

WEEK 9 LESSON

LETTERING

Introduction

You have learnt the 26 letters of the English alphabets. We use these letters in writing words and also in designing. Many of the posters, banners and billboards you see along the street contain letters. The letters are usually written or arranged in a unique way to fit the general design. In this lesson, we shall learn more about lettering.

What is lettering?

Lettering is the art of constructing or writing letters in a unique style. With letters we communicate to people in writing. When you type messages or letters on a computer or phone, it is done with letters. Even, what you are reading now comprises of letters.

Origin of lettering

The early men lived in caves many years ago. They made various impressions on the wall of their caves. Under Egyptian civilization, a system of writing was developed which was named hieroglyphics. This way of writing was done with pictures. The pictures helped to communicate the mind of the person writing the message. The Greeks introduced the vowel sounds such as a, e, i, o and u. The alphabets we use today was introduced by the Romans. These letters were handwritten until John Gutenberg invented printing.

Types of lettering

Lettering are of two types

- 1. Calligraphy:** This type of lettering is handwritten. It is not constructed. It can also be called pen lettering or script lettering. It can be done using pen and ink or a calligraphy pen.
- 2. Block lettering:** This type of lettering is constructed or drawn. In constructing letters, one requires a ruler, pencil, eraser, and a clean sheet of white paper. Block lettering appears in

various fonts or lettering style. There are four basic types of block lettering. Other types of lettering developed out of these four basic types of lettering.

(a) Gothic font or lettering style

(b) Italics font or lettering style

(c) Roman font or lettering style

(d) Text font or lettering style:

These letters appear both as uppercase (capital letters) or lower case (small letters). They may also contain a serif or not. **A serif is a projection across the ending part of the major stroke of a letter.**

Qualities of good lettering

1. Simplicity: A good lettering should appear simple and not complex to sight
2. Legibility: A good lettering should easily readable.
3. Spacing: A good lettering should have a reasonable space within and around the letters.
4. Uniformity: A good lettering should have letters that match together in size and shape
5. Suitability: A good lettering must be fitting or suitable for its purpose.

Uses of lettering

1. Lettering is used for communication
2. It is used to disseminate information
3. It is used to educate people.
4. It forms an important part of a design.

Class activity

How to construct Lettering

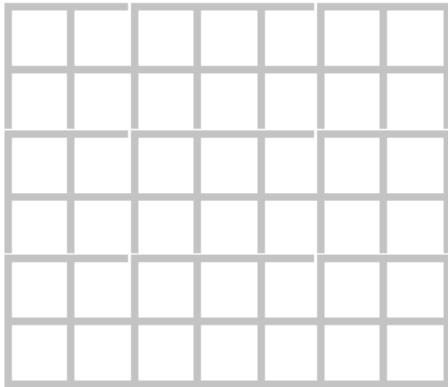
There three forms in which capital letters appear:

1. Rectangular form. This includes letters such as E, H, L, M, N
2. Circular or Round form: This includes letters like O, C, G, Q

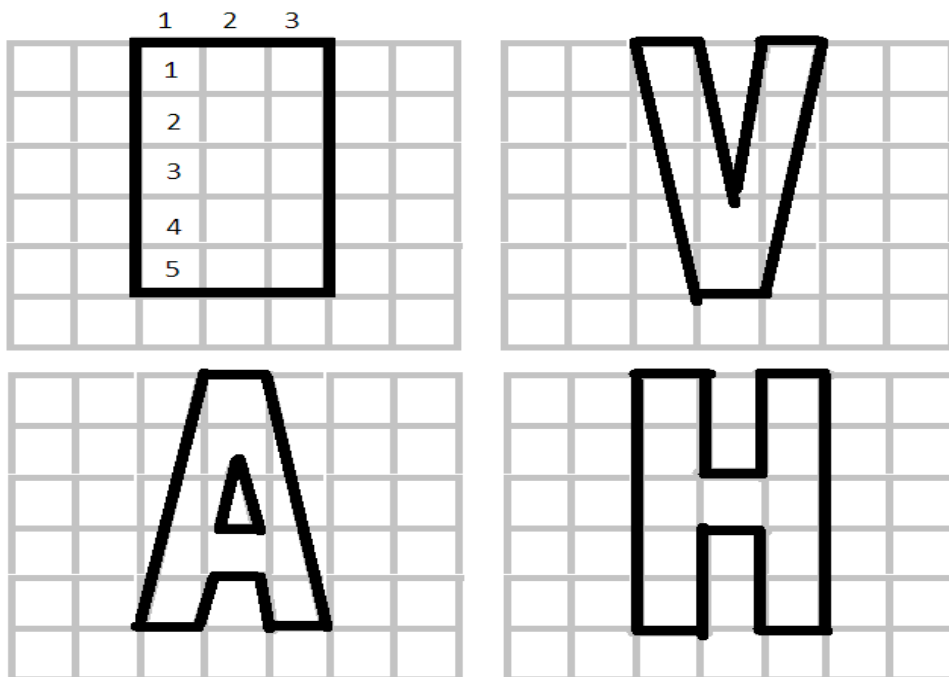
3. Triangular form: This includes letters like A, and V

To write these letters,

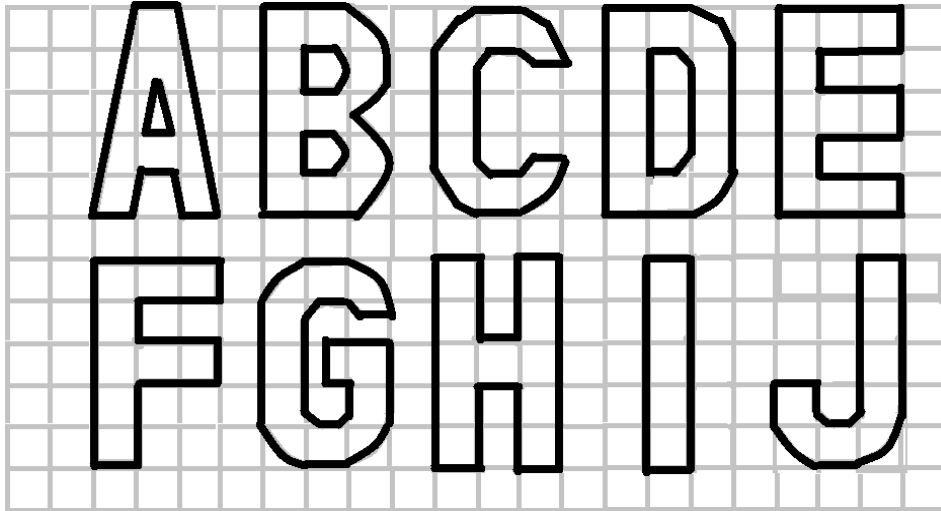
(a) Draw out faint vertical lines of 3 centimeters apart and horizontal lines across them as shown below:



2. Let us make use of three boxes horizontally and five boxes vertically to draw letters such as A, V, C E and H. Make sure you do not exceed three boxes while moving towards your right and five boxes while moving towards your left. Practice the examples given below:



Some letters take more spaces or boxes than other. For instance letter I will require less boxes than W. Follow the method above and construct A to Z alphabets, giving the space of one box between all the letters.



With the knowledge of construction of lettering as shown above, construct the sentence, “Know you right.”