Name _____ Date _____

Diagonal joins

Join from the bottom of a letter, slanting up to the next one.

1 Learn



Lots of letters finish at the **bottom** with a little flick. A **diagonal join** (green below) carries on from the flick and slants up to the next letter. Schools often call joined writing **cursive**.



To a short letter
slant up to the dashed middle line



To a tall letter
slant right up to the top

Writing *cut*, step by step



1. Write **c**. It finishes at the bottom.



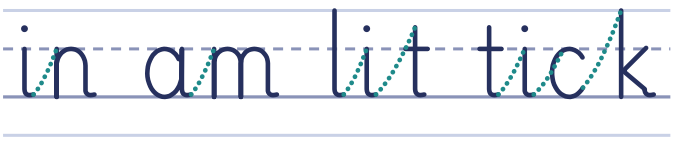
2. Slant up to the middle line, then write **u**.



3. Slant right up to the top, write **t**, then cross it.

Flip's tip: keep your pencil on the paper until the word is finished. Then go back to dot the **i**s and cross the **t**s.

Warm up: trace the dotted joins with your pencil.



Grown-ups: read Flip's words aloud. Say "down, flick and up" for each join as your child writes. If their school's letter shapes look a little different, follow the school's style.

Diagonal joins

Name _____ Date _____

2 Try it together

a child and a grown-up, about 10 minutes



Salt-tray joins

You need: a baking tray or a plate with a rim, a few spoonfuls of salt, flour or sugar, and a clean finger.

1. Shake the salt flat. The grown-up writes **i** in it with a finger. The child says where it finishes: **at the bottom**.
2. The child carries on from the flick, slants up to the middle and writes **n**, to make **in**.
3. Shake it flat. Now join from **i** right up to the top of a tall letter: write **il**, then **ill**.
4. Take turns writing the words in the table. The other person checks each join, then ticks.

Word	Every join starts at the bottom	Joins reach the top of tall letters
in		no tall letters
hit		
cut		
lick		

Grown-ups: writing big in salt helps the hand learn the movement. Ask "Where does this letter finish? So where does the join start?" Then try one word on paper.

3 Practise

A. Draw a ring round each letter that finishes at the **bottom**.

a o i r n w l v h e

B. Draw the missing join. Then tick where the join goes up to.

in	al	em	ut	ai	ch
☐ middle ☐ top	☐ middle ☐ top	☐ middle ☐ top	☐ middle ☐ top	☐ middle ☐ top	☐ middle ☐ top

Name _____ Date _____

C. Trace each word. Then write it on the line, joined.

him _____ tail _____

duck _____ kite _____

D. Tick the word that is joined the right way.

☐ in	☐ ill	☐ cut
☐ in	☐ ill	☐ cu t

E. Copy the sentence in joined writing.

the cat hid in the hut

Challenge

Mia writes **hill**. Her joins stop at the dashed line and bump into the middle of each **l**. Is that right? What should she do?

_____

_____

I can…

Tick when you can.

- ☐ start a diagonal join at the bottom of a letter
- ☐ slant right up to the top of tall letters like l, h and k
- ☐ write words like in, cut and hill with diagonal joins