

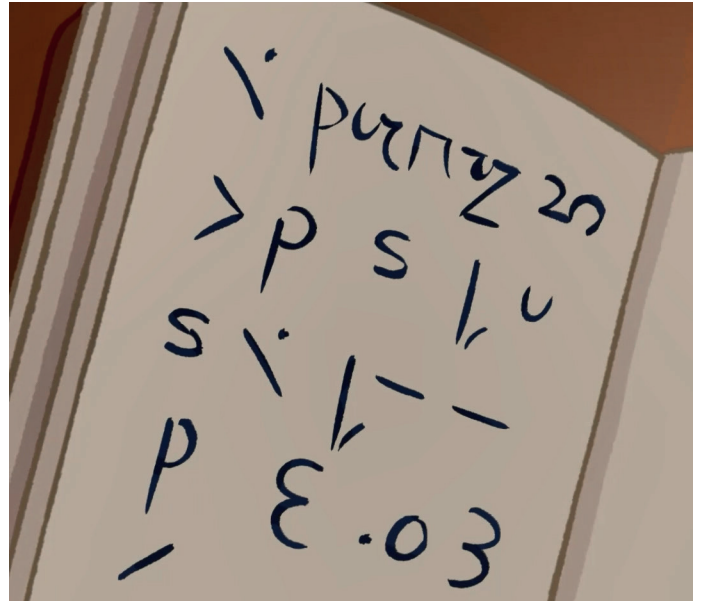
# How did Samuel Pepys write his diary?



Samuel Pepys wrote his diary in shorthand. Shorthand uses special symbols instead of letters and words. This makes writing quicker, and makes it impossible to read if you don't understand what the symbols mean!

Pepys wrote his diary from 1660 to 1669, when he stopped because he was worried about his eyesight. The diary was written in six volumes.

It took over a hundred years for people to discover what Pepys had written in his diary.



1

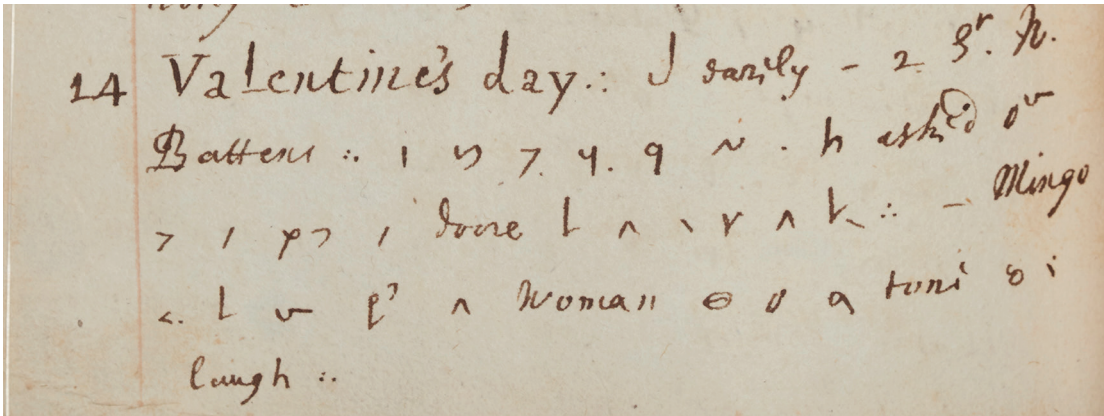
Using the guide below, write your name in shorthand

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a b c d e f g h i/j k l m n o p q r s t u/v w x y z

# How did Samuel Pepys write his diary?



Now let's look at some of Pepys's diary:



By permission of the Pepys Library,  
Magdalene College Cambridge

This extract has lots of longhand (normal English). This was often used for names, as well as some other words.

2

Can you spot the following words written in longhand?

laugh

Mingo

woman

Valentine's day

In shorthand, 'and' is written by using the symbol – 'To' is written using the number 2.

Can you find where Pepys writes 'and to'? (clue: it's on the first line)

Pepys didn't use full stops but little triangles of dots instead.  
How many full stops can you see in Pepys's diary entry?

# How did Samuel Pepys write his diary?



## Answers:

There are four full stops: After 'Valentine's day', after 'Battens', before '- Mingo', and after 'laugh'.

