

Ambigram

history & types of ambigrams, shape matching

ambigrams, week 1

sovannjet lim

hssp 2026

chump

ARE THERE OTHERS?

AS you will notice, the slang word "chump," if written in the manner here shown, reads the same even when held upside down. I think it is the only word in the English language which has this peculiarity, and therefore hope you will consider it worthy of insertion in your "Curiosities" column.—
Mr. Mitchell T. Lavin, 931, West Ninth Street, Cincinnati, Ohio, U.S.A.

ANOTHER "REVERSIBLE" WORD.

LAST month you gave an example of a word so written that it read the same when turned

(honey)

upside down. Such words are very few and far between, but I have succeeded in discovering another, for which I hope you will be able to find a corner.—
Mr. V. K. Allison, Lawrenceville School, Lawrenceville, New Jersey, U.S.A.

CURIOSITIES.

MORE REVERSIBLE WORDS.

SENDING the reversible word "chump" among your "Curiosities," I am sending you a name, "W. H. Hill," which, when written in the style shown, reads the same when reversed. Surely this is the only name possessing so convenient a peculiarity.—Mr. B. R. Bligh, 2, Porchester Mews, Bayswater, W.

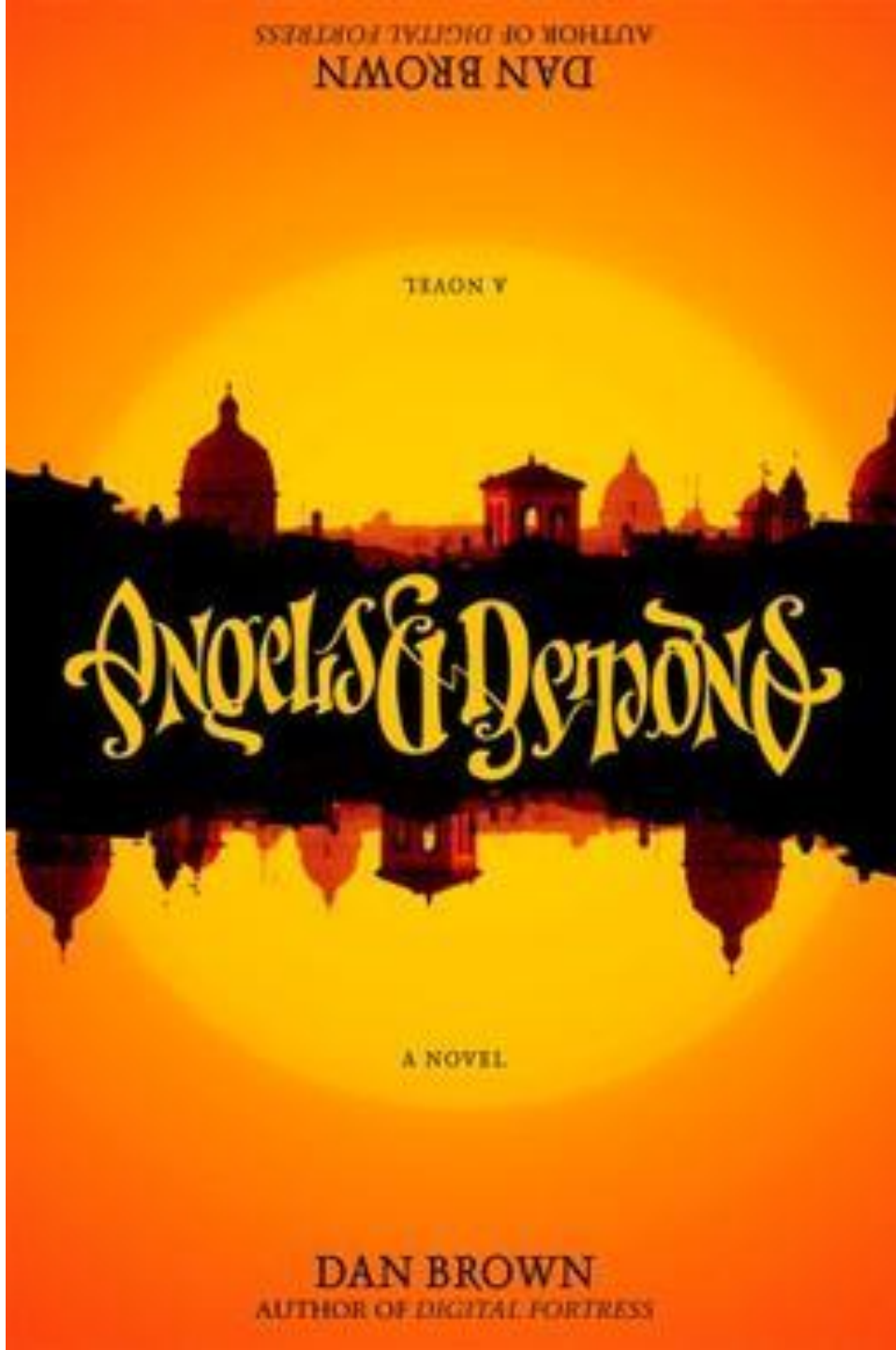
W. H. Hill.

W. H. Hill.

In writing the word "Bet" so that it reads the same when upside down,

Bung now pad hay dip

I have simply written the letter B twice—once with the paper inverted. Three letters and one word are thus twice repeated. Possibly B is the only letter of the alphabet that will produce such an interesting anomaly. I also send you five more examples of reversible words. — Mr. Clarence Williams, 216, Bright Street, Carbrook, Sheffield.



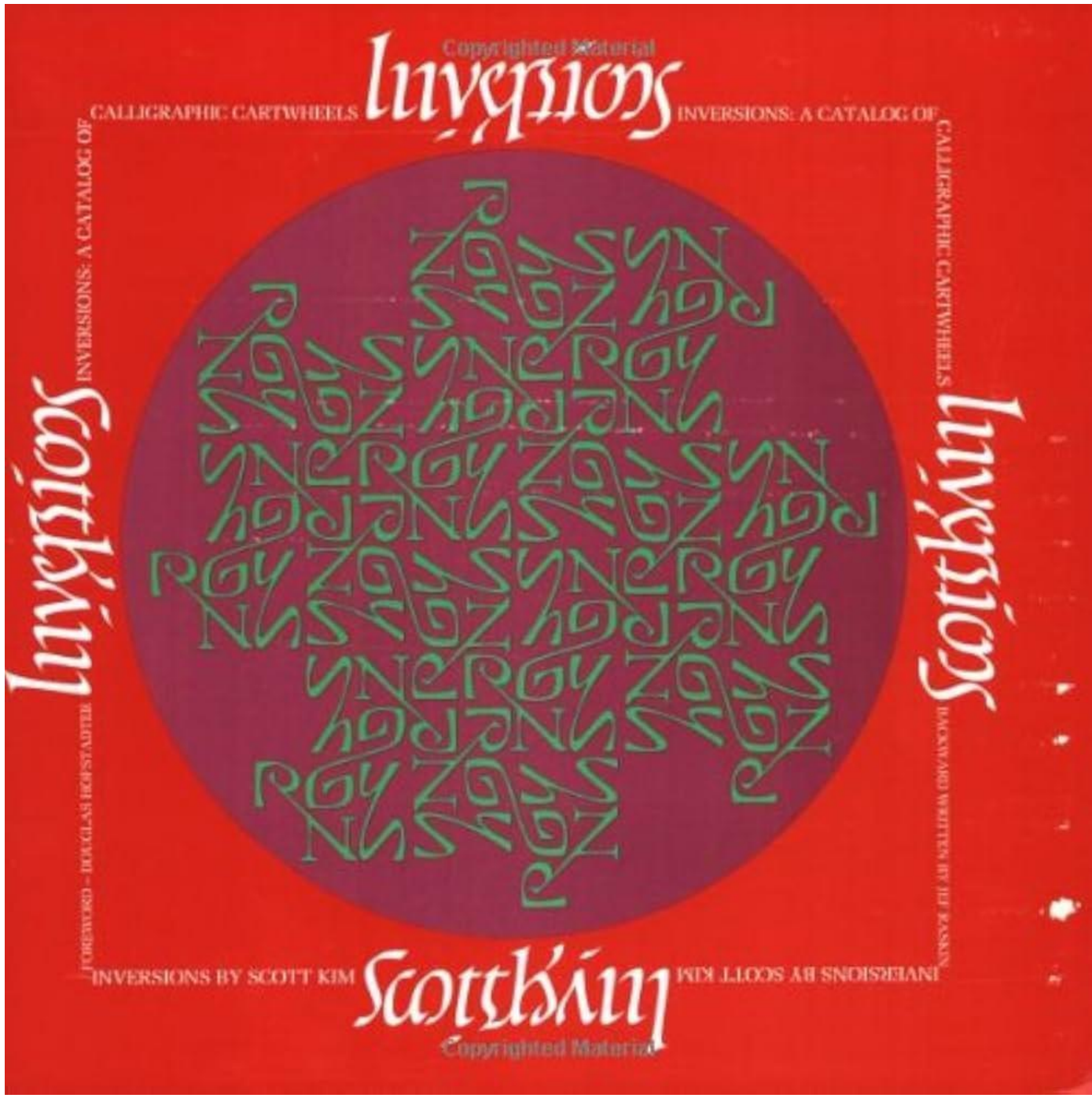
google searches for "ambigram"

Interest over time ⓘ

Worldwide · 2004 - present



?? my guess is WWMM's YT channel



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Inversions

CALLIGRAPHIC CARTWHEELS

INVERSIONS: A CATALOG OF

Inversions

INVERSIONS: A CATALOG OF

CALLIGRAPHIC CARTWHEELS

Inversions

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CALLIGRAPHIC CARTWHEELS

INVERSIONS BY SCOTT KIM

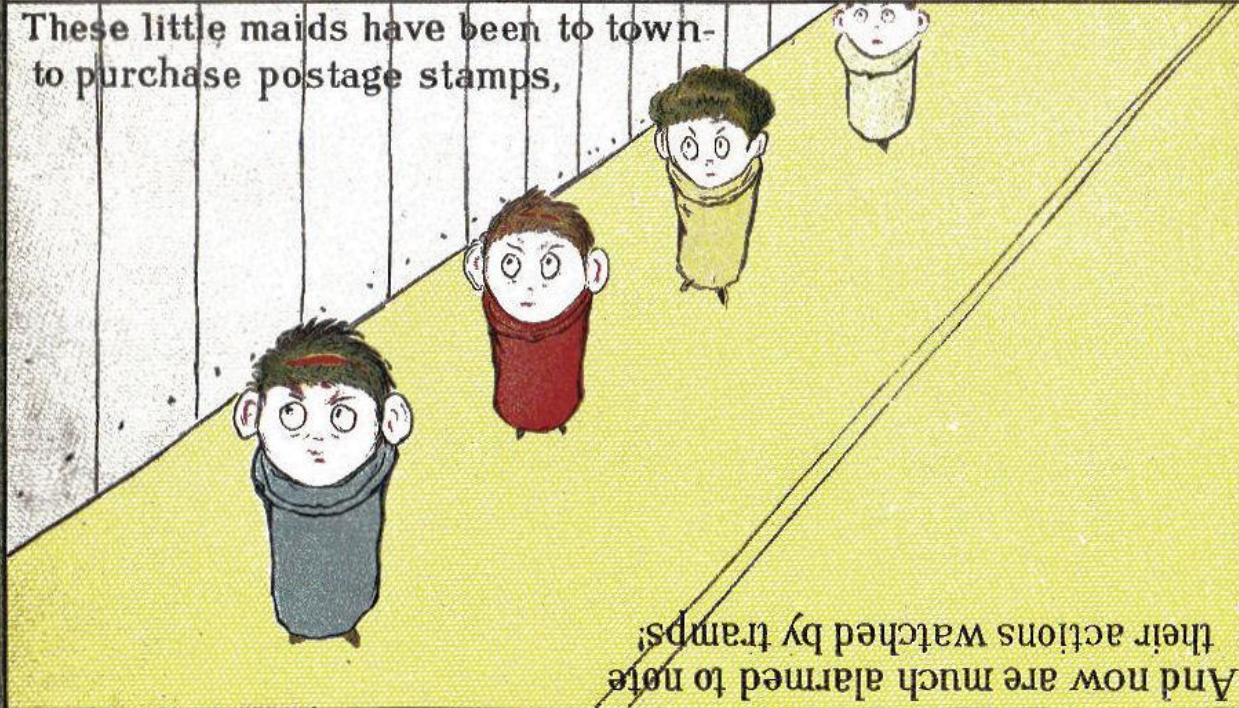
Inversions

INVERSIONS BY SCOTT KIM

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TOPSYS &

These little maids have been to town-
to purchase postage stamps,



And now are much alarmed to note
their actions watched by tramps!

TURVYS.

TOPSYS AND TURVYS-NUMBER 2

To find the famous Forty Thieves, each hid within a jar.



This troop of soldiers, all in file, are looking near and far

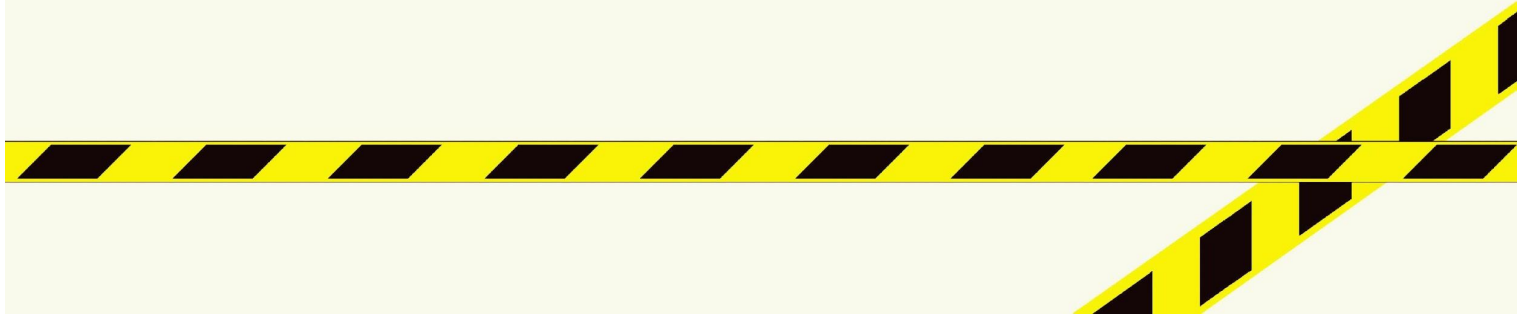
TOPSYS AND TURVYS-NUMBER 2

By P.S. Newell.

By P.S. Newell.



quarantine



love

2010H124

ANSOZS





DESIGN PLUS



EPIC

EPIC



Teach

False

The right way

To answer true and false questions

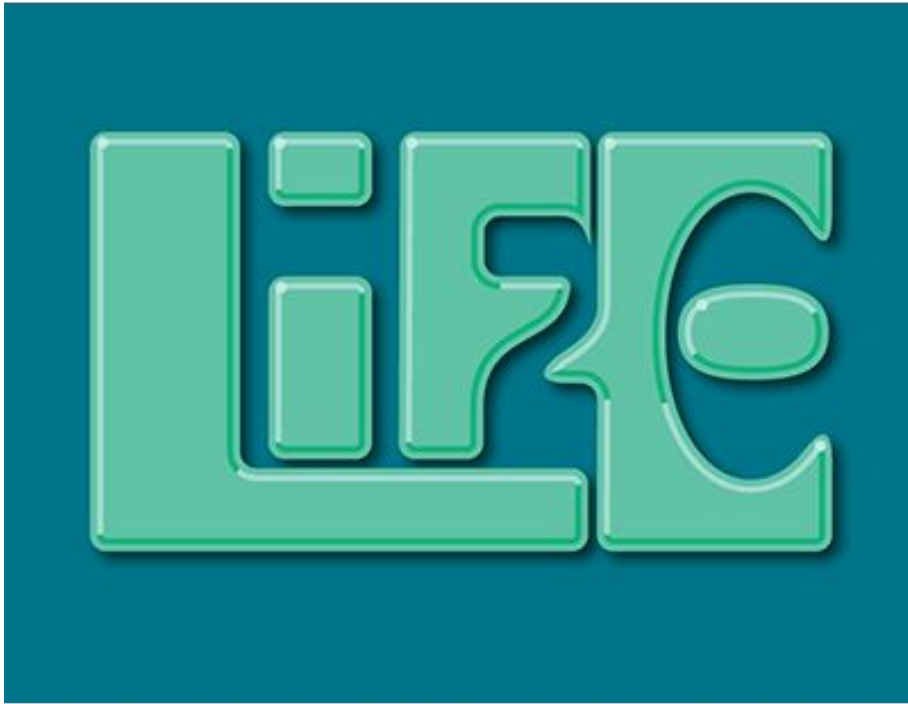
10 d
~~11~~ False
~~12~~ False
~~13~~ False
~~14~~ False
~~15~~ False
~~16~~ True
~~17~~ False
~~18~~ False

some kid, i guess

Laurel

LIGHT IS A
WAVE!

LIGHT IS A
WAVE!



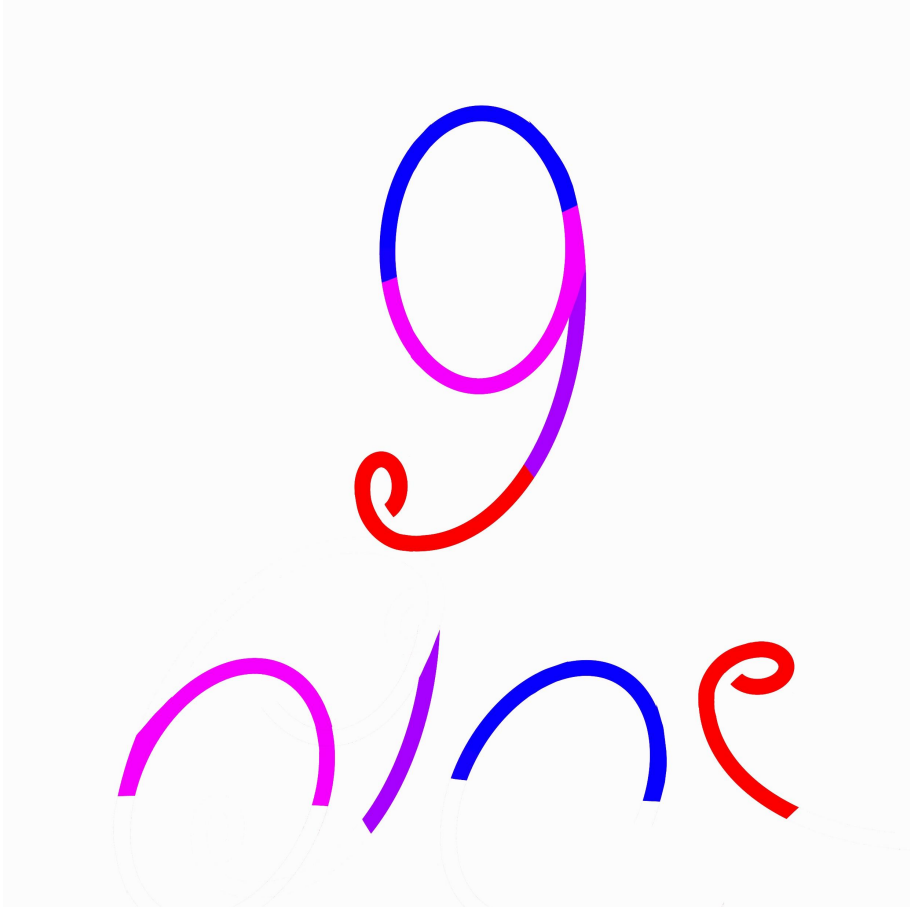
Philosophy

Department of English & Philosophy College of Arts & Sciences

MEMBER
MEMBER

topped

topped



sonföre

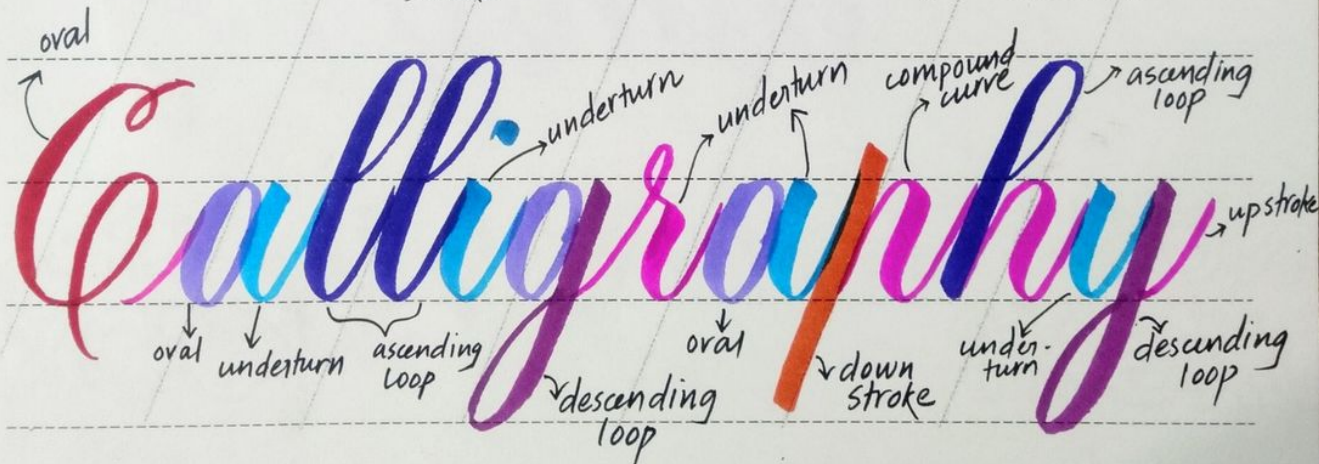
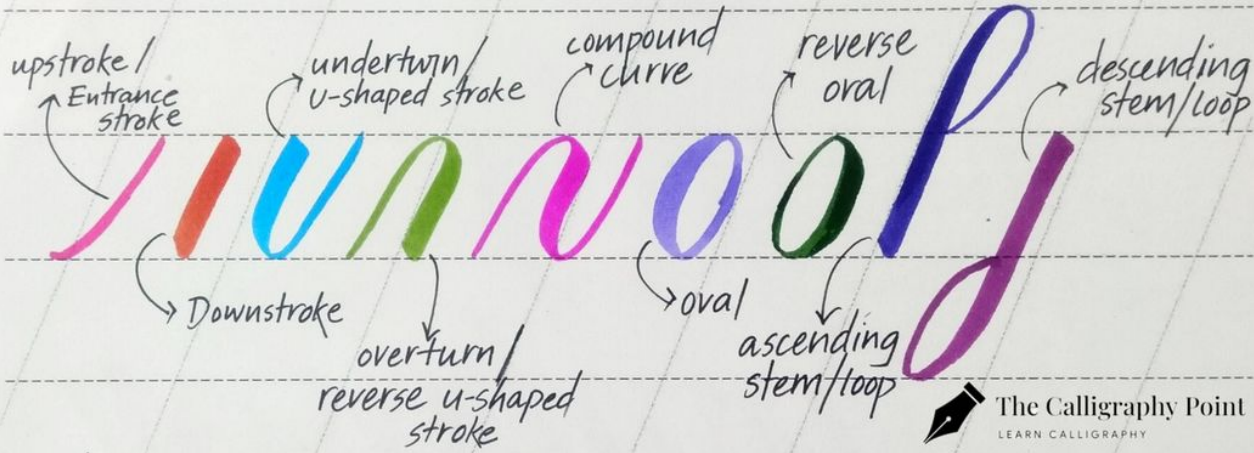
latin calligraphy & typography, downstroke matching

ambigrams, week 2

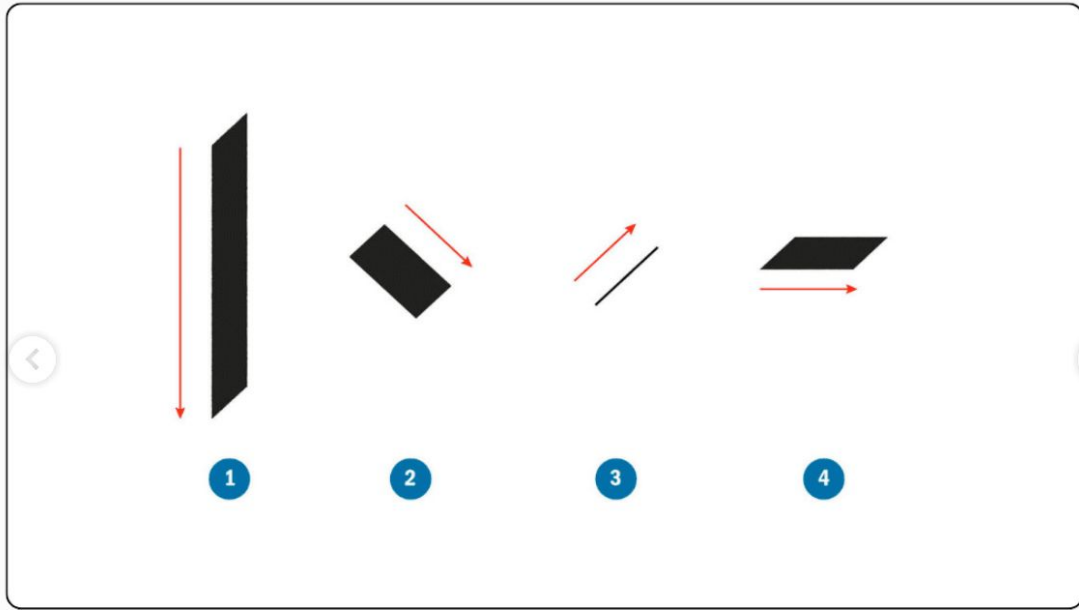
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* Basic Strokes *



Like Copperplate and Spencerian,
the letters are built using
basic strokes:



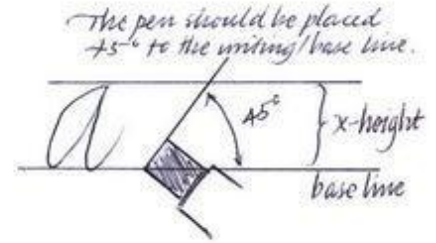
The contrast is
achieved with a
broad-edge pen



abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz &

7-11°
The Italic style slopes
7-11° to the right
hand

The Chancery Italic Hand



a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q
r s t u v w x y z A B C D
E F G H I J K L M N O
P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Ludwig Tan 2010 my-calligraphy-blog.blogspot.com

bog
bog

bog

D GOD
D

a a (A) A VISTA VISTA

B B b
E E e

Λ

banE banE

blouse L
asno | q

R r Λ drive

baseline baseline

drive

blouse j
f

(D) drive
(E)

+
m

Handwritten cursive letters 'l', 'i', 'n', 'u', 'o', 'n', 'l', 'y' with stroke order numbers 1 through 8 written below them.

1. brush calligraphy *gan*

2a. blackletter

Handwritten blackletter letters 'e', 'a', 'a', 't' with stroke order numbers written above them.

2b. italic

Handwritten italic letters 'a', 'a', 'g', 'g' with stroke order numbers written above them. To the right, the word 'mit' is written in a cursive style with vertical lines indicating stroke order.

bog god vista bane bouse drive

DOWNSTROKE MATCHING

picu → mit³ +¹ | mit hi hint
X +!u | !u |y |uy
one-to-one | mit |hj |hint yeah

week 2

exercises:

veins, think,
anthem, titanium

choosing letterforms for downstroke matching

ambigrams, week 3

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Athens

Love
Pain

veins

think

titanium

titanium

v ns	veins
yu ^	su ^
	veins
	n

think	k k
think	t h hi
think	nk u!

anthem
 anthem
 a ~~anthem~~

AA
 titanium
 titanium
 n.

think "glyph" ~~think~~
 think
 titriniur
 a a
 a n

v ns	veins
yu ^	su ^
	veins
	n

think	k k
think	t h hi
think	nk u!

anthem	AA
anthem	
anthem	titanium
	titanium
	n.

think "glyph" ~~think~~

think

feh

na

an

titrimium

swoopies/flourishes

ambigrams, week 4

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shared doc



Root

uniform

uniform

Genius

Athens

Love
Pain

ambigram

what GOES UP

must COME DOWN

EXERCISES: choose your own words to try! you have a pretty versatile toolbox at this point (week 5 is about more “exotic”, and non-rotational, techniques, and week 6 is just free play), including:

- *shape matching* (week 1)
 - balance & compromise
 - choosing letterforms to get matchable shapes
 - choosing *lettering style* (e.g. brush vs. blackletter vs. italic calligraphy)
- downstroke matching (week 2)
 - balance & compromise
 - choosing letterforms to get matchable *numbers of downstrokes* (week 3)
 - choosing *lettering style* (e.g. brush vs. blackletter vs. italic calligraphy)
- swoopies/flourishes (week 4)
 - decoration
 - leaving bottoms open
 - hiding extra strokes/downstrokes/letters

italicized = variables along which there can be multiple solutions!

week 3 exercises

multiple solutions in terms of...

p/h t a/a part

... shape matching / downstroke distribution

part lowercase r uppercase R
 Part Roll
 Part Roll
 Part Roll
 Part Roll

parallel legs

bring
 cursive r
 bring
 bring

{r} match curvature (cf. r)

auriform

Au u

Auriform

... downstroke distribution / lettering style

f r r

Au/m

if r/r, then if/o

f r

if f/f, then ri/o

o

week 4: swoopies/flourishes

top emphasis when reading

1. decoration

2. leaving bottoms open (ex. a)

-ex. o, x, s, e

3. hiding extra (down) strokes/letters

-bubble letters: force 1 downstroke to be 2 (fake ex. Tin)

(ex. spigale think)

mit mit

s s s s e e

toxin
 uixof
 Toxin

axis shape-match x
 downstroke-match x²

Axis Axis
 Axis Axis
 Axis Axis

Auriform Auriform
 (more Balancing)

more exotic techniques

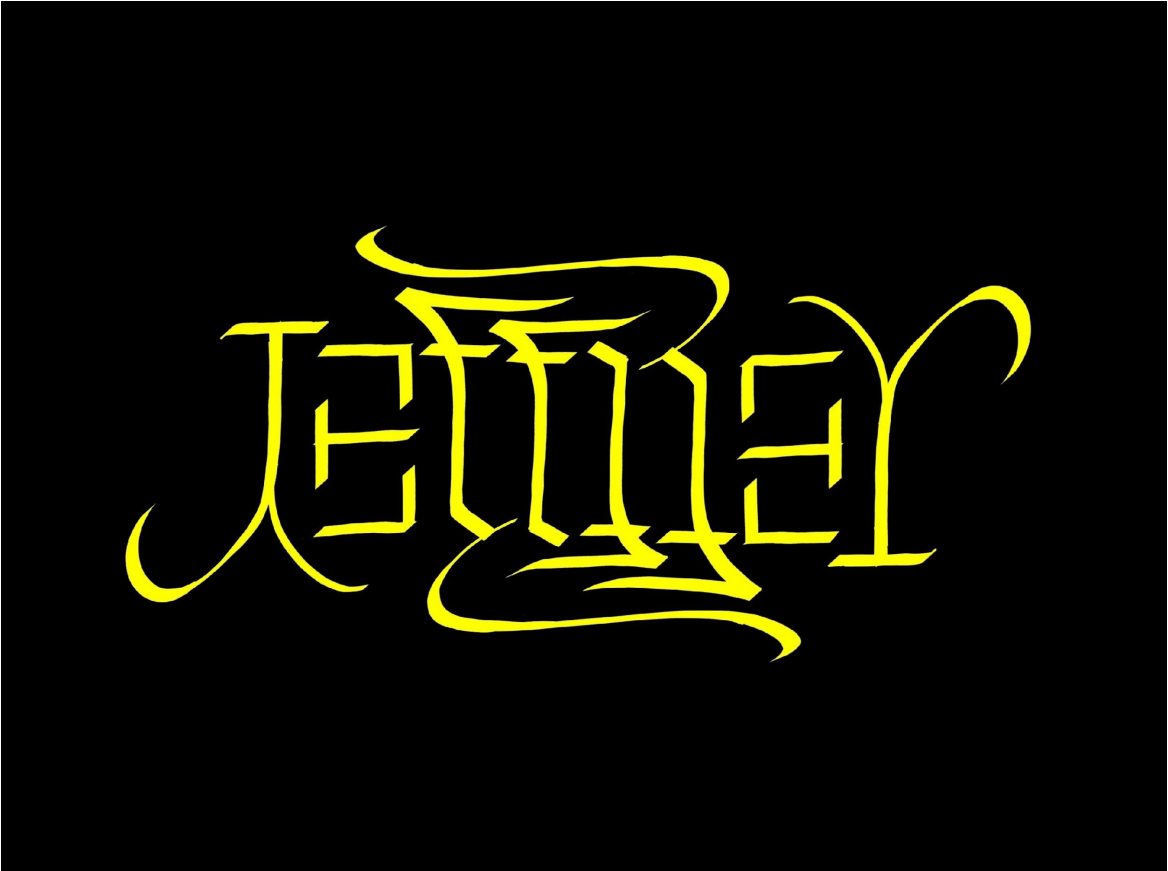
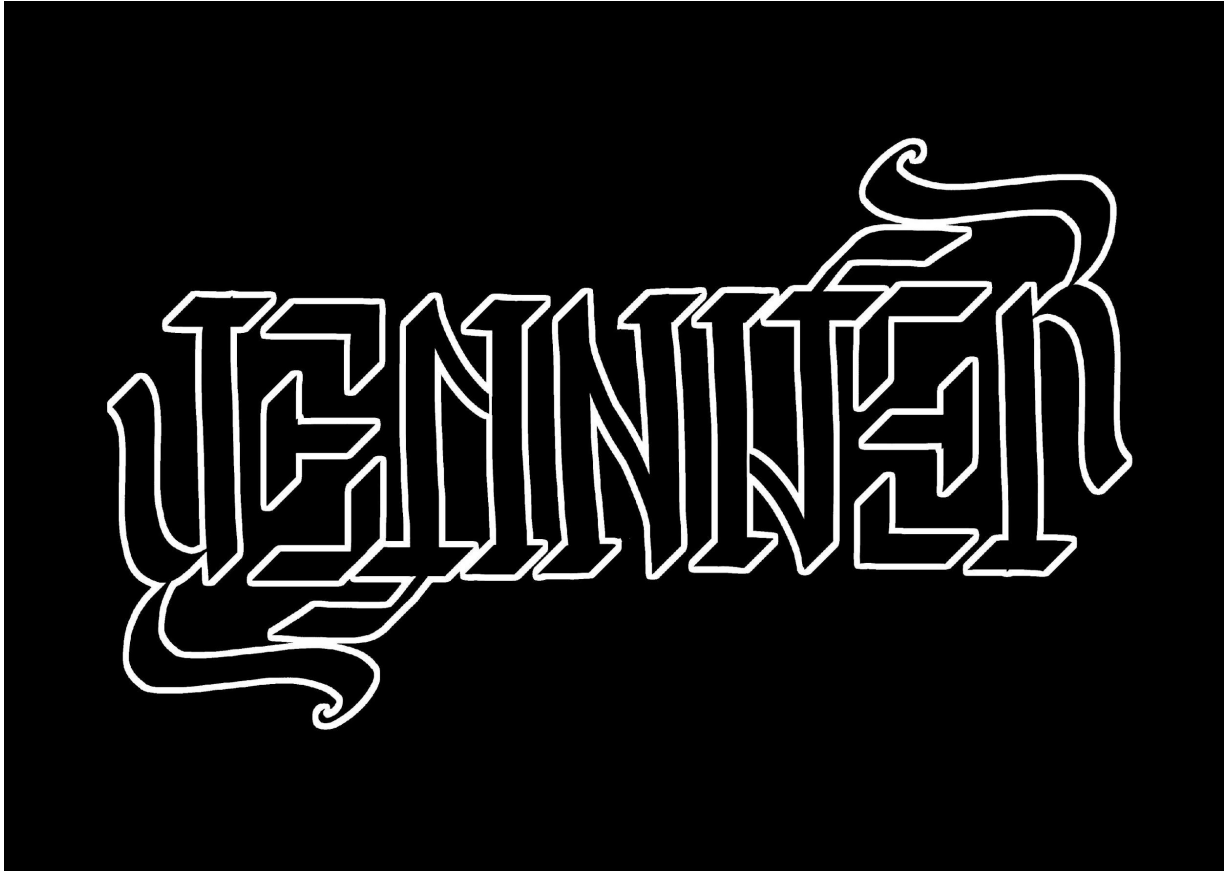
+ non-rotational

+ non-latin

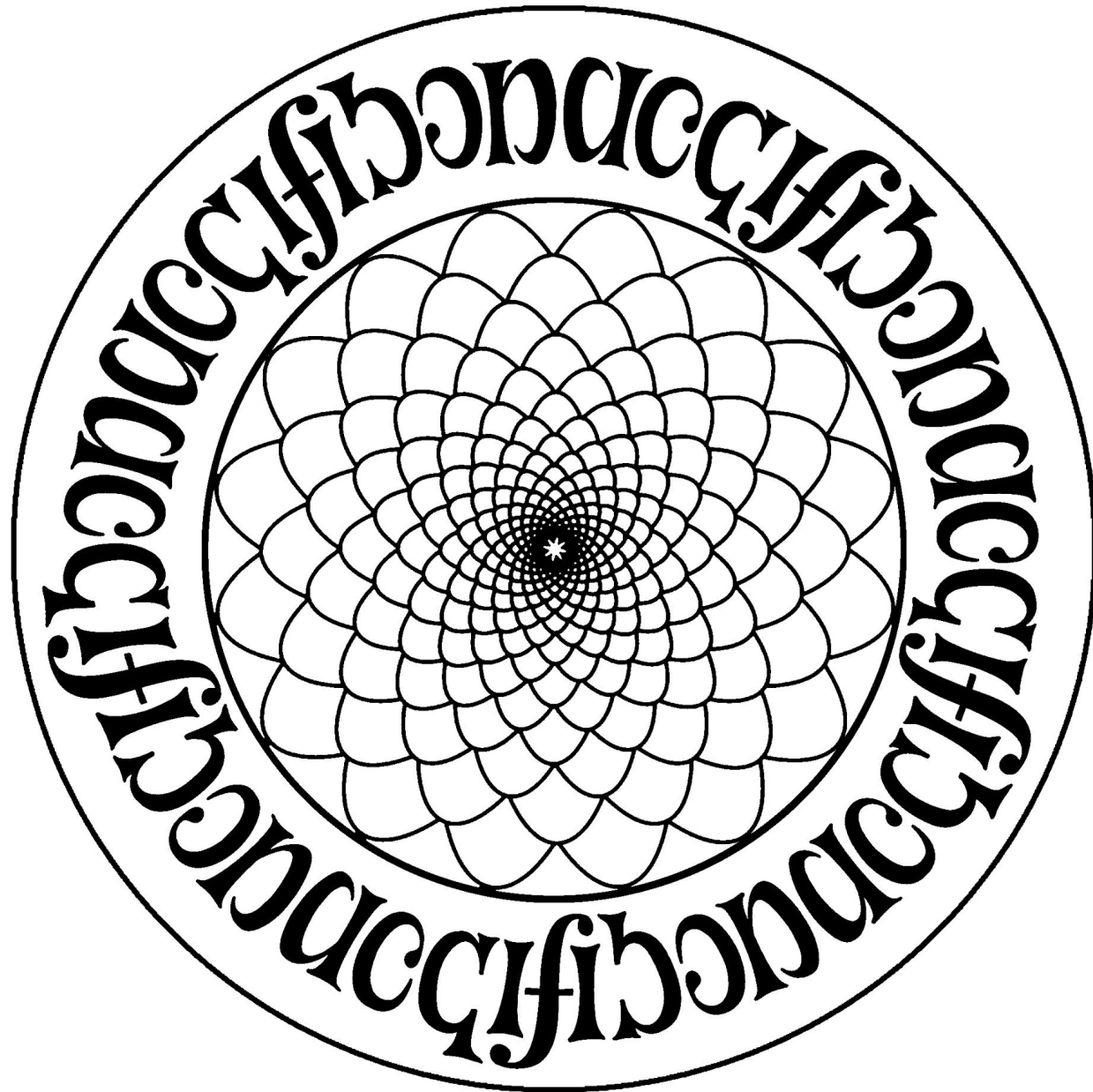
ambigrams, week 5

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Handwritten text in a circular arrangement, likely a signature or decorative element, rendered in a golden-yellow color.



earth
fire
water

Philosophy



近未来

「近未来」

近未来

近未来

“near future”

死 去

采 世

死去 / 来世

采世 / 死采

“to die” / “the afterlife”

ស្នេហា

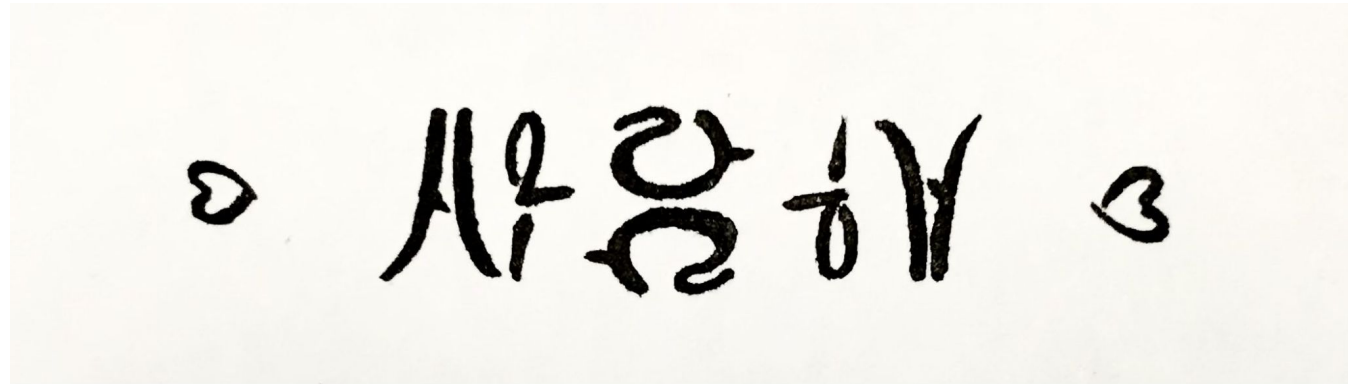
ស្នេហា
ស្នេហា
“love”



성운

공유

(my friend's name)



사랑해

사랑해

“i love you”

swims

swims

beat

beat

ep

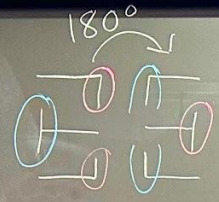
epoels

math

poel

Jennifer:

J/R
E/E
N/IF
N/N



serifs

"backbone"

glyphs don't have to be actually symmetric!

two different glyphs, technically — but both are read as capital E

Dad
D/d
a/a

Dad

r/r n/N

r n n
r n n

(balance)

Jeffrey:

J/Y
E/E
FF/R

asymmetrical glyphs

banger
jaburg
banana
Pllunge

offsetting to force shapes etc. to match
- tessellating
- circular

beginning emphasis

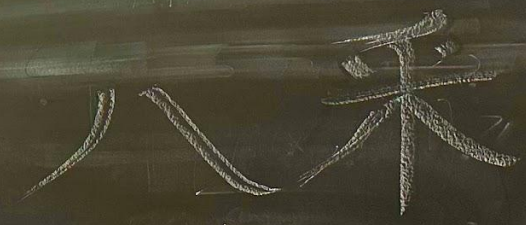
- cf. top emphasis
- reader's brain can fill in based on context

balance

- little features often improve legibility a lot

G A P

GG GG



Latin: squareish, but still an O

Hangul: O and □ are different letters

BRING YOUR OWN IDEAS FOR WORDS/NAMES/PHRASES!

(just playing around in real time)

ambigrams, week 6

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elapse

e e/ə l ə ɪ p aɪ l ə p aɪ p aɪ p e l ə p ə ɪ ɪ

brainstorm

brɪnɪnstɔːrm
brɪnɪnstɔːrm
brɪnɪnstɔːrm

loss

lɒs s lɒs s lɒs s | lɒ s s | lɒ s s | lɒ s s |
s s o s s s o s s | s s o | s s o | s s o |
s s l o s s s s l o s s |
s s o s s s o s s |

different
hard to balance s's!

Vera

v ɛ r ɪ v ɛ r ɪ

William

w ɪ l i ə m w ɪ l i ə m

Boya

b ɔɪ ə b ɔɪ ə
a h o a h o

aboyaboya

FIVE STAR.



FIVE STAR.



FIVE ST



elape

lraipz ~~soff~~ sosy sosy

Ve Vera hoyahoya