

## Extracts from Thomas Shelton's *Tachygraphy or Short-Writing* (1647)

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Thomas Shelton devised a shorthand system called 'tachygraphy' in the 1620s. It appeared in lots of editions across the seventeenth century. This is the system that Samuel Pepys learned and used for his diary. Extracts here are from the 1647 Cambridge edition.

There are symbols for **letters**:

The letters of the Alphabet.			
	a	^	
	b		
	c	Γ	
	d	)	
	e	g	
	f	7	
	g	4	
	h	<	
	i	L	
	k	o	
	l	u	
	m	\	
	n	-	
	o	c	
	p	g	
	qu	q	
	r	r	
	s	p	
	t	/	
	v	v	
	w	l	
	x	x	
	y	y	
	z	z	

There are symbols for common **beginnings** and **endings** of words

Prepositions for longe words.					
Ab		Con	a	Pre	d
ob	t	con	r	pro	L
ac	<	col	t	re	∞
ad	∠	de	∞	sub	α
af	∞	di	2	suff	p
all	∞	dis	2	sup	r
am	(	fall	∞	sen	∞
an	ε	full	∞	sin	∞
ap	∞	for	ε	sal	∞
op	∞	im	<	sol	∞
as	s	liber	∞	temp	∞
at	d	mess	∞	trans	∞
circum	∞	miss	∞	vn	∞
com	∞	per	∞	op	∞
		par	∞	vt	∞
Terminations for longe words.					
Able		ing	3	serue	b
ible	∞	len	∞	sion	∞
ation	∞	lent	∞	tion	∞
ceiue	∞	litie	∞	soeuer	∞
dure	∞	mer	∞	ternall	∞
fect	∞	mar	∞	ther	∞
ference	∞	ment	∞	tent	∞
fication	∞	ness	∞	ture	∞
fulness	∞	ous	∞	ver	∞
iect	∞	cent	∞		
itude	∞	sent	∞		

There are symbols for **common words** (or words common in sermons). Here are some examples:

Acknowledg	u
Aduantage	i
Afflictions	e
Away	^
Anger	a
And	-
Adulterie	y
Admonish	h
Arguments	m
Against	p
Account	o
After	a
Abundance	7
Actions	6
As	s
Appeare	d
Amonge	^
Apostles	A
Angells	A

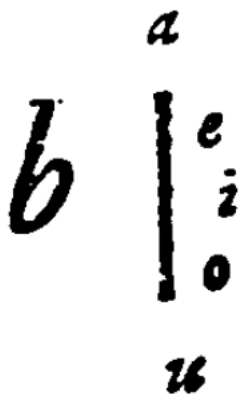
H	
He	o
Hath	h
that	
Holie	e
a	
Humble	h
Heart	4
His	a
Hope	p
Helpe	a
and	
is in	
Heauen	
Holighost	4
and the	
yet	6
How	d
doe the	
Hands	h
Hipocrites	h
Heretic	h
les	
Hurt	o
Him	<

## Vowels

When writing shorthand words, you join symbols together.

However, to show vowels in the middle or at the ends of words, you don't write the letter symbol for that vowel. Instead, you take your pen off the page, and then start the next symbol in a position that signals the vowel.

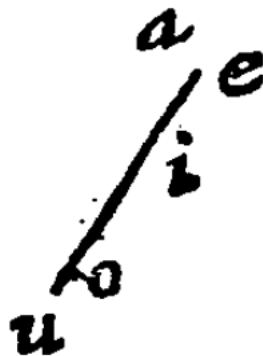
Here are Shelton's tables to illustrate the vowel positions around the symbols for 'b' (a vertical straight line), 't' (a line sloping down), and 'm' (a line sloping up).



So, to write 'bat', you would write the symbol for 'b' (|) and then put the symbol for t (/) directly above it.

To write 'bet', you would write the 'b' symbol and put the 't' symbol towards the top right of it.

Vowels positions around 't':



Vowel positions around 'm'

