

LETTERING BASICS

CALLIGRAPHY VS FAUXLIGRAPHY

heavy
downstroke
|
Calligraphy
- light
upstroke

Calligraphy is traditionally written with a **pointed pen** and **nib** with ink. The thick and thin strokes are achieved through the use of pressure on the nib, the thick stroke happening on the downstroke (any time the line goes in a downward motion) and the thin stroke on the upstroke (when the line goes upwards).

Calligraphy is not lettering, as the letters are drawn in one to two strokes, rather than being drawn as shapes.

-versus-

Downstroke
drawn in
/
Fauxligraphy

Fauxligraphy (foh-lig-raf-ee) is different from traditional calligraphy in that the heavy downstrokes are **drawn in after the fact**, versus created with pressure on a pen nib. Here you can see that the script was drawn in first, followed by the addition of the downstroke. Note that the downstroke should stay the same width across the entire word.

If you struggle with where the downstroke should happen, see about sourcing a pointed nib pen and ink. Creating the downstroke should feel easy as it goes with the grain of the paper, whereas if you try to put pressure on the upstroke, you will tear the paper and the nib will catch and/or skip.