finished the entire book within six weeks.

The following pages of copy work are a splendid opportunity to practice your penmanship while learning the definitions of classic vocabulary Dickens used in *A Christmas Carol*. Did you know that writing by hand, and cursive writing in particular, can help your brain to retain information more effectively?

If you would like to use cursive writing, you can use this page to practice forming the letters. If you prefer, you can use neat handwriting to slowly copy each vocabulary word twice and reflect on its definition. Try using the words in a sentence, during dinner conversations, or surprise your friends by commenting on their jocund, congenial demeanour when they next greet you happily.

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee

Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj

Kk Ll Mm Nn

Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss

Tt Uu Vv Ww

Xx Yy Zz

*“Papa, potatoes, poultry, prunes and prism,
are all very good words for the lips.”*

Charles Dickens

alderman			elected member of a municipal council
apoplectic			very angry and excited
apparition			ghost or other human-like spirit
apprehensive			hesitant or fearful
artifice			clever device to trick someone
aspirations			hope or ambition of achieving something
assign			one to whom a thing is assigned
avarice			extreme greed
balustrades			railing supported by short pillars or columns
beguile			charm or enchant, sometimes in a deceptive way
benevolence			well-meaning and kind
bereft			not having something or feeling great loss
bigotry			intolerance toward those who hold different opinions from oneself

bilious			affected by or associated with nausea or vomiting
boisterous			noisy, energetic, and cheerful
brazier			a portable heater that uses lighted coals
capacious			roomy
caustic			bitterly sarcastic
cesspool			a storage unit for liquid waste
chaise			horse-drawn carriage for one or two people
comely			pleasant to look at, attractive
condescension			attitude of disdainful superiority
conducive			tending to promote or assist, helpful
congenial			pleasant or friendly personality
consolation			comfort after a disappointment
conspicuous			to stand out
convey			make a feeling, idea, or impression known to someone
cordially			in a warm and friendly way

corroborate			confirm or give support
covetous			showing a great desire to possess something
cupola			small dome
demeanour			way of looking and behaving
demurely			to do with modesty
despondent			in low spirits from loss of hope or courage
deuce			(old English) bad luck – used as a mild oath
dowerless			lacking a dowry (the property and wealth a woman brought to a marriage)
encompass			surround and have or hold within
endeavor			try hard to do or achieve something
ensue			happen or occur afterward or as a result
entreaty			sincere request
excrescence			unusual growth on an animal or one of its organs or on a plant
extravagance			lack of restraint in spending wealth
facetious			meant to be humorous or funny, not serious

factious			likely to argue or disagree
fain			willing under the circumstances
fictitious			not real or true, being imaginary or having been fabricated
forbearance			patient self-control; restraint and tolerance
forfeits			to lose the right to do or have something because you have broken a rule
garret			room (usu. very small) just under the roof of a house
gladsome			having a cheerful disposition
haggard			looking exhausted
heresy			belief that goes against the teachings of the Christian church
homage			to pay public respect or honor something
humbug			something designed to deceive and mislead
illustrious			famous, well respected, and admired
impenetrable			impossible to pass through or enter
impropriety			something improper or inappropriate
inexorable			continuing without any possibility of being stopped

infamous			well-known for some bad quality or deed
intervention			becoming involved intentionally in a difficult situation
intimation			suggestion
ironmongery			store that sells iron works
irresolution			hesitancy, uncertainty
jocund			cheerful and lighthearted
jovial			happy and friendly
kith and kin			one's friends, acquaintances, and relations
latent			hidden or concealed
liberality			quality of giving or spending freely
livery			special uniform worn by a servant or official
loth			unwilling, reluctant
manslaughter			crime of killing a person when the killer did not intend to do it
melancholy			feeling of pensive sadness
mirth			laughter, humour, or happiness

misanthropic			disliking people in general and having an anti-social bad attitude
morose			bleak outlook or attitude
munificence			great generosity
notwithstanding			nevertheless; in spite of this
ominous			to give an impression of doom or imply bad things will happen
opaque			something that is unclear, not transparent
opulence			great wealth or luxuriousness
palpable			able to be touched or felt
parapets			low protective wall
pendulous			loosely hanging down
penitence			showing sorrow or regret
petrification			conversion into stone or stony substance
phantom			spirit or illusion
phenomenon			fact or situation which is unexplained
pinion			tie or hold the arms or legs of (someone)

plume oneself			congratulate oneself, boast
predicament			difficult situation
preposterous			absurd or ridiculous
prodigiously			remarkably or impressively great in extent, size, or degree
ramparts			anything that acts as a barricade
rebuke			sharp disapproval
reclamation			process of claiming something back
recumbent			laying down, reclining
relinquish			voluntarily cease to keep or claim; give up
remorse			deep regret or guilt
repentance			sincere regret or remorse
reproach			expression of disapproval or disappointment
residuary			person entitled to the remainder of an estate
resolute			having determined outlook
resolution			firm choice to do or not to do something

retentive			having the ability to remember facts and impressions easily
reveler			person who is enjoying themselves in a lively and noisy way
reverently			with deep and solemn respect
ruddy			having a healthy red color
scabbard			sheath for a weapon
sepulcher			room or monument, cut in rock or built of stone, in which a dead person is laid or buried
shroud			burial wrapping
slipshod			careless
solemnize			to observe or honour with formal ceremony
solitude			state of being alone
sordid			immoral or unethical (from the Latin 'sordes' - dirty)
specter			ghost or vision
spontaneous combustion			situation in which something suddenly starts to burn without any obvious cause
squab			fledgling pigeon about four weeks old

supplication			earnest begging
supposition			belief held without proof or certain knowledge
surmount			overcome (a difficulty or obstacle)
swarthy			dark-skinned
transparent			easy to perceive or detect
ubiquitous			seeming to be everywhere
unanimity			agreement by all people involved; consensus
unhallowed			something unholy
uproarious			provoking a loud sound or laughter
veneration			great respect; reverence
vestige			small trace of something that is no longer present
vigor			physical strength and good health
waggish			playful or mischievous humor
withal			in addition