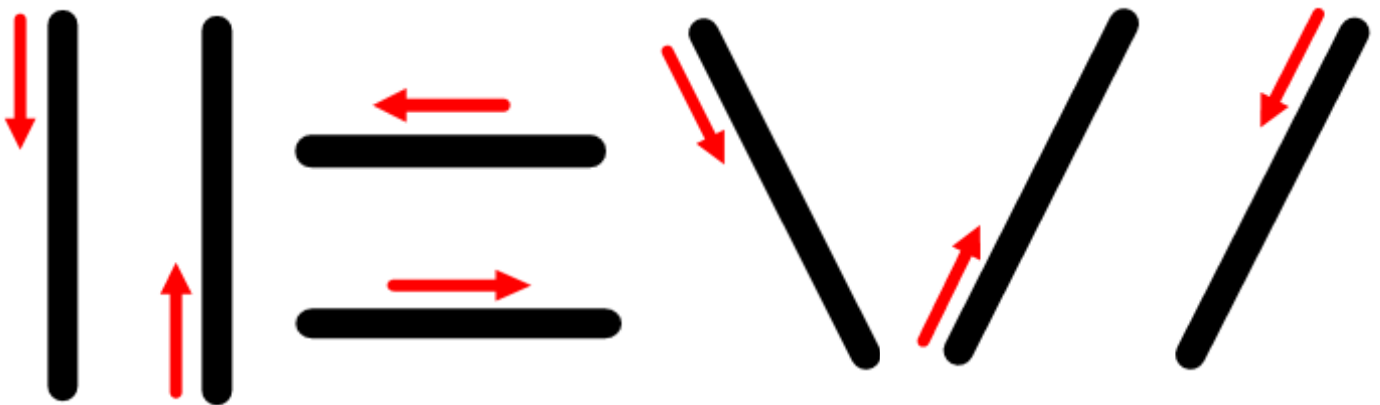


### **What is a grapheme made up of?**

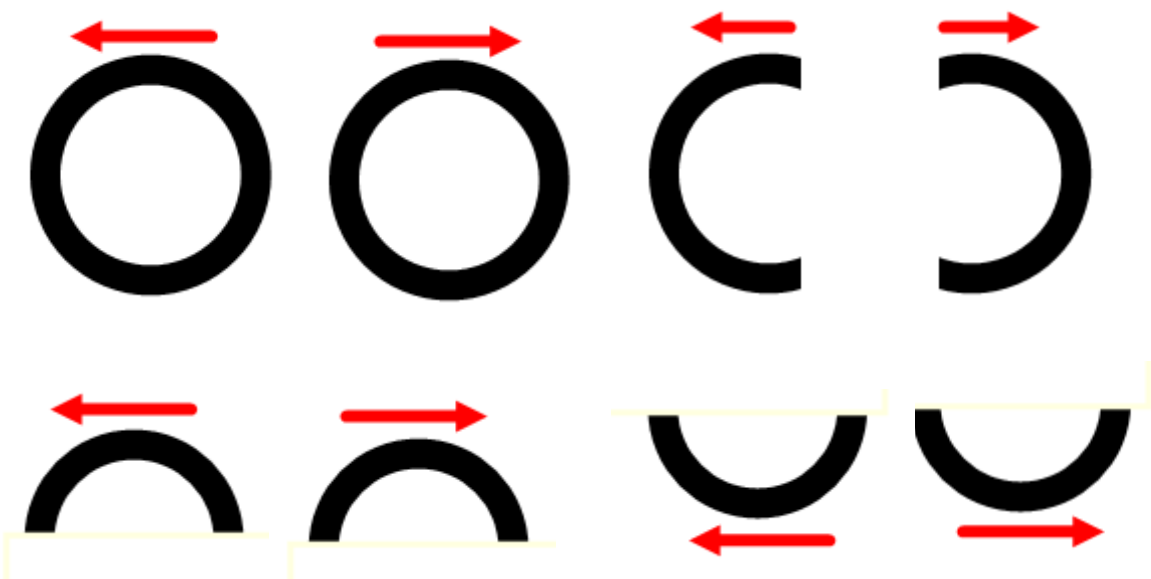
Each grapheme in the English language is made up of a combination of individual strokes which have a specific direction, shape and size. When initially teaching children a grapheme it is important that practitioners teach these elements. Children should be secure with these individual strokes before putting the strokes together to form individual graphemes.

**The different strokes which make up the graphemes are as follows:**

#### **Straight strokes – vertical, horizontal and diagonal**



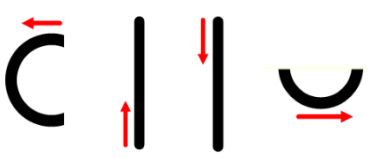





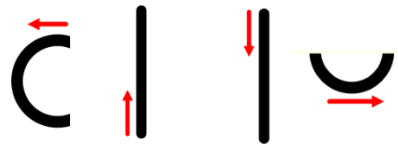

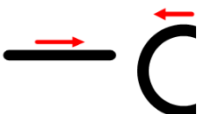

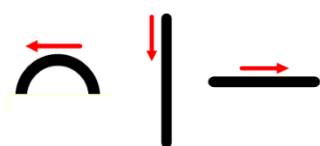
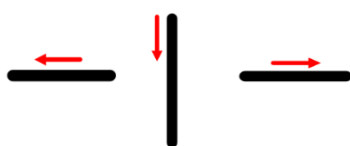
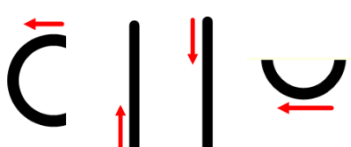
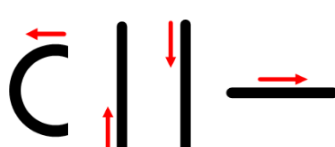
#### **Circular strokes – circles and semi-circles**



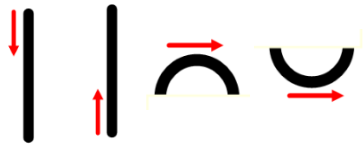
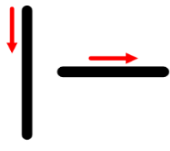
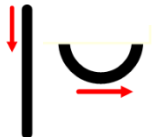

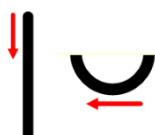
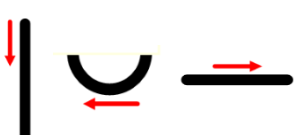
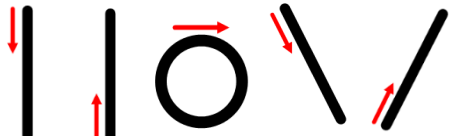
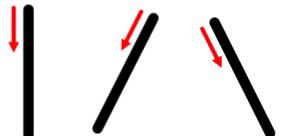
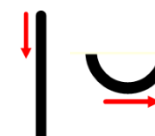

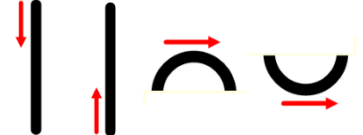
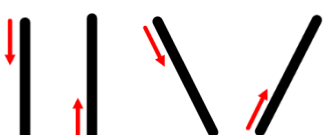
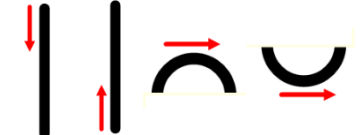
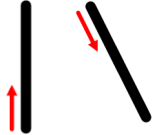


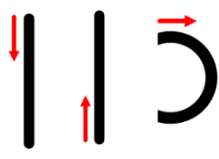
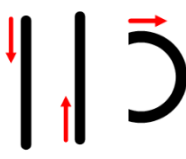
The strokes which make up the graphemes are shown below. This includes the direction and shape of the individual strokes which make up the graphemes. Practitioners should also consider the size of these strokes in relation to each other and from grapheme to grapheme.

The [Teaching Letter Formation Guidance](#) provides information on how practitioners can support children in their understanding of how the individual strokes are put together to form a grapheme. Practitioners should use their professional judgement, informed by any chosen handwriting programmes, as to the way in which the individual strokes are put together to form the grapheme. Children should be supported to describe how the individual strokes are put together to form the grapheme.

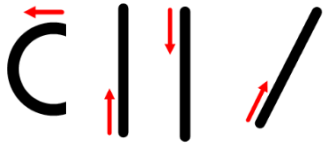
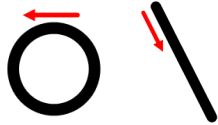
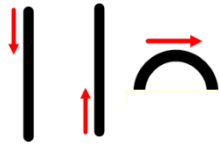
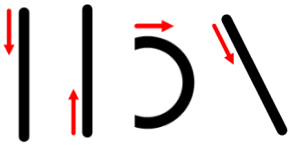
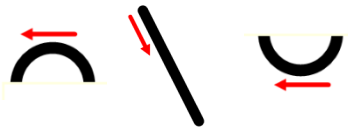

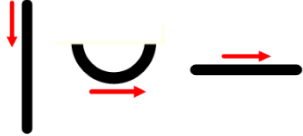
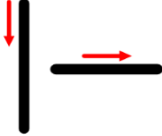



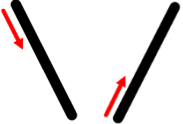
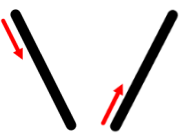
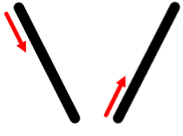
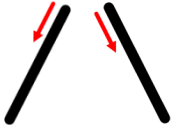
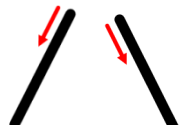




The strokes below are the basic straight and circular strokes which make up the grapheme. The strokes below do not represent the size or the order in which the strokes are put together. If the grapheme has more than one of the same strokes, this has not been included. There are variations of these included in various handwriting programmes.

Grapheme		Lower Case	Upper Case
a	A		
b	B		
c	C		
d	D		
e	E		
f	F		
g	G		





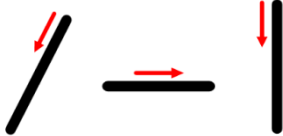
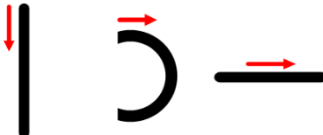
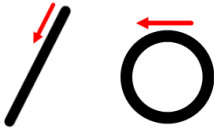


The strokes below are the basic straight and circular strokes which make up the grapheme. The strokes below do not represent the size or the order in which the strokes are put together. If the grapheme has more than one of the same strokes, this has not been included. There are variations of these included in various handwriting programmes.

Grapheme		Lower Case	Upper Case
h	H		
i	I		
j	J		
k	K		
l	L		
m	M		
n	N		
o	O		
p	P		

The strokes below are the basic straight and circular strokes which make up the grapheme. The strokes below do not represent the size or the order in which the strokes are put together. If the grapheme has more than one of the same strokes, this has not been included. There are variations of these included in various handwriting programmes.

Grapheme		Lower Case	Upper Case
q	Q		
r	R		
s	S		
t	T		
u	U		
v	V		
w	W		
x	X		
y	Y		
z	Z		

The same strokes are used to form numbers. The strokes below are the basic straight and circular strokes which make up the numbers. The strokes do not represent the size or the order in which the strokes are put together.

Number	Strokes
0	
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	