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## **FACILITY DRILL**

Blog - 2019 - April

**Diary Day 1 - Hampton Court** 

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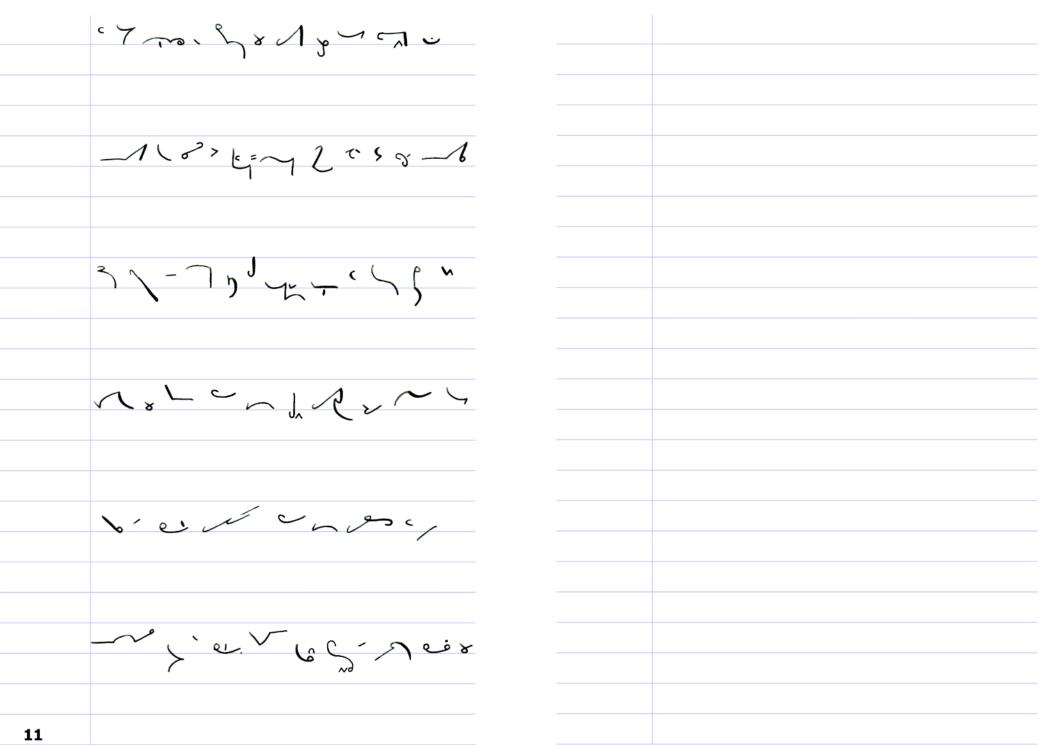

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## Diary Day 1 - Hampton Court

One of the common uses claimed for shorthand is to write a diary. I have never kept a diary, even for a short while, so that would hold no interest for me. However, writing out the day's activities in shorthand is a good one-off exercise. with your new ability to have your writing keep up with what you wish to say. You can keep it flowing by not looking up outlines until afterwards, underlining the doubtful ones as you go along. It would be helpful to say it out loud as you write, so that the sounds continue to be associated with the outlines. This is a dictation that you are making up in real time, and although there will be no key for you when reading back, you do at least know exactly what you did that day. The idea is to document what happened all the way there and back, as an easy way of producing off-the-cuff material in simple language. It cannot fail to interest you, as it is your life and chosen activities that are the stars of the show. Here is one of my days out, predictably to a place of interest with park, flowers and trees.

I got up quite early, as the day started clear and sunny. After getting dressed, I made the sandwiches and packed the food and drink in the bags. I fed the fish and then checked my phone for when the bus would be arriving at our nearest bus stop. We made sure all the windows were closed, left the house and waited a short while for the bus. It took about ten minutes to get to the train station, and once there we only had to wait five minutes for our train to Waterloo Fast Station.

At Waterloo East we got off the train and went up a long covered walkway to the main Waterloo concourse, which was very busy. Most people were standing about looking up at the destination boards on high, to see the train times and what platform they needed to go to. We went to Platform 2 and boarded a train to Hampton Court which is to the west of the city. The journey is pleasant as it leaves the city quite quickly and goes through more suburban towns. We arrived at Hampton Court and walked the short distance to the park.

We spent several hours wandering around and admiring the spring flowers and the blossom trees, some of which were fully in bloom and others just in bud. Our previous visit two weeks ago was a cloudy day but as it was now sunny, all the bedding displays looked much more colourful, with more of them fully open. One bed was filled with hyacinth blooms, which give off a very heavy perfume. Families with children were sitting and playing on the grass under the two big magnolia trees.

We found a bench in the sun and had our sandwiches. Loud birdsong nearby turned out to be a robin, singing his ownership of that patch from various perches in turn. We could hear the drumming of a woodpecker echoing across the park but it was not possible to work out what tree the bird was in. Most of the visitors wandering around were taking photos of all the daffodils, which were beginning to fade in certain areas.

## Diary Day 1 - Hampton Court

As we left the park we noticed that lots of groups of school children were arriving. talking excitedly and running around. We assumed it must be a popular regular destination for local schools to take the children to. We went back over the stone river bridge and walked down towards the lock. We saw several swans near the shoreline, who watched us closely as we walked by, in case food was coming their

We started walking back to the station and realised that we had just ten minutes before the train departed. We quickened our pace and got on the train with several minutes to spare. If we had missed it, it would have been a half hour wait for the next one. We arrived back at Waterloo, went down the walkway to Waterloo East and hurriedly got on our train with only moments to spare. We

way. We passed the lock and went further along the riverside path, past the rowing club and the cricket club. We saw rows of houseboats moored on the far side of the river, which were really not any smaller than normal houses, except they were built on large rafts. We thought they must be rather chilly locations to live in winter and wondered whether the river ever froze at the shallow and slow-moving edges.	had to stand in the crowded end carriage for half of the 20-minute journey, and thought that the front carriages were probably quite empty, but there had been no time to go that far, as it was about to leave. Back in our home town, we did not have to wait long for the bus and soon we were in our home once again, with our cameras full of sunny park views, flowers and river scenes. (860 words)
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