

Welcome, Cursive Code Cracker!

Today, your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to master some tricky cursive letters – the ones with loops! These letters need careful curves and connections to look just right. Are you ready to crack the code?

Step 1: Warm-up (5 minutes)

Let's warm up our writing muscles! Gently wiggle your fingers, wrists, and arms. Practice making smooth, continuous looping shapes (like ocean waves or roller coaster loops) in the air and then on a blank piece of paper or the top of your worksheet. Remember to keep your movements light and fluid.

Step 2: Meet the Loopy Letters (15-20 minutes)

We'll focus on these lowercase letters today: **l, h, k, b, f, e**. Look at your cursive alphabet chart to see how they are formed.

- **l**: Start at the baseline, sweep up to the top line, loop back down straight to the baseline, and add a small tail to connect.
- **h**: Like 'l', sweep up to the top line, loop back down straight, but halfway up, trace back up and make a hump that curves down to the baseline with a tail.
- **k**: Similar to 'h', but after the hump, loop it inwards to touch the stem, then swing out to the baseline with a tail.
- **b**: Like 'l', sweep up, loop down, but then curve back up to the midline, make a little side loop (like a knot), and add a tail.
- **f**: This one's tricky! Sweep up to the top line, loop down *below* the baseline, loop back up crossing at the baseline, and finish with a tail.
- **e**: Start below the midline, loop up *to* the midline, curve around, and finish with a tail.

Now, use Worksheet 1: Loopy Letter Practice. Trace the letters first, then practice writing them on your own. Focus on the starting point, the direction of your pencil, and making smooth loops. Try connecting pairs like 'le', 'he', 'be'.

Step 3: Crack the Code! (10-15 minutes)

Great work, Agent! It's time to use your new skills. On Worksheet 2: 'Crack the Code', you'll find a secret message written using only the loopy letters we practiced. Carefully read the cursive letters and write the printed version underneath each word to reveal the message.

Step 4: Write Your Own Message (10 minutes)

Now it's your turn to be the code master! Try writing a short, simple secret message (maybe just 2-3 words) for someone else using only the cursive letters l, h, k, b, f, e, and any other simple letters you know (like 'a' or 'i' if you've learned them). Example: 'bee heel'.

Step 5: Mission Debrief (5 minutes)

Well done, Code Cracker! Let's review:

- Which letter was the trickiest to write? Why?
- Which letter was the easiest?
- Show me your best example of connecting two letters.
- Read your secret message aloud!

Keep practicing your loopy letters! Soon you'll be writing flowing cursive like a seasoned agent.