



www.long-live-pitmans-shorthand-lessons.org.uk

www.long-live-pitmans-shorthand-reading.org.uk

www.long-live-pitmans-shorthand.org.uk

Images & Text © Beryl L Pratt

Blogs - 2016 - March

2 Blue Bell Hill

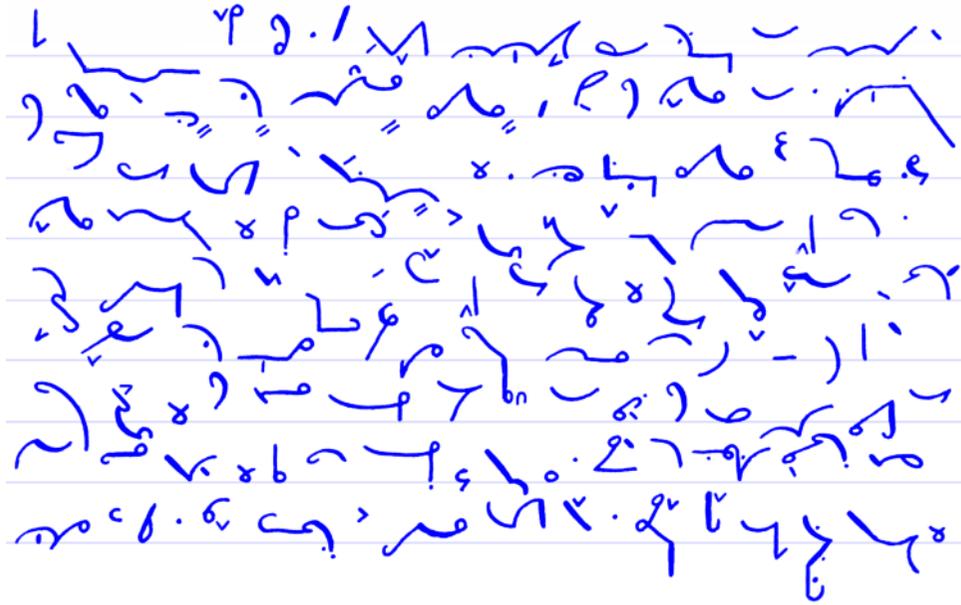
4 Sales

7 Frogs

9 Boat Race

All material is copyright Beryl L Pratt and may not be republished, or reposted online, in any form. This file is intended for non-commercial personal study use only. The only permitted download site for this file is <https://www.long-live-pitmans-shorthand-reading.org.uk>

PDF Date: 5 June 2020

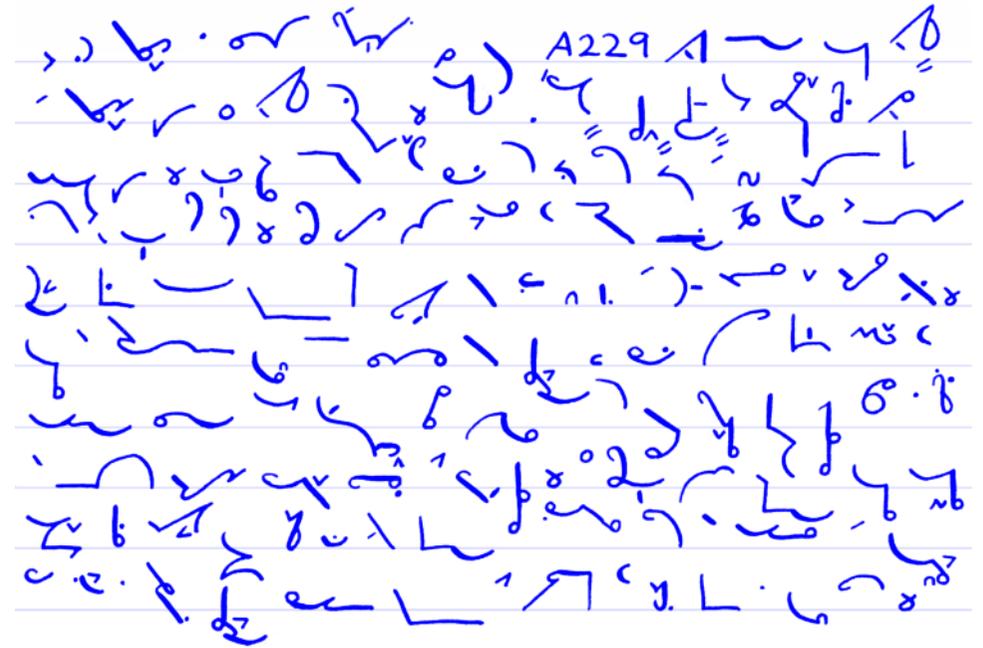


Blue Bell Hill

At the picnic site there is a large upright memorial stone, erected in memory of three members of Kent Air Ambulance Service who lost their lives in a helicopter crash near the village of Burham. The men's dedicated service with that organisation saved the lives of many people. Sitting in front of the view, I feel I could be* looking out from an airplane window or about to take off* and fly out over the fields. Seeing the birds gliding to and fro on the rising air currents that such hills produce makes me wish I could see it all from their point of view*. They are of course interested only in hunting their next

meal hidden in the long grass below. It is more interesting when the bird is a hawk or kestrel, hovering almost motionless with just a slight quivering of the wings, followed by a high speed dive into the vegetation beneath.

- * "could be" Not phrased with the "I", because that is too much like "I can be"
- * "take off " Hook F to represent "off"
- * Omission phrase "point (of) view"



Blue Bell Hill

To the east, behind a small promontory, is the busy A229 road* going into Rochester, and behind the hill is Rochester Airport. In addition the North Downs Tunnel for the high speed trains runs underneath the hill. None of these can be either seen or heard from here and you have to look at the map to know they are there. There is one little noise that cannot be ignored and that is the voice of the camera saying "Take another picture of it, you'll be glad you did," and so of course I always obey. Photos of panoramic views can sometimes be disappointing when seen later on at home and I find that including something in the foreground, such as leaves or bushes, provides depth and distance, as well as a contrast of colour between the nearby greens and the blue distance. As there is

no limit to taking photos nowadays, unlike the days of real film*, I just end up taking snaps from all angles and viewpoints, in order to* avoid a possibly disappointing single picture and the regret that I didn't take a few more.

- * "road" and "route" Insert the vowel, as these are similar in outline and meaning
- * "real" Insert the diphthong. Use a simple thick dot for "reel", as these two could be misread for each other in this context
- * Omission phrase "in ord(er to)"
- * "avoid" Always insert the diphthong, as it is similar to "evade" in shape and meaning

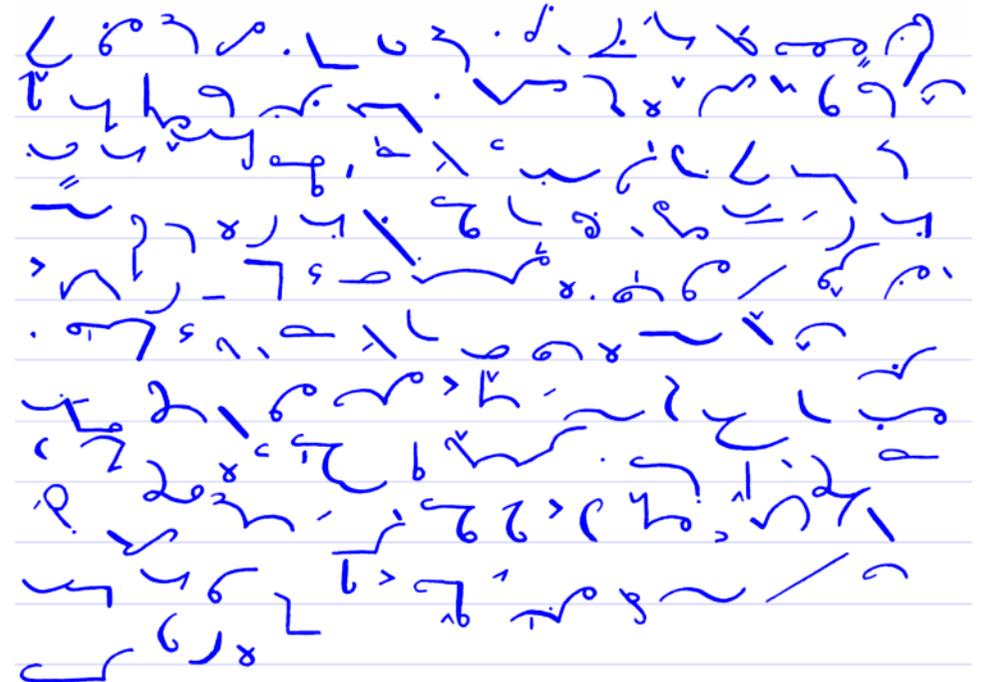


Blue Bell Hill

To the west, long walks lead off along the North Downs Way with more magnificent views of the "Garden of England". The south west side of Blue Bell Hill has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest in order to* provide protection for several rare chalkland plants. I have never seen bluebells here, but the name probably refers to a blue bell which was used to summon horses to draw vehicles up the hill between Maidstone and Chatham, hence the name being two words rather than one. This is a very quiet and peaceful place, and on a summer's day I could sit on the wooden plank bench without any desire to move on to the next location. I imagine the scene in other weather conditions, rain and mist, a pink dawn or red sunset, or a

sunny* day of thick snow*, but realise we are not going to be here at such times*. Only the desire to avoid* rush hour traffic encourages us to leave and head for home. (804 words)

- * Omission phrase "in ord(er to)"
- * "sun, snow, sunny, snowy" Always insert the vowels
- * "at such times" Halving for the T of "times"
- * "avoid" Always insert the diphthong, as it is similar to "evade" in shape and meaning

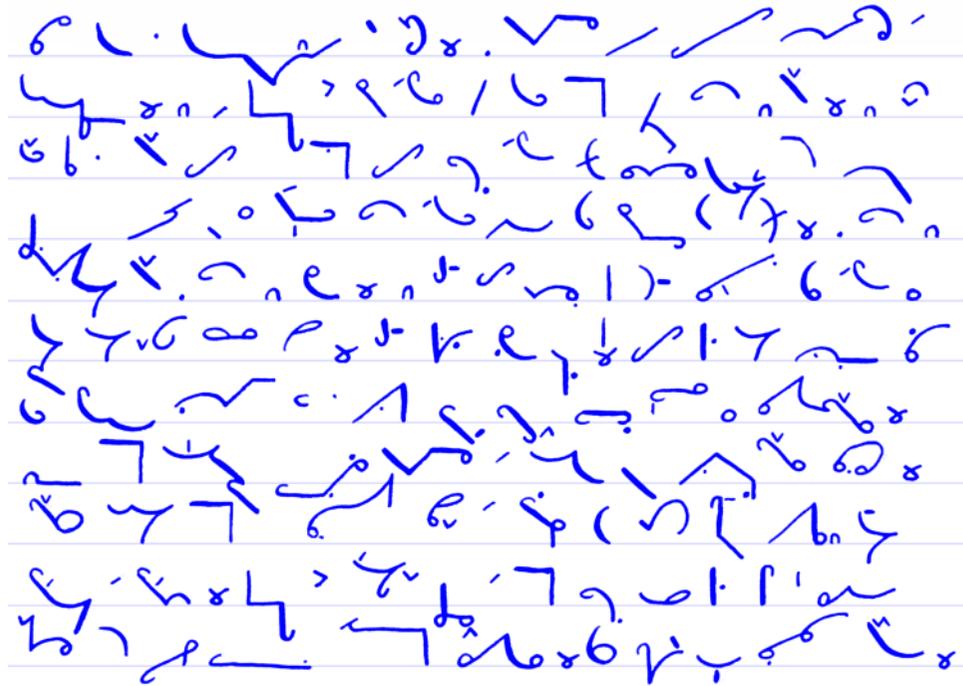


Sales

January sales were once the big event of the year, a chance to shake off the post-Christmas lethargy and dive into the department store melée to grab a bargain or two. I learned about this from my Nan in the nineteen sixties, who stocked up with knitting wool every January, to keep her going throughout the year. She knitted baby clothes for friends, to supplement income, and she needed all the help she could get with the cost of materials. The summer sales are slightly less of a scrummage with the opportunity to stock

up for next summer. Going by my email inbox, there seem to be sales more or less* all the time and many of them no longer have names that match the seasons. With clothing, it is primarily a clearing out of seasonal stock, swapping between warm and cool clothes, and then all the other items would also be included in the sale, to take advantage of the crowds and the impulse to spend money rather more quickly than usual.

- * Omission phrase "more (or) less"



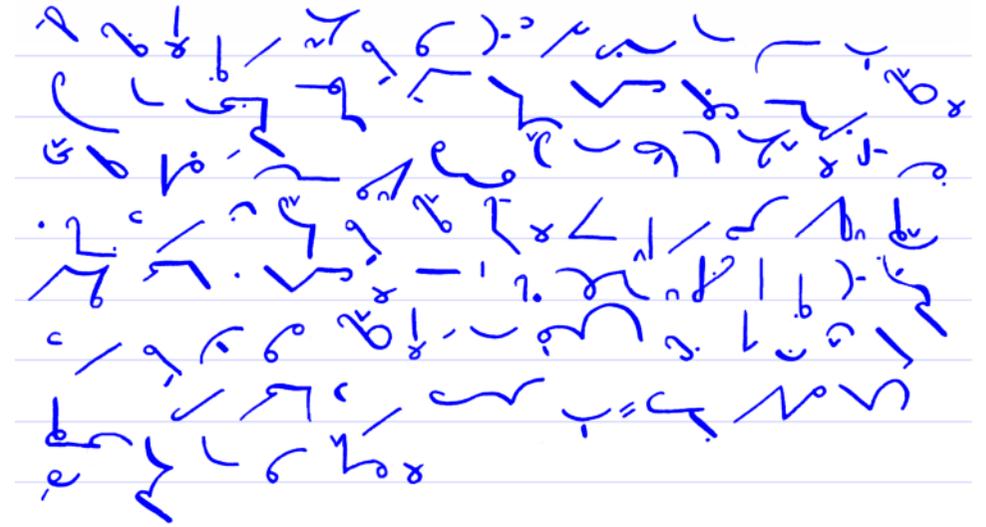
Sales

Sales have a vocabulary all of their own. The bargains are wonderful, marvellous and fantastic. You should take advantage of the special offers, which often get cheaper the more you buy. You might find it is a Buy One Get One Free offer (sometimes conveniently or maybe disparagingly referred to as BOGOF, more often written than spoken, though). The more you buy, the more you save. You don't want to miss it, so hurry, this offer is available only while stocks last. Don't delay, save today! One day only, mega sale event, everything marked with a red, blue, brown, green cross is half price*. You can get

unbelievable* clearance bargains and never-to-be-repeated price slashes. Prices not only get slashed, sliced and blasted, they also drop, reduce, fall, plunge and plummet. Take advantage of the online discounts and get free next day delivery on certain items, or use the click and collect service. This is truly no-hassle buying.

* "half-price" Using stroke F instead of hook, in order to join the phrase

* "unbelievable" This is using the short form for "believe" in the middle



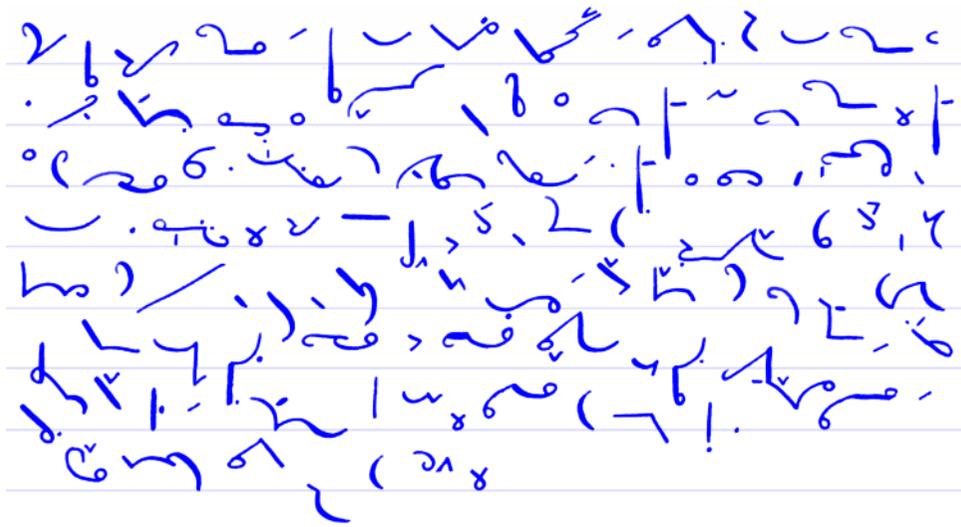
Sales

Stop press! It's our annual super sale, so what are you waiting for, look no further for incredible extraordinary* rock-bottom, bargain basement, give-away* prices. Find the best deals and make huge savings, either in store or online. Don't miss a trick with our mad Friday super price drop. Check out our greatly reduced designer ranges and grab a bargain. Go on, treat yourself, you deserve it, it's so affordable with our super low sales prices! And in

smaller print at the end might be the disclaimer, we regret that our normal no-quibble returns policy is not available for sale items.

* "extraordinary" Optional contraction

* "give-away" Much faster than using the short form, a hyphen and "away" separately.



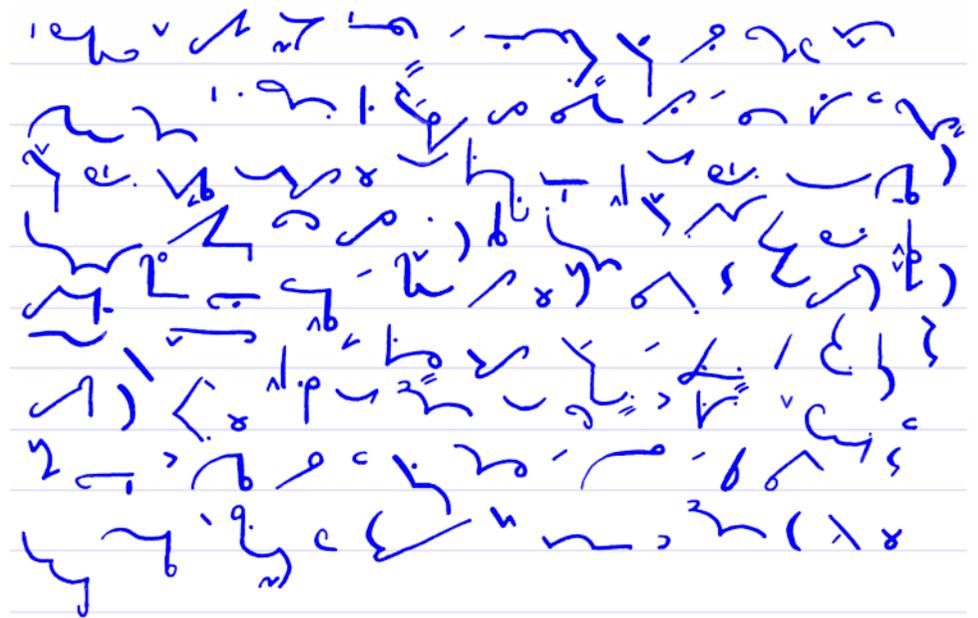
Frogs

There are differences between frogs and toads in appearance, behaviour and habitat, although any frog with a rough bumpy skin is likely to be addressed as Mr Toad and not Mr Frog. Toad has other meanings as well, an unpleasant or loathsome person, and a toady is someone who grovels to another, a sycophant. I would go down to the pond to ask them to clarify this point, but I think at the moment* they are rather

too busy to bother about names, and by the time they are free to talk, they will have disappeared back into the shady corners of the gardens, hiding under sheds, woodpiles and compost bins by day, and roaming at night. As long as they keep eating the slugs and flies, I am very happy to have them around. (613 words)

* Omission phrase "at (the) moment"

Handwriting practice lines consisting of horizontal lines for writing.



Boat Race

On Sunday afternoon* I watched the annual Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race, from the comfort of my living room on a stormy day of blustery winds, heavy rain and some hail, with brilliant bright sunny* periods in between. Any temptation to go out in the sunny* interludes was firmly rejected more than once, an easy decision confirmed by the rapidly changing scene outside the window*, dark grey clouds and driving rain. I was hoping that the weather was going to be kinder out on the Thames between Putney and Chiswick*, which thankfully it was, although the water was choppy. Sat in the warm in front of the telly, I flinched when I saw the crew of the ladies race, with bare arms and legs, and just hoped that the 15-minutes of

strenuous effort they were about to make would warm them up.

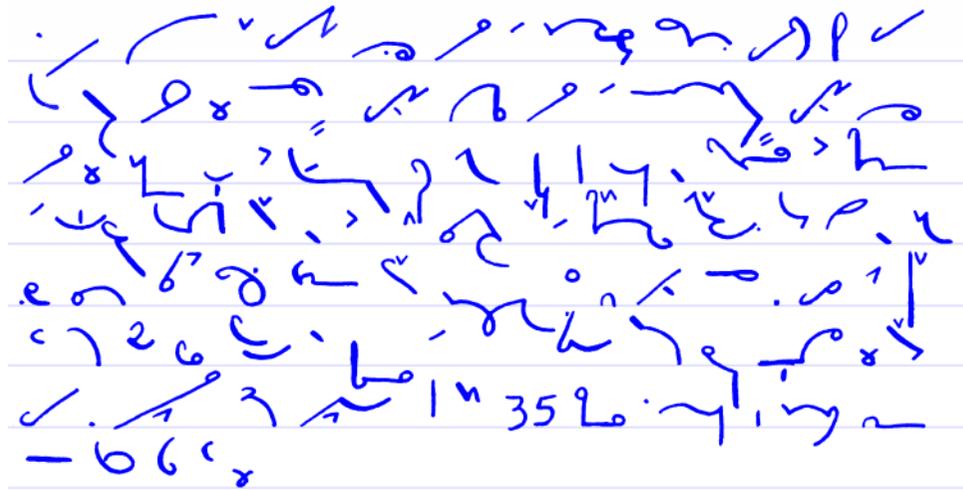
* Omission phrase "Sunday (a)f(ter)noon" Keep the last N hook clear, so it does not look like the similar phrase "Sunday ev(en)ing" which uses F/V hook and stroke Ing

* "sunny" Always insert the vowels in "sun/snow, sunny/snowy"

* "window" Prudent to insert the last vowel, as "windy" would also make sense, if you moved the comma to after "outside"

* "Chiswick" is pronounced "chizik"

Handwriting practice lines consisting of horizontal lines for writing.



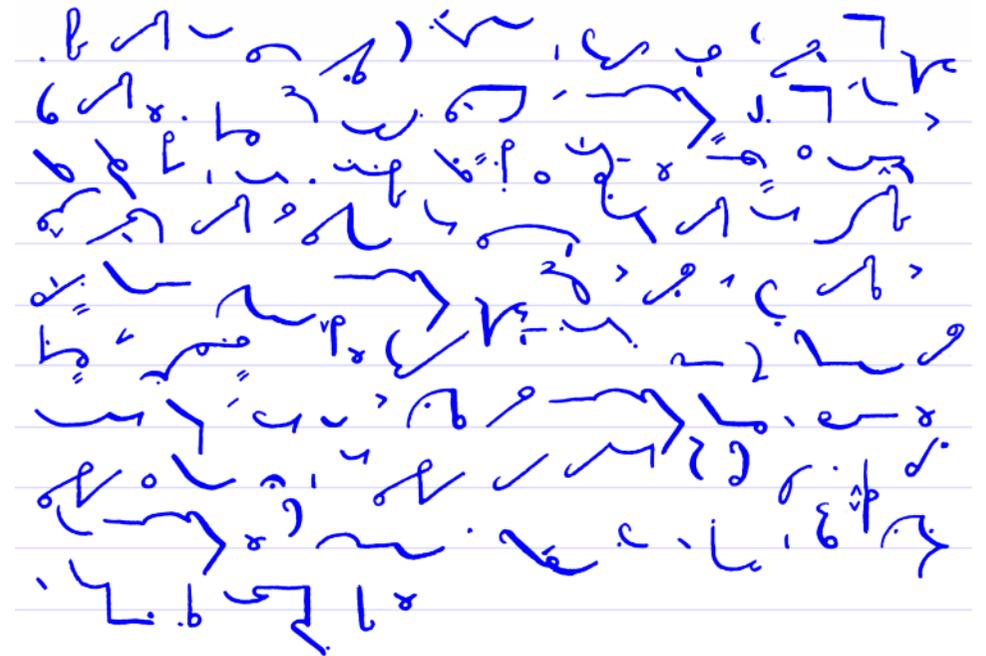
Boat Race

An hour later I watched the men's race and I am glad to say that the* stormy weather stayed away for both races. Oxford won the Ladies race and Cambridge won the Men's race. I took note of the vocab throughout and have divided it into two paragraphs of the dramatic and uncomfortable, followed by two of the hopeful and triumphant, and finally for the last two I have saved some choice phrases that you can apply to

yourself as you row against the winds and the tide with your shorthand efforts, overcoming all difficulties and achieving all your speed goals. By the way, the rowers were rowing at about 35 strokes a minute but I am sure you can go faster than that.

* Omission phrase "I am glad (to) s(ay) that the"

Horizontal lines for writing practice.



Boat Race

The state of the water in some reaches was appalling, but everyone knows that you've* got to deal with this water. The teams were initially sluggish, and Cambridge didn't get off to the best possible start, but now the intensity of the pace-setting is unsustainable. Oxford has encountered slightly rougher water and is heading for the smoother water in the shelter of the Surrey bank, leaving Cambridge to deal with the worst of the waves and the evil waters of the Thames on the Middlesex side. They were caught

napping, you can see the breaking waves entering the boat, and near the end of the Ladies race Cambridge begins to sink. History is being made but not the history we wanted, although there is still an outside chance for Cambridge. They are making a bruising effort to continue but with this level of fatigue it's incredibly difficult.

* "you've" Apostrophied phrases use full outlines and not short forms

Horizontal lines for writing practice.

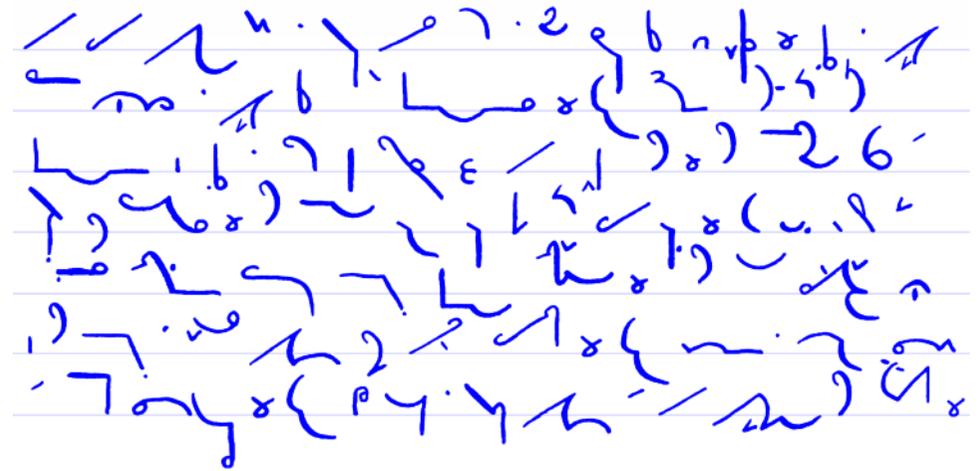


Boat Race

It will* take a mistake by Cambridge to lose this race and they are working to try and maintain the lead. Oxford are the winners of the Ladies' race and emphatically so. They win by a handsome margin and have mastered this river. They are worthy victors, especially as those who have lost before, to come back and win. In the Men's race, Oxford is doing a great job to stay in the race, they sail on, they row

on, towards victory. Oxford are in control. The moment will shortly belong to Oxford once again*. The race looks like it's done and dusted, it's all coming right. The Cambridge crew will be feeling light, warm and dry, and they can hear the echoing cries of the cheers at Chiswick Bridge.

* Omission phrase "it (w)ill" "wu(n)s again"



Boat Race

Are we reading about a boat race or a shorthand speed test, you decide. It's a real significant moment, a real test of techniques. They have worked so hard on their technique but it's a very different prospect when you are out there. They are gathering themselves and battling through nerves. They are going to have to do it the

hard way today. They need to step on the gas and break clear, keep digging and driving. They are in survival mode but they are keeping a nice rhythm through the rough water. They have to make a move somehow and get some confidence. They have settled into a better rhythm and are reasserting their authority.

