

May Community Center Computer Class

Convert Handwriting Into A Computer Font

From an original article by Kim Komando

✨ **WOW!** One page of handwriting, one photo and a free tool give you a font of your loved one's handwriting that works in Word forever. One son preserved his mother's writing as Parkinson's took her penmanship. It's "something I can have one day when she's not here."

✅ **The Short Version:** Print Calligraphr's template, have your letter writer fill it in, photograph it, upload, download. Fifteen minutes.

Handwriting is the last thing we have that a phone didn't flatten. My father wrote in almost-block capitals, strong and deliberate, like every letter meant something. My mother wrote beautiful cursive, left-handed because, as she always told it, a teacher made her use that hand. You'd know either one across the room.

Now you can keep it. Not in a drawer. On your keyboard.

The one-page project

Tool: A free web tool called Calligraphr (calligraphr.com) turns handwriting into a font file:

1.  Sign up free and download the template, one box per letter.
2.  Print it and hand it to your letter writer with a black pen. Fill in A through Z, numbers, punctuation. Takes 15 minutes, one coffee.
3.  Snap a photo of the finished page (or scan it) and upload it.
4.  Preview, nudge anything crooked and download your font as a TTF file.

The free plan covers 75 characters, plenty for the full alphabet, and the font is yours forever. On a PC, right-click the file and hit Install. On a Mac, double-click and choose Install Font. It shows up in Word next to Times New Roman, gloriously out of place. (Prefer a touch screen? Microsoft's free Font Maker works on Windows, and the paid iFontMaker lets you draw on an iPad.)

One FYI on cursive

The free tool nails each individual letter, but joining flowing script is a Pro feature, so true loopy cursive comes out a touch separated. For block printing and most handwriting, it's perfect. Want the letters to connect? Calligraphr Pro runs about \$8, and you can cancel after a month. Also, Google Docs won't accept custom fonts. Use Word, Pages or Canva.

Why you should do this one soon

A creative director named Morten Halvorsen preserved his mother's handwriting as a font while Parkinson's disease slowly took her penmanship. "She's going to lose her handwriting," he said. He named it Shake, a fundraiser for research: "something that I can have one day when she's not here."

That's the assignment, friend. If your parents still write grocery lists, get a template into their hands this month.

But don't stop there. Make the 7-year-old's chaotic backward-S alphabet. Christmas letters, address labels, recipe cards in the family hand. A signature that outlives the pen.

When the font installs, type the writer's name in it. Go ahead, I'll wait. Turns out Grandma was just your type all along. I made a font of my own handwriting. Now even my computer can't read it.

 **Send this to someone who** still has letters in a shoebox and a mom with great cursive.

 **Text-worthy:** You can turn Grandma's handwriting into an actual FONT you type with, free, from one handwritten page (calligraphr.com). Do this before it's too late.