



**Dear Mr Pitman**

---Original message---

From: Pitman  
Date: 10/5/2016 - 8:30 (GMTDT)  
To: Ryter  
ubject: Any news?

like to hear about it, but you must write it all in shorthand for me and then I will enjoy reading it even more. I always like to hear how my students and shorthand devotees are getting on. Best wishes\*, Mr Pitman>>

<<Dear Mr Ryter, Have you been doing anything interesting lately? I would really

\* "best wishes" Upward Ish in order to join the phrase

**Dear Mr Pitman**

Dear Mr Pitman, I am sorry I have not written for a while, but I have been extremely busy. I was going to tell you all the interesting things I have done and seen over the last few months, but there really is no time at the moment\* to go through my diary and compose a summary of activities. It does take some time\* to get it all together and unfortunately\* I have had to leave all that until later, and concentrate on my shorthand studies. I hope you are able

to\* excuse this lack of news from my neck of the woods.

\* Omission phrases "at (the) moment" "I (h)ope you are able to"

\* "unfortunately" Optional contraction

\* "some time" Halving to represent the T in this phrase

**Dear Mr Pitman**

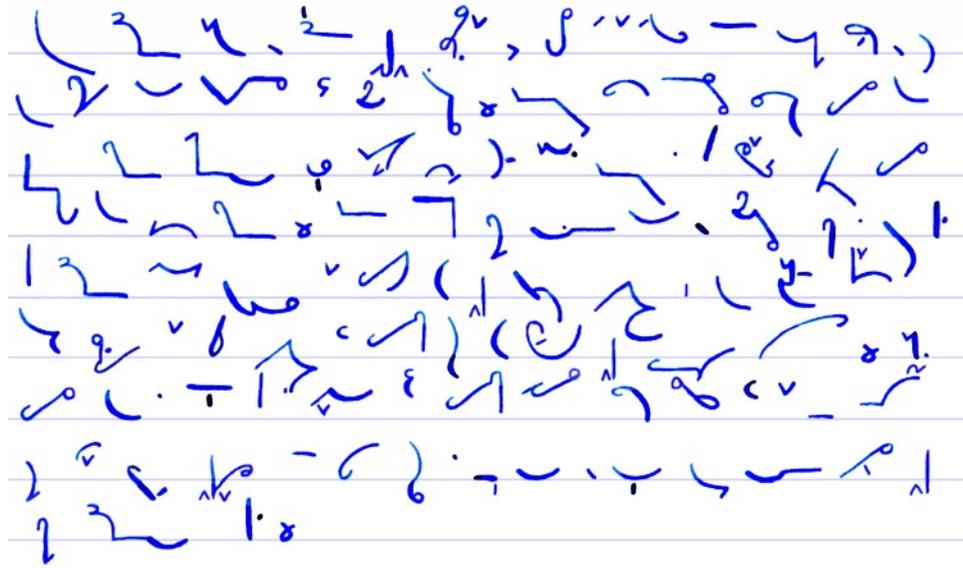
I have taken to getting up earlier, so that I can do some extra shorthand practice before everyone else is out of bed. While waiting for the breakfast toast to pop up and the kettle to boil, I can usually fill up two pages of the facility drill book\*. This is quite an easy task as the outlines are already there and I don't have to struggle to remember them, although there is still the\* work of reading each sentence before I copy it out, but that is becoming much easier. Whilst eating breakfast, I read through the next few pages in advance. I

have set myself the task of writing another two pages before I wash up the breakfast things and this really makes me get a move on. The clock seems to whizz round so fast and before I know it, it is time to dash out of the door and be on my way.

\* Omission phrase "there is s(t)ill the"

\* Facility drill book PDFs of blog articles [www.long-live-pitmans-shorthand-reading.org.uk/blog-downloads.htm](http://www.long-live-pitmans-shorthand-reading.org.uk/blog-downloads.htm)

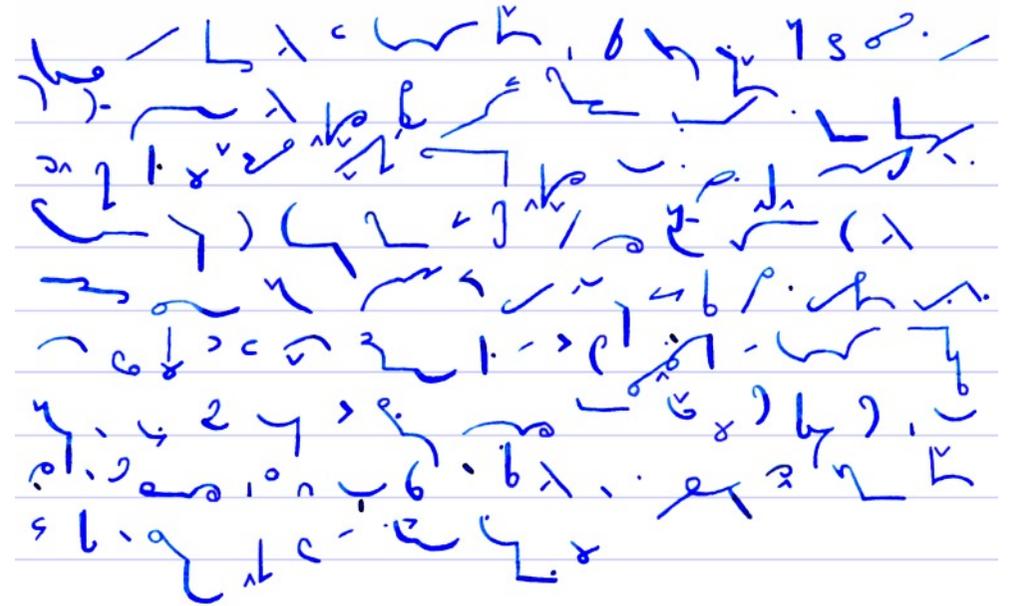




**Dear Mr Pitman**

After work I have to walk down the high street to the station and I often go into the store to see if there are any bargains with the shorthand pads. I keep the more expensive smooth ones for dictation practice and taking notes of real meetings, so I need to keep a large supply of the cheaper ones for home practice. I can get through the ink in two shorthand pens during a busy day at work and in the

evenings I wash them out before refilling, but if I don't have time for that straight away, I just refill with water so that they flush out cleanly later on. I did once have a go at writing with that water, and was very surprised that I could actually see the light blue outlines quite well, so that is a good thing to know if the ink runs out during the working day.

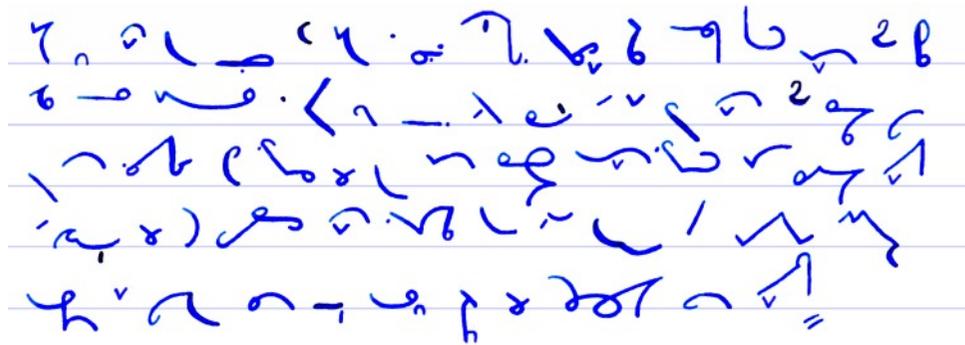


**Dear Mr Pitman**

Evenings are taken up with family time but just before bedtime I do spend half an hour or so looking up outlines, as it is not really practical to carry a big dictionary around during the day. I always write the correct outlines in a list down the margin of a blank pad, so they can be practised on the train, which means I don't have to look them up again and again\*, something I have learned the hard way not to do, it is such a waste of time\* to repeat my efforts! What with my working day and all the other

household and family activities, I have had to fit the shorthand into all the spare moments I can find. They are definitely there, but in lots of short segments, but as you know this all adds up to a reasonable amount of practice time, with the advantage of spreading out the effort and avoiding fatigue.

\* Omission phrases "again (and) again" "was(te of)time"



**Dear Mr Pitman**

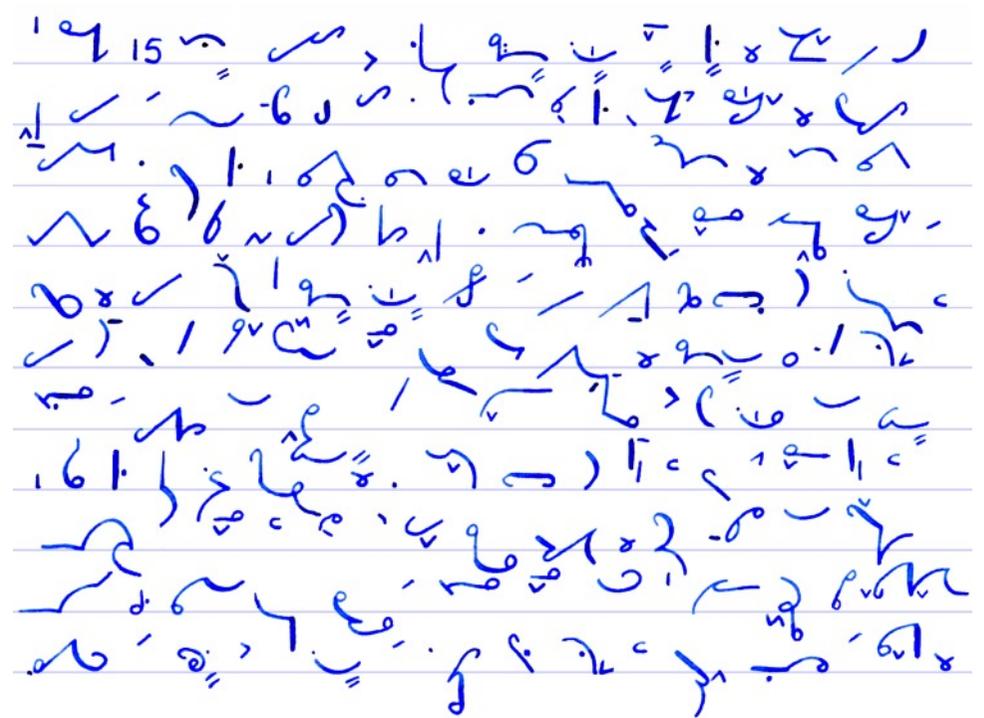
I think you might have guessed that I have a secret motive behind all this extra attention to my shorthand studies, and that is because I know there is\* a job opportunity coming up soon and I believe my shorthand skills will put me ahead of the other applicants. If I am successful in my application, I will certainly write and let you know. So once again\*, my apologies for not having much to report, and I hope

that\* next time\* I will have some good news to tell you. Yours most sincerely\*, Mr Ryter (960 words)

\* "I know there is" Doubling to represent "there"

\* Omission phrases "wu(n)s again" "I (h)ope that" "ne(k)s(t) time" "Yours mos(t sin)cerely"

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**Kites**

On Sunday the 15th of May, we went to the 18th\* Streatham\* Common Kite Day. Unlike our usual outings, we and many others did not want a calm hot day to enjoy the sunshine. Everyone wanted a breezy day, but hopefully some sun as well to keep us warm. I am happy to report that this is just how the weather turned out, a mixture of blue skies and clouds, sunshine and breezes. We arrived at Streatham Common railway station and our route towards the green was confirmed when we saw two large high flying kites visible over the rooftops. Streatham Common is a large area of grass and woodland in south London, much like all the other commons in London, but on this day it was completely transformed\*. The entire green was dotted with people, and the sky dotted with colourful kites, with lots\* of white strings between them\*. There were\* stalls in

brightly coloured tents, selling food, souvenirs and of course kites, information on local societies, such as wildlife conservation and Friends of the Common, and a children's play area with bouncy games and slide.

\* "18th" Always insert the first vowel in this and in "tenth" as they are the same outline

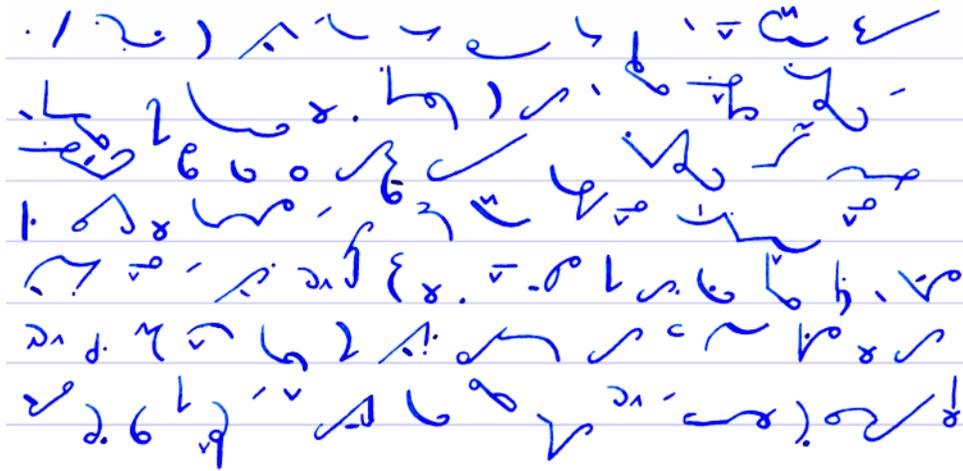
\* "Streatham" is pronounced "Strettam"

\* "transformed" Optional contraction

\* "lots" "masses" Always insert the vowel, as these are similar in outline and meaning

\* Omission phrases "betwee(n) them" "there (w)ere"

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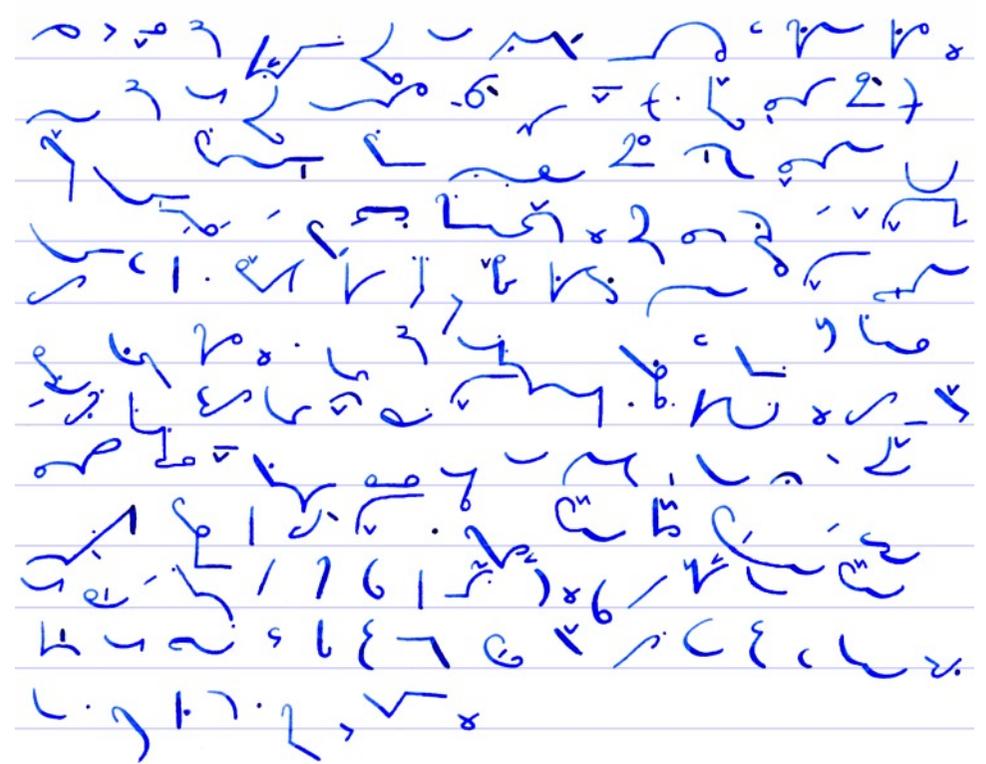
**Kites**

A large arena was roped off in the centre for the displays of kite flying that were to take place during the afternoon. The atmosphere was one of excitement, anticipation and exploration, as this event is one of those\* where visitor participation actually makes the day happen. Families and children were buying kites, unpacking kites, launching kites and running around with them. The kite stalls had the wind vane types tethered to poles around the

tents and I think my favourite\* was the rotating circular one with long tails. One always sees these at the seaside and I wouldn't have been surprised to turn around and glimpse the sea somewhere!

\* "one of those" Insert the vowel in "those" as it is out of position in the phrase

\* "favourite" Note "favoured" is written with anticlockwise V stroke



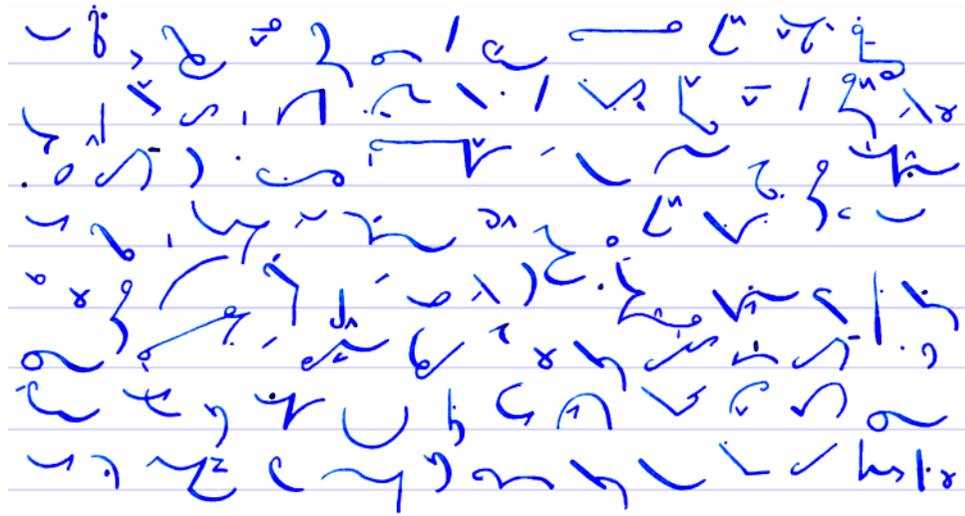
**Kites**

Most of the kites were geometric shapes in rainbow colours, with trailing tails. Many were in the shape of animals: swallow, owl, kite (a type of small hawk), bright pink flamingo, black menacing shark, mauve smiling fish, pink octopus and blue and green dragonfly\*. There were\* some airplanes and I liked the one that had a spiral tail attached to each side of the tailplane, looking like curling spinning vapour trails. A few were indeterminate beasts with big eyes, fangs and waving tentacles that one felt might sting like a jellyfish. One could buy the smallest kite, barely six inches in length, but being made of shiny mirrored plastic, it shone like a

brilliant flying diamond, fluttering and glinting in the sun and appearing much larger than it actually was. These are ideal for flying at home\* in the garden, with the advantage that they can be flown by running along with them, without having to wait for a breezy day or a trip to the park.

\* "dragonfly" The Fl is reversed only when necessary to join a preceding stroke. Fl stroke is never reversed for vowel indication like the Fr stroke is.

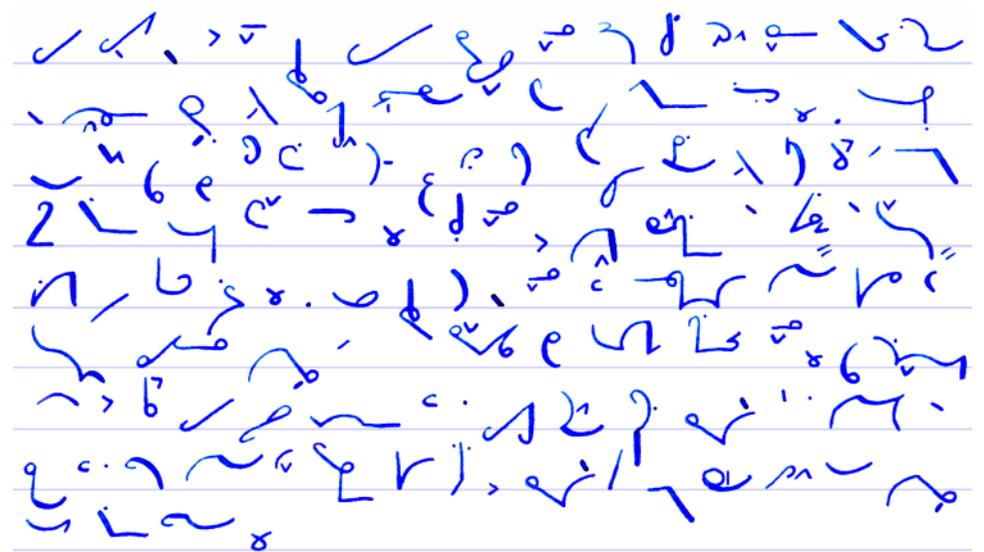
\* Omission phrases "there (w)ere" "at (h)ome"



**Kites**

In contrast to the personal kites, there were\*\* some large floating\* characters, giant nylon constructions filled out by the wind but held aloft by a large parachute type of kite much higher up. The first we saw was an enormous crocodile, and being long and thin he was undulating in the breeze, but fortunately not roaming around and filling his giant belly with any of us. He was later brought down and next up was a voluminous billowing blue teddy bear, swimming horizontally and swaying this way and that. Before we went home, we

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**Kites**

We watched two of the kite displays, where specialised\* kites were danced around the sky above the arena to music, swooping up and down, and crossing over each other and back again. The interesting thing about these is that they are not flat, so when they land, they are still standing up on their points, and can be jerked back into flight again. Dancing kites to the loud soundtrack of Chariots of Fire held our attention completely. The next display was two kites with extremely long tails that formed circles, loops and spirals as they followed the track of the kites. These reminded me of the toys

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saw a third offering in the form of three angel fish tethered along the lower part of the line, also swimming in the air and enjoying every minute of their freedom before being packed away at the end of the day.

\* Omission phrase "there (w)ere"

\* "floating" Insert the vowel, so it is not misread as "flying" or, if badly written, "fluttering"

we used to make, with a wooden sewing thread spool on a length of string, with a very long light plastic tail attached to the spool, which could be\* swung round in loops in the back garden.

\* "specialised" Essential to insert the diphthong, and advisable to also always insert the final vowel in "specialist", as these two are similar in meaning

\* "which could be" Not phrased, in order to keep the "could" obviously in position, so it is not misread as "can"



**Kites**

We left mid-afternoon, and by that time the crowds had doubled and many were sitting on the grass on their picnic blankets, eating and drinking to get their strength up for another session of kiting and running around. The great thing about this type of event is that once it is over, that is not the end of kiting but just the beginning. Everyone who bought a kite can return at any time and continue flying their\* kites on the green\*. I am sure that once this happens, the children with smaller kites will start to literally raise their sights onto

bigger kites, and if the budget doesn't stretch, then make their own. Plastic bags and barbecue skewers will start to reappear in wonderful new shapes, with a much loftier purpose in mind, attaining the freedom of the skies for their ground dwelling owners. (886 words)

\* "flying their" Doubling for "their"

\* "green" Helpful to insert the vowel, as it could be misread as "ground"

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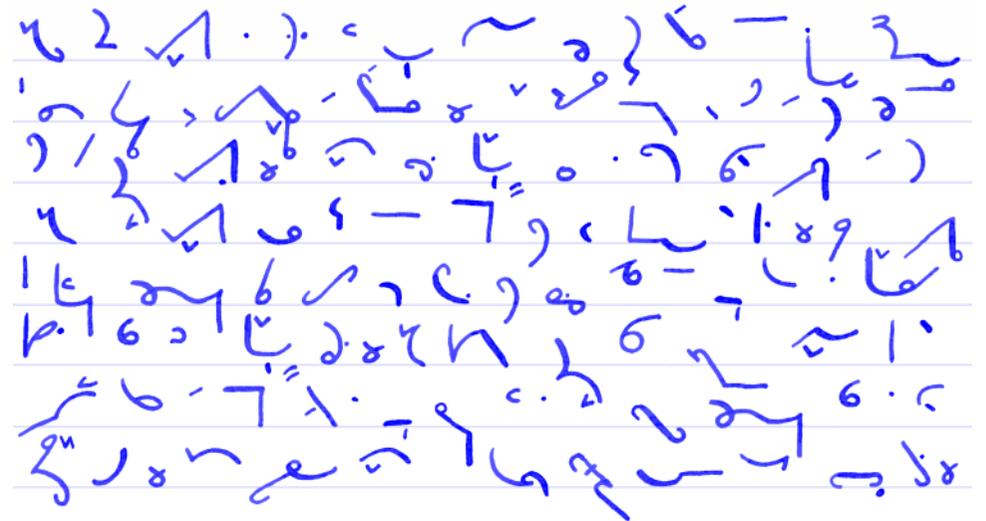
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**Ted's Essay**

I have been asked to write an essay with no long words, so that the boss can continue working on some changes to the websites and blogs. I always keep to short and easy words because they are much easier to read. I am using my favourite purple ink in the green pen. My friend Dino is a very slow reader and so I have to write things that he can get through without taking all day. He reads at twenty words a minute\*, which is one word every three

seconds, and that is quite good for a dinosaur, at least\* that is what Dino says. I think it will be easier as well to practise writing it all really fast and get up a good speed, with a number of words a minute\* that is a lot higher than usual.

\* Omission phrase "words (a) minute"

\* "at least" and "at last" Always insert the vowel

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**Ted's Essay**

I am going to tell you about my day out to the centre of London. We went up on the train, and I am very pleased to say that\* it was a fast one for most of the way. I like the fast trains but sometimes it is difficult to see what we are passing and it is too fast to see the names of the stations. Then we went on the underground trains and we sat where the two carriages are joined. It is

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**Ted's Essay**

We went to Somerset House where there is a big open area in the middle. There are lots\* of holes in rows where fountains come up from underneath. Children and people were running about through the water. The fountains were going up high and then down low, and the water drains away along all the sides down a long thin gap. It was a

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interesting to watch the floor at the join, because it is all moving and sliding. The train is open all the way along and you can see all the carriages at once, moving from side to side and going round the curves.

\* Omission phrase "I am very please(d) to s(ay) that"

hot day and this is a really good idea that is safe for everyone. It is very good for tourists who need to cool their feet after all the walking around town.

\* "lots" and "masses" Insert the vowel, as these two are similar in shape and meaning



**Ted's Essay**

Then we went to another place called Covent Garden where there are lots\* of market stalls. We watched the street performers. One man was juggling with knives which I did not really like. Another one did some tricks balancing on a ladder. There were\* people standing around in costumes on metal stands that make it look as if they are floating. There are a lot of that type now around the tourist places, but everyone still likes to watch them even though they know it is a trick. I liked the

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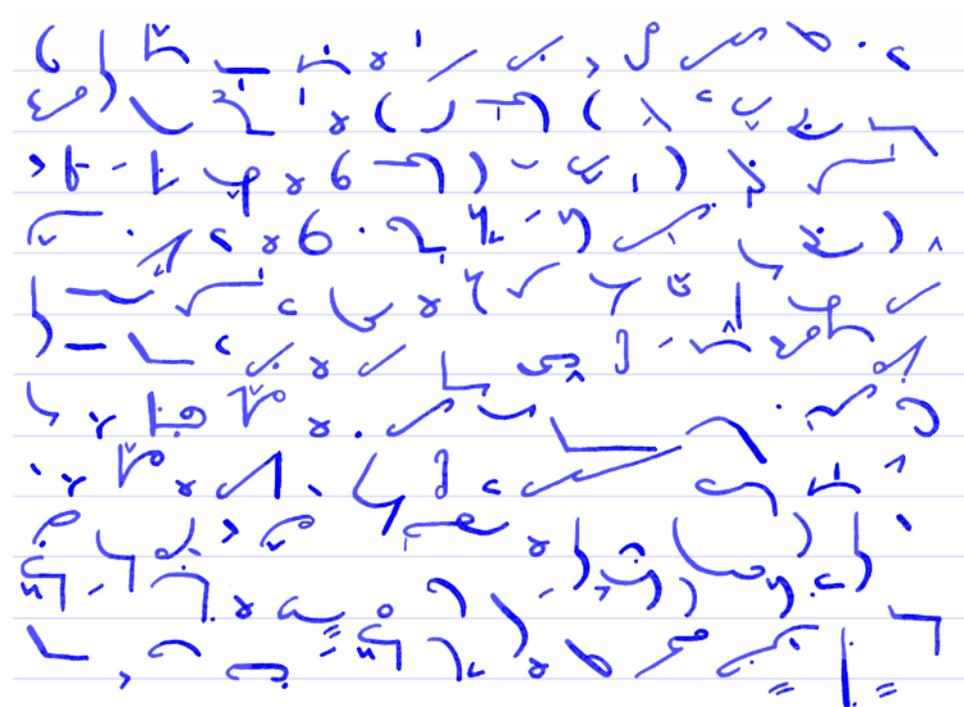
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**Ted's Essay**

Then it was time to go home. On our way to the station, we went past a building that was being worked on. They usually cover them up with white sheeting to keep all the dust and dirt inside. This cover was not white but was painted to look like a real building. This is a very good idea and I was wondering if the painting was how it was going to look when finished. I think I will only find out next time\* we go back that way. We took the underground train and I am always searching for the old

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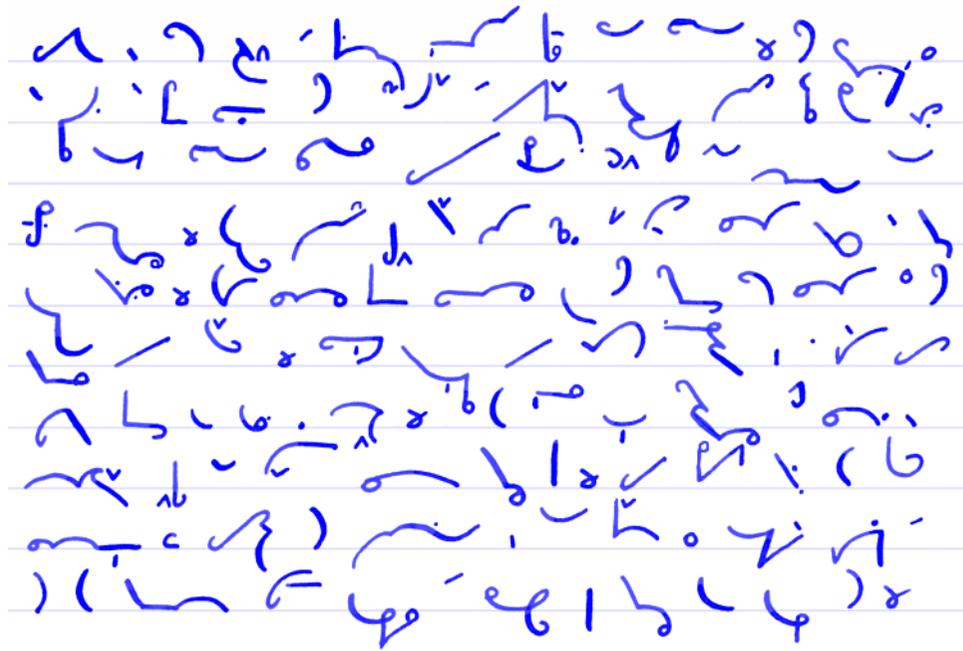
one that looked like a cat in a little basket, but it is really a man's head and he is sitting underneath the table with just his head showing. The children were stroking the fur paws and wondering how it was done.

\* "lots" and "masses" Insert the vowel, as these two are similar in shape and meaning

\* Omission phrase "there were"

decorations and tiles. The one in the picture may be a modern version of old tiles. We had to change trains when we were nearer home, and the last photo shows all the lines crossing. It was mid-afternoon so it was all quiet and empty. London is very busy and noisy, so I was glad to get back to the more green and quiet area. Best regards, Yellow Teddy (668 words)

\* Omission phrase "ne(k)s(t) time"



**Opportunists**

We have two very beautiful and demure collared doves in our garden. Their plumage is all shades of delicate grey, they are shy and retiring and have only just learned that it is safe to land in the garden, as long as we are standing around and not making any sudden movements. They have been lured down by little treats on the lawn, small pieces of bird feeding pellets. They will sometimes take crumbs if they are broken very small, as their beaks are fine. Crushed peanuts are also acceptable, but a whole one will be taken if it fits the mouth.

They cause no problems and do not seem to multiply out of hand like some other\* birds do. We started paying them attention some time ago\* when one of them was limping, but in time his injury healed, and so they became welcome visitors, and since then different pairs have visited us.

\* "some other" Doubling for "other"

\* "some time ago" Halving to represent the T of "time"

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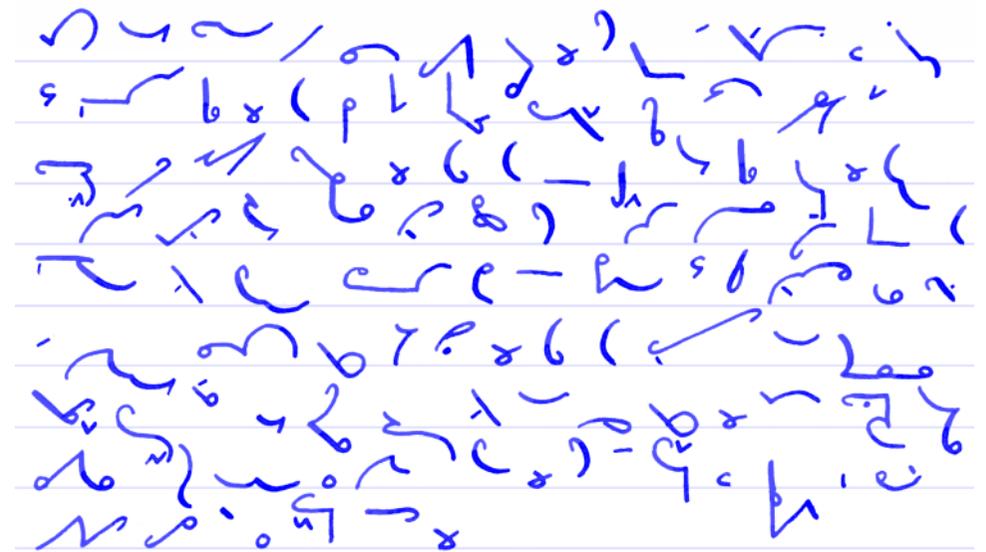
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**Opportunists**

Also in the garden are some wood pigeons. They are big and bulky when compared with the collared doves. They sit at the top of the nearby trees, and more recently on the greenhouse roof, and watch proceedings. Then they come down for the doves' food. They have learned to run all over the lawn, as fast as their little legs will take them, gobbling up everything as

quickly as they can, starting with the largest lumps if it is bread, and leaving the smaller pieces until last. Then they wander in zigzags, behind flower pots, under the shrubs, to clear up any missed pieces. I am grateful for this service so that nothing is left over. They are quite flighty when disturbed but soon return once all is quiet again.

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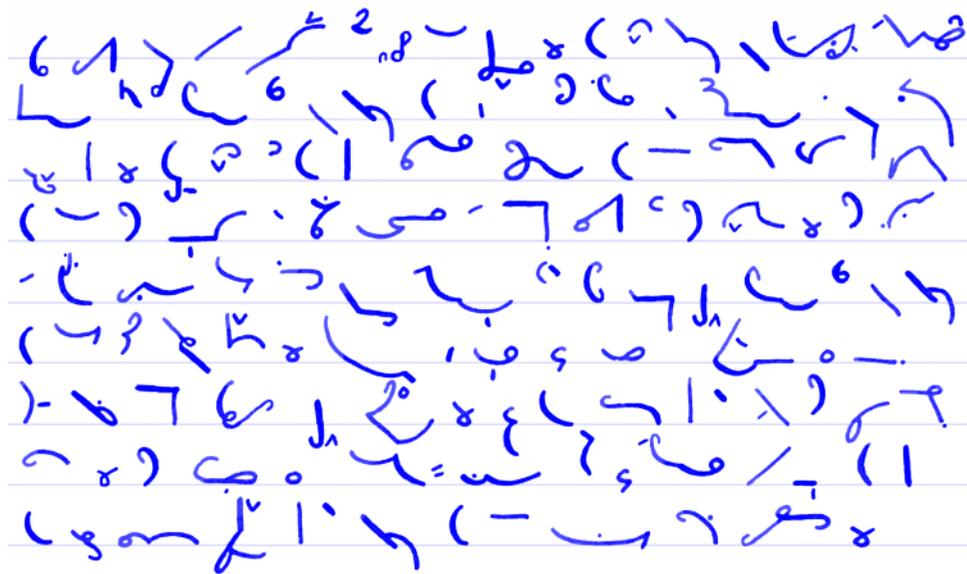
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**Opportunists**

These wood pigeons are really shorthand students in disguise. They might appear to be voracious opportunists, taking on board everything that is put before them, but they are not averse to working a bit harder to find it. They don't mind what they do as long as there is something they can grab that will help them in their goal of endless increase and getting ahead with their life. They are alert and attentive, waiting for the action to begin\*, and have no thought other than to get down everything that is put before them in the shortest possible

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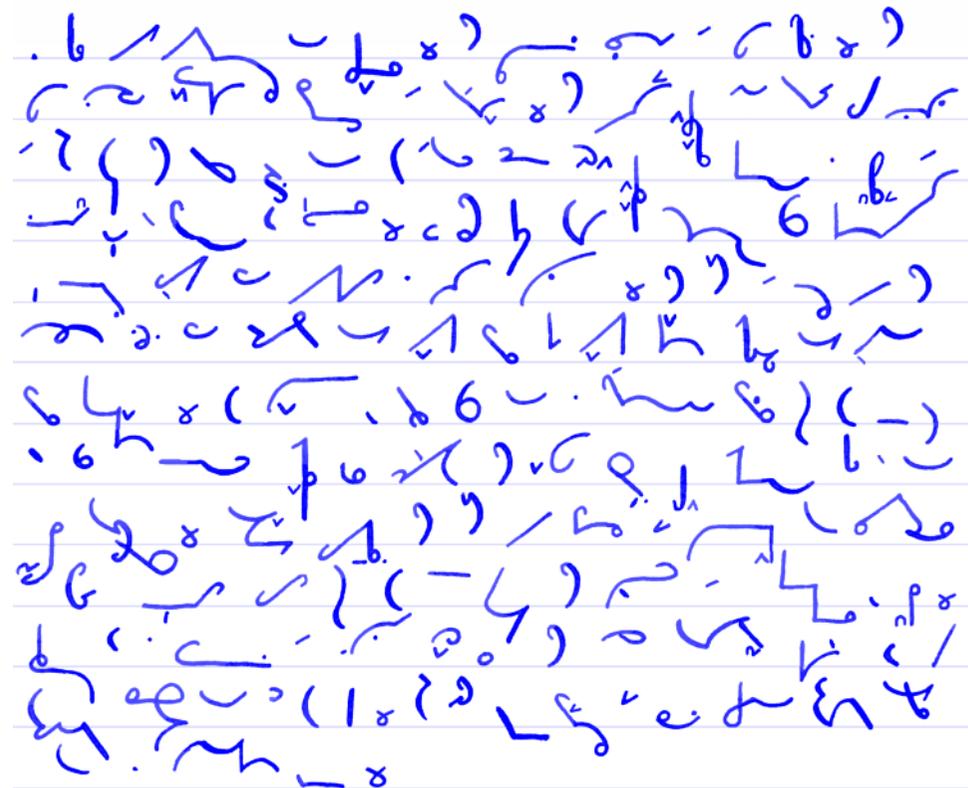
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time; after all, who knows when the next chunk is coming, so best get this one down sharpish. When they have cleared it all up, they are still expecting more. Their quest is never ending, although when the offerings are good, they do have to spend some time digesting it all before they can enter the fray once again\*.

\* "to begin" Based on the short form phrase "to be" therefore through the line

\* Omission phrase "wu(n)s again"



**Opportunists**

The doves are the reporters in disguise. They are sleek, smart and well dressed. They are well mannered, quietly spoken and polite. They are really outsiders and not part of the general melee, and although they do their best to blend in, they often walk around the outside, taking a studious and accurate note of everything that occurs. When there is danger, they will remove themselves temporarily but keep watch in order to\* return a little later. Their eyes and ears are their most important assets, in order to\* always be in the right place at the right time, and definitely not in the wrong place at any time. They like to position themselves in a prominent\* place so that they can see all that is going on and decide if it is worth their while swooping down and taking advantage of any situation

for their own purposes. Unlike the woodies, their eyes are at all times\* on the lookout for happenings other than the current one, so that they can change their location and tactics to suit. It is clear that a quick and alert mind is their most valuable tool, without which they would not be successful in what they do. Although they are not the big players on the scene, it is certain that they will be in the business for a long time to come. (672 words)

\* Omission phrase "in ord(er to)"

\* "prominent" Helpful to insert the vowel, as "permanent" is similar

\* "at all times" Halving to represent the T of "times"