Diagonal joins: answers and notes

What your child practised: diagonal joins that start at the bottom of a letter and slant up to short letters, or right to the top of tall letters (Years 3–4 handwriting).

Page 1 · Warm up

Every join starts at the bottom. Right to the top: i to t in **lit**, c to k in **tick**. All the others go to the middle line.

Page 2 · Try it together

Answers will vary. In **hit**, **cut** and **lick**, the join before t or k goes right to the top.

Page 2 · A. Finish at the bottom

a, i, n, l, h, e (o, r, w and v finish at the top).

Page 2 · B. Where the join goes

Middle line: **in**, **em**, **ai**. Top: **al**, **ut**, **ch**.

Page 3 · C. Trace and write

Middle line: both joins in **him**. Right to the top: before **l** (tail), **k** (duck) and **t** (kite). In **kite**, the last join slants into the middle of **e**.

Page 3 · D. Joined the right way

in: the second (the first has a flat join). **ill**: the first (in the second, the joins stop halfway). **cut**: the first (in the second, the join to t is flat).

Page 3 · E. The sentence

Every letter in each word joins, with joins right to the top of **t** and **h**.

Challenge: No. Before a tall letter like **l**, the join slants **right up to the top**, then the pencil comes straight back down. A join that stops at the middle line leaves a bump in the l.

Watch out for

- **Flat joins from letters that finish at the bottom** (along the line, then up). Say "down, flick and *up*": the join slopes like a slide.
- **Joins that stop halfway** before l, h, k or t. Aim for the very top, then come back down the same line.
- **Round letters** (a, c, d, g, o, q) start like c, so the join goes to the top of the round part, even for d.

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Sky writing:** write *in* and *hill* in the air with a straight arm, saying "down, flick and up".
- **Back writing:** write a short joined word on your child's back with a finger. Can they guess it?
- **In the game:** Chapter 2, Horizontal joins, looks at o, r, v and w, which join straight across the top.