



# calligraphy 101

Your friends at Hallmark would love to share some tips, tricks and key terms to use when learning how to write calligraphy. Enjoy!

## Tips & Tricks

### tip #1

Pen hold is important: your thumb and first finger are considered the grippers and your middle finger is used as the resting finger. The staff of the pen should rest between your first two knuckles, not in the crease of your hand.

### tip #2

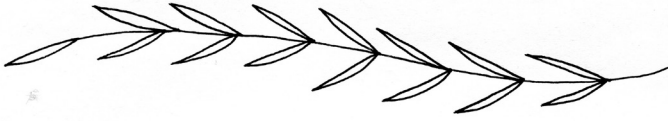
Keep your pen-angle constant; lead the nib, don't push it and make parallel lines and even curves.

### tip #3

Be sure to remove the oil coating on the nibs that prevents corrosion. Gently scrub your nib with a toothbrush and dish soap or wave under a small flame quickly. If old ink is clogging your nib, swish it around in water and wipe with a soft cloth, like an old napkin.

### tip #4

To avoid bleeding, papers with a cotton content give a good crisp line. Always make sure you allow the ink to dry to avoid smudging!



*glossary*

*nib*

The part of the pen that comes into contact with the writing surface in order to deposit ink. **Italic nibs** have a blunt edge, used for gothic, italic and squared styles; **flex nibs** are rounded with two tines that come to a point, and the line variation comes from the tines' ability to split. The more they separate, the wider the line width.

*dip pen*

Dip pens allow greater latitude with ink selection and can also be used with other media such as gouache or an acrylic-based ink. Use a **straight pen** as a beginner to learn how to use pressure to create thick or thin lines.

Once you have mastered calligraphy, use an **oblique pen** to achieve a better angle/slant while writing to ensure an even distribution of pressure.

*flourish*

An additional embellishment added to a letter or word to add beauty and visual interest.

*hairline*

The thinnest stroke made with the pen.