



Handwritten shorthand symbols on a blue-lined background.

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64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72

73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81

82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90

91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99

100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108

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Handwritten shorthand symbols on page 12, line 6.

**Jack Josh And Uncle Bill**

**Each paragraph is 100 words**

Brothers Jack and Josh have had a great time learning shorthand over the summer months, fitting it in with their college assignments\*. They have found out that Uncle Bill knows some shorthand as well although he is very rusty. What better way for everyone to help themselves and each other than to correspond in shorthand, guaranteeing that the subject matter is of the highest interest, being the activities of family members. It doesn't practise high speed but is a good way to practise smooth correct writing and revise the vowel signs, which are needed more when writing for someone else.

Dear Uncle Bill, How is Auntie Sheila? We hope\* you are both well. We are now able to write our news to you in shorthand. We were surprised that you did shorthand in school ages ago. To make sure you can read our shorthand, we are writing slowly which is good revision for us. We will make up for it by doing some fast takes later on. By now we are finding it rather difficult to go slowly! We are keeping a notebook\* of our activities, so we can keep you and Auntie Sheila informed. Best wishes\*, Jack and Josh

Dear Jack and Josh, Thanks for your message. I did manage to read it all, but it took some time, as it is a very long time indeed since I did any of it. That was at school long before your parents were born, and I only used it as an office boy for a few years. I am writing this from draft outlines that Auntie Sheila has prepared, otherwise it would take a week to write it out in shorthand that you could\* recognise! It is good to keep my memory in shape in my later years. Uncle Bill

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**Jack Josh And Uncle Bill**

Dear Jack and Josh, Glad to hear of your activities on the trains. I have done the same with the television adverts\*. I only got a few snatches of words here and there\*, and I had to use a pencil for that. I wonder if you can read the scan of my scribbly\* notes? Can you do the same and send some to me, so I can have a go at reading your scribble? It would be quite an achievement for me to read that, but I do have Auntie Sheila here in case of outline emergencies! Love Uncle Bill

Dear Uncle Bill, Here are some of our notes of adverts\*. We chose the food ones, as they are more simple to find the outlines for. We had the brilliant idea of taking down some dialogue from a cowboy movie, as we know you like them. We did it from a video, so we could\* fast forward\* through it to get the phrases fairly quickly. It was about the sheriff chasing the cattle rustling gang and other outlaws making trouble in town. Thanks for your messages, we like seeing real shorthand other than what's in the book. Love from Jack

Dear Auntie Sheila, We have been having a wonderful time reading Uncle Bill's messages in shorthand. We would like to buy Uncle a modern shorthand pen for his birthday, do you think that would be a good idea? We would include some good quality ink and pads as well, as we noticed the dip pen was sputtering on the rough paper. Let us know and we will order them straight away. We can't wait to see his face when we bring them over, and we think it may cause more stir than your chocolate covered birthday cake! Jack and Josh (900 words)

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