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Greenwich Part 2

Pavilion Tea House, Royal Greenwich Observatory, Meridian Line, Shepherd Gate Clock, Standard Measurements

Word count:

Dates as 2 words - 1945 = nineteen forty-five

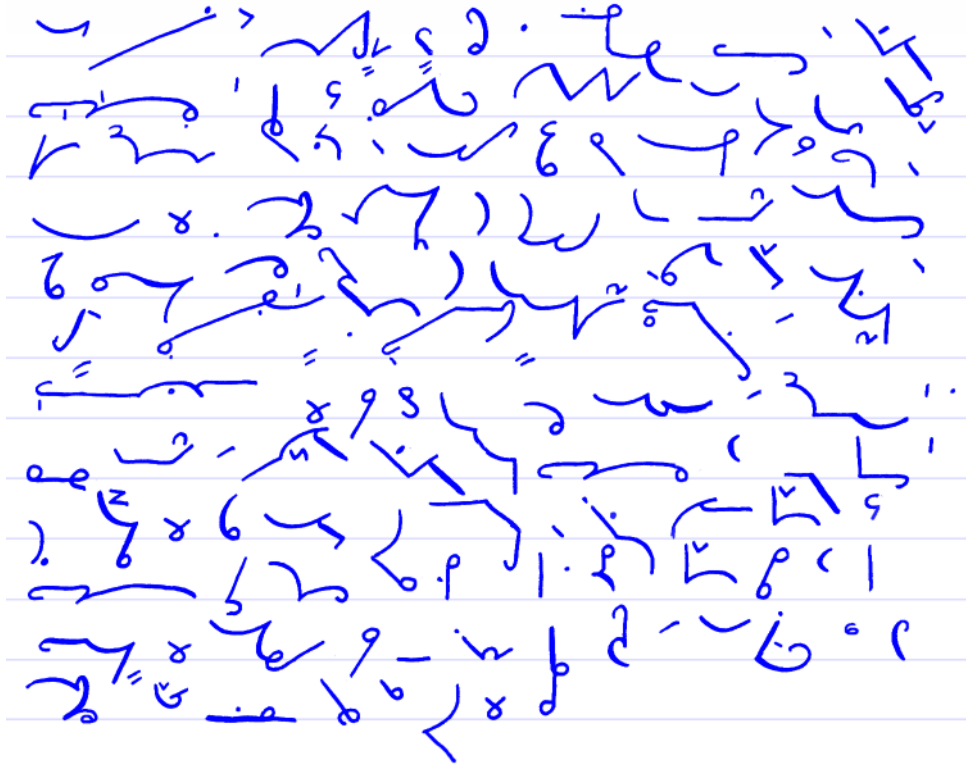
Monarchs as 3 words - Henry VIII = Henry The Eighth

Some hyphenated words counted as 2 = boat-shaped

Paragraph numbers not included

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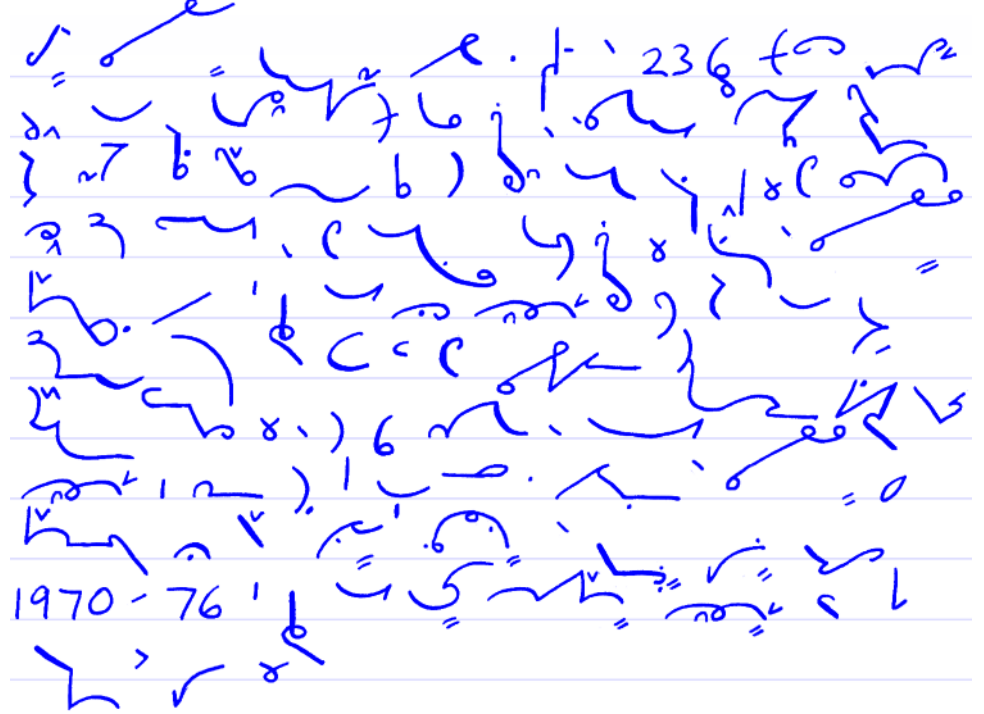
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21. In the rear of the Meridian Building there is an extensive collection of portable chronometers on display, with the conservation laboratory in full view behind, which will warm the heart of anyone with this special interest, and is free to enter. The measurement of longitude was essential for accurate navigation and this seemingly impossible problem was eventually solved by the ingenuity of John Harrison, a Yorkshire carpenter and clock-maker. He spent 50 years inventing and working on a succession of accurate and

reliable portable chronometers that could be taken on sea voyages. This enabled the ship's captain* to compare local time with the chronometer which would remain set at a standard time, such as that at Greenwich. In this way he could compute the distance travelled and, in conjunction with his other measurements, find the exact position of his ship.

* "captain" You could also intersect K stroke for "captain" or use the Optional contraction "capt"

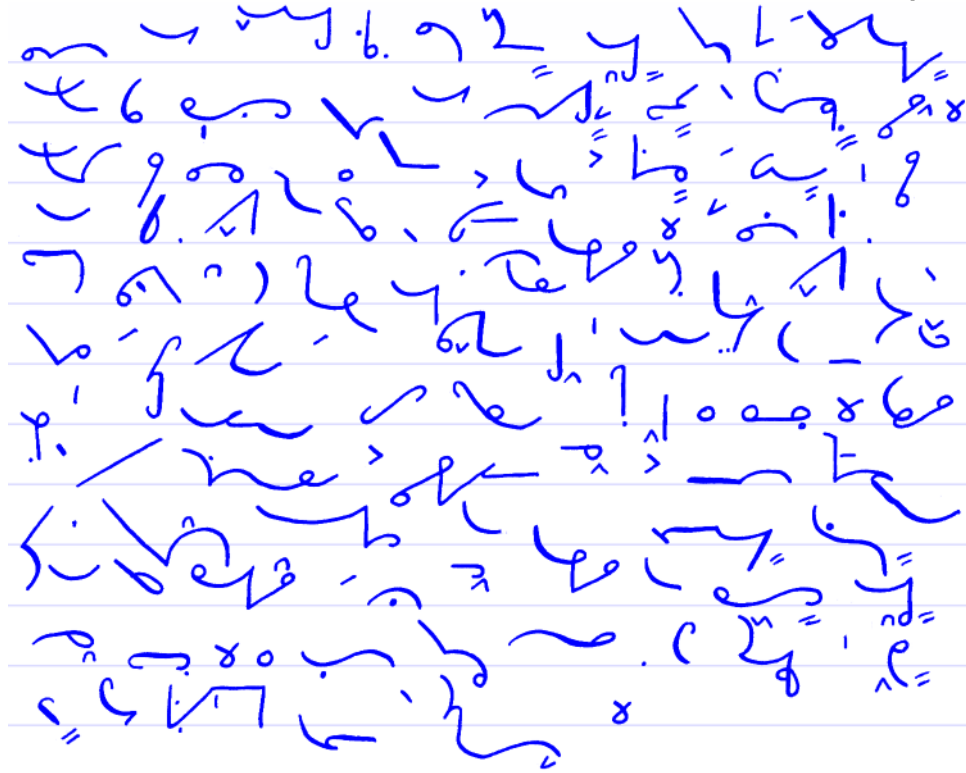


22. John Harrison eventually received a total of £23,000 (more than two million pounds* in today's values) for his contributions to solving the longitude problem, although the actual prize* money itself was never paid out. Other smaller amounts were granted to other inventors for their contributions. Four of Harrison's timepieces are on display in the main museum, three of them in full working order, along with other historical astronomical and scientific equipment. To see these you will have to enter the

chargeable part of the museum, but you can see, at no cost, a replica of Harrison's first timekeeper, made by Leonard Salzer of Biggin Hill between 1970 and 1976*, on display in the National Maritime Museum building at the bottom of the hill.

* "pounds" Always insert the vowel, and also in "pence", and both vowels in "pennies"

* "1976" Leave out the century number when there are several dates in close succession



23. Some time in the 1980's Sir Isaac Newton appeared at the Observatory in the form of* this snowman built in the Meridian Courtyard of Flamsteed House. Unfortunately* he seems to have his back to the view of the Thames and London, but he is in just the right place to welcome visitors. On the same day the grassy slope beyond was transformed* into a magnificent icy downhill ride, full of parents and children rolling and sliding down on anything they could find to sit on, including one person trying out his skis. This was all rather reminiscent of the historical accounts of the game of tumbling* which

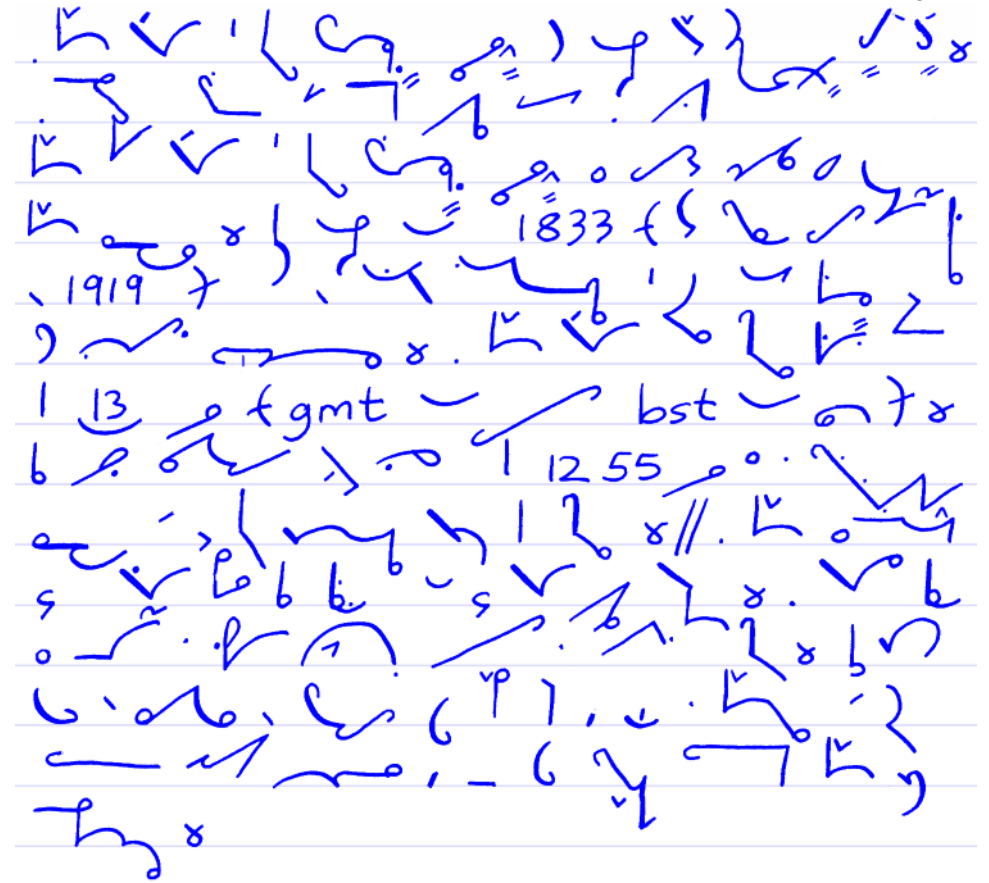
was a popular entertainment for visitors to Greenwich Fair in past centuries, and may account for Snowman Newton's amused* grin. His name appears amongst the other scientists on South Building, over the terracotta figure of Astronomia.

* Omission phrase "in the f(orm of)"

* "Unfortunately" "transformed" Optional contractions

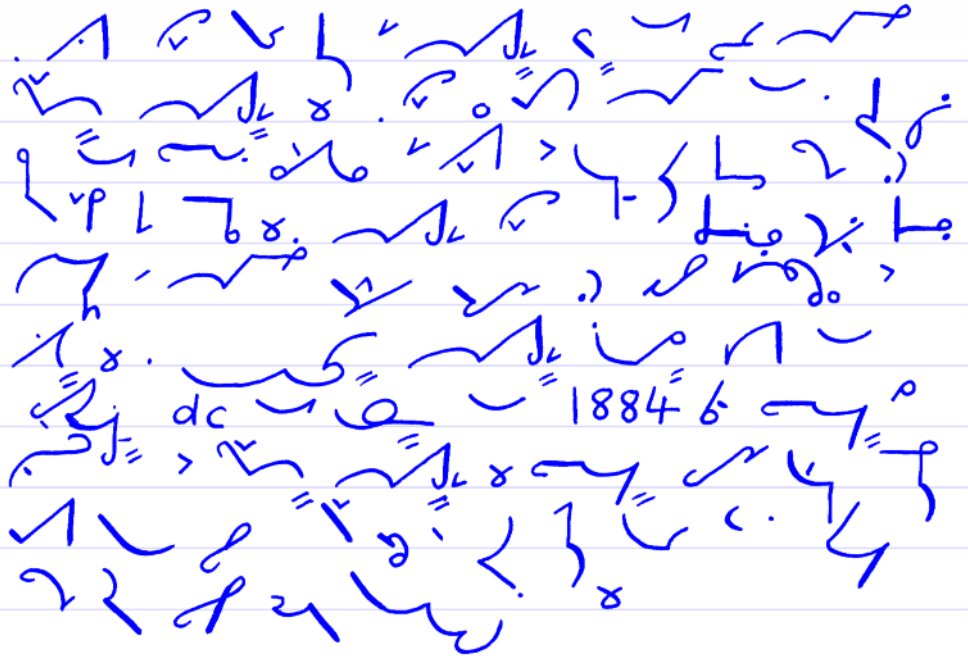
* "tumbling" Description of this game in Part 3

* "amused" "amazed" Always insert the vowel in these and derivatives



24. The time ball on top of Flamsteed House was installed by the Astronomer Royal John Pond. The explanatory plaque on the gate reads, "The red time ball on top of Flamsteed House is one of the world's first visual time signals. It was installed in 1833 (though the present one dates to 1919) to enable navigators on ships in the Thames to check their marine chronometers. The time ball drops daily at 1300 hours (GMT in winter, BST in summer). It is

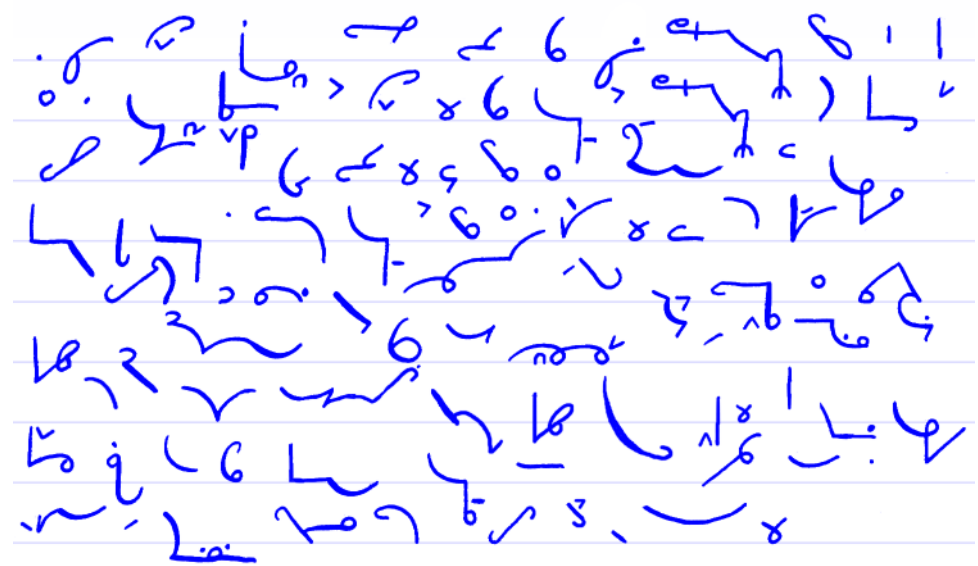
raised halfway up the mast at 1255 hours as a preparatory signal and to the top 2 minutes before it drops." The time is counted when the ball starts its descent, not when it reaches the bottom. The ball's descent is actually a stately lowering rather than a rapid drop. It would also have been of service to everyone within sight of it who owned a timepiece, and especially clock and watch makers, who could then provide the correct time to their customers.



25. The red line above the door on the Meridian Building in the courtyard marks the Prime Meridian. The line is also marked in a double steel strip in the granite surface on the right of the photo, which was taken from the east side at the gates. The meridian line designates zero degrees longitude and marks the boundary between the east and west hemispheres of the Earth.

The International Meridian Conference held in Washington DC in the United States of America in 1884 chose Greenwich as the location of the Prime Meridian. Greenwich won the vote because it was already being used by two-thirds of shipping and it was felt that a change from the established usage would not be beneficial.

Handwriting practice lines for page A.



26. The steel line continues across the courtyard, with this steel sculpture placed on it as a visual description of the line. This photo of the sculpture was taken on the west side, within the courtyard. When the place is thronging with visitors, it can be difficult to get a clear photo of the buildings as a whole. Cold or dull weather would seem to be the most likely* option to avoid

the crowds, as hopefully the tourists would be warming themselves in the museums and cafés, or early in the morning before the tourists venture out. At peak visitor times consideration for others taking photos can result in a halting and zigzag progress from one point to another.

* Omission phrase "mos(t) likely"

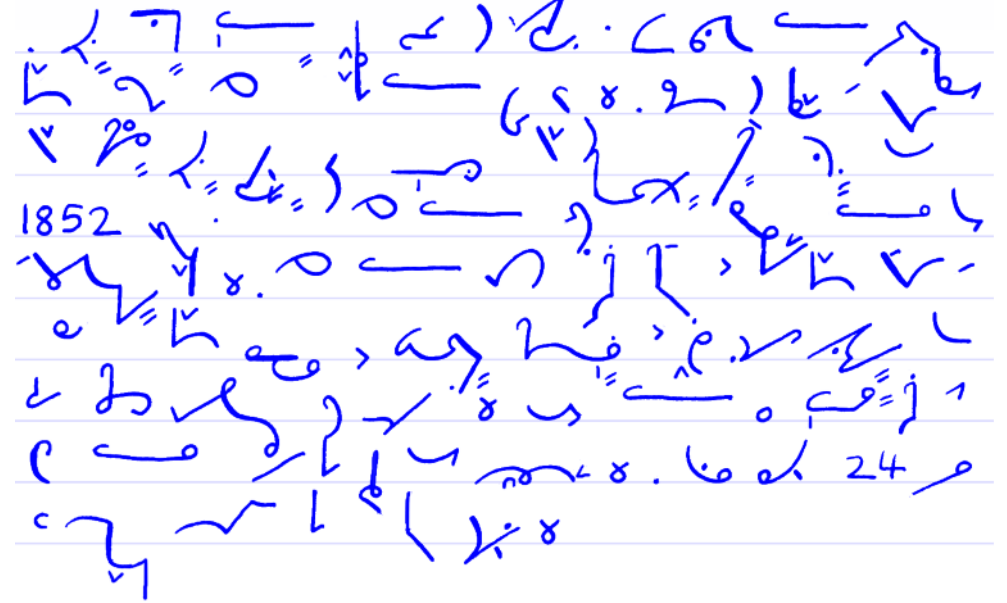
Handwriting practice lines for page B.



27. Standing astride the Meridian Line seems to be the favourite* place for tourists to have their* photos taken. An orderly queue is formed and everyone takes their turn to stand on the line with a friend taking the picture. Most of them seem to prefer to have the sculpture and scenery in the background. Although there is a charge to enter the courtyard and museums, reasonable pictures can be taken from outside or through the railings. If the courtyard is too crowded, there are two free places nearby where you can have your photo taken on a marked Meridian Line. Firstly*, just below the courtyard through the gate on the path that leads down behind the buildings, where the line is marked in brass on the wall and ground.

Secondly on the Avenue, immediately behind South Building, just a little way past the public toilets, where the line is marked by a row of granite setts in both pathways and in the road. At night the Meridian Line laser is beamed northwards from the Meridian Building, and is visible for over 36 miles and over 60 miles with binoculars. The park closes at variable times throughout the year so one might have to make do with the illustration on the information boards.

- * "favourite" Note that "favoured" uses the normal Vr stroke
- * "have their" Doubling to represent "their"
- * "firstly" Omits the T



28. The Shepherd Gate Clock outside the courtyard was originally an electric slave clock, reproducing the time from the master clock within the building. The system was designed and built by Charles Shepherd Junior*, who was commissioned by Astronomer Royal George Airy in 1852 to provide a master clock and three subsidiary clocks for the Observatory. The master clock also controlled the dropping of the time ball, and sent* time signals to the London Bridge Terminus of the South Eastern Railway, for onward transmission

to receivers throughout the country. Now the clock is quartz-controlled, and the other clocks are displayed in the museum. The face shows 24 hours, with midnight* marked at the top zero.

- * "Junior" The diphone is written through the stroke, as an intervening vowel sign
- * "sent" Short form written above the line, to distinguish it from "send"
- * "midnight" Both "mid" and "night" are halved when written on their own

