

## Comparisons, *Troab* shorthand and Teeline

The *Troab* (*T-Script*) **Professional level** shorthand method may be compared with Teeline. Comparative features may be summarized as,

- *Troab* is simpler than Teeline, and has fewer rules. This makes it easier to learn in less time.
- *Troab* has a smaller shorthand-word footprint and is faster to write than Teeline.

The following sentences illustrate such differences. When written in *Troab* fewer pen movements are needed than in the Teeline version.

“*I do not need to tell you that this is a matter of national security*”.

T-Script		24 pen movements
Teeline		31 pen movements

“*You will have to do better than that if you want the public to believe in you again*”.

T-Script		25 pen movements
Teeline		40 pen movements

### 1. Principles of word abbreviation

The fundamental principles of abbreviation are different; *Troab* (*T-Script*) writes words as they sound (phonographic), and Teeline abbreviates words by their spelling (orthographic).

‘*who*’      T-Script      Teeline

*Troab* writes the dominant sound of the word using the ‘OO’ vowel indicator (written on its side). Teeline follows the spelling of the word, WHO.

‘*new*’      T-Script      Teeline

*Troab* writes the sounds N + U. Teeline follows the full spelling of the word, NEW.

‘*the*’      T-Script      Teeline

*Troab* writes the E-vowel indicator (the dominant sound). Teeline follows the spelling of the word.

(The definite article ‘*the*’ is the most frequently occurring word in the English language.)

### 2. Consonant design

Both systems derive their consonant symbols from familiar Roman script letters.

Teeline follows conventional handwriting style by writing G, J, P and Q through the line.

G, J, P, Q

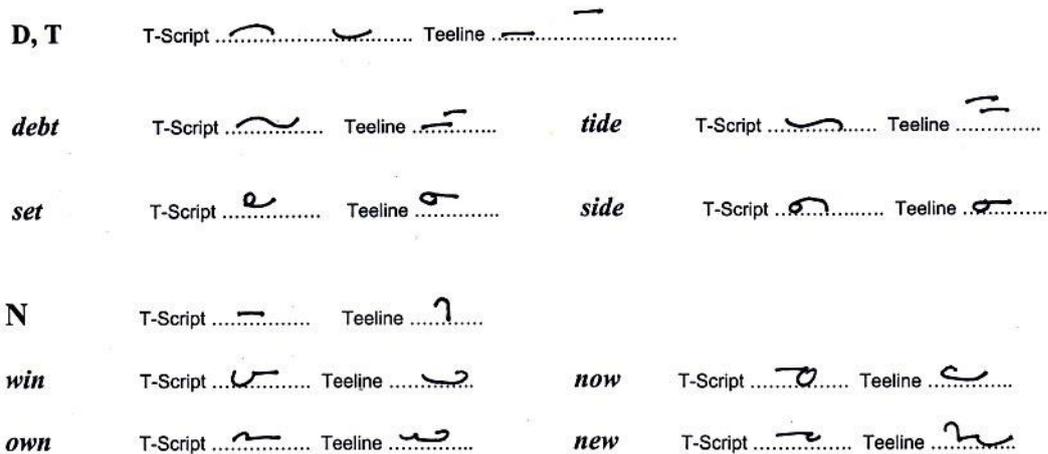
T-Script		Teeline	
----------	--	---------	--

## 2.1 The Core Consonants, D, T, N.

*Troab* recognises the most frequently occurring letter sounds as R and L, D and T, S and N (based on the findings of Dutton (1916) that these are the most significant letters for shorthand systems design). *Troab* regards D, T and N as ‘core letters’ and gives special attention to the sounds of R and L. Teeline does not distinguish specific ‘core letters’ as such.

*Troab* writes the related consonants D, T, as distinctive complementary curves; D, the heavier sound curves down and T, the lighter sound, curves upwards.

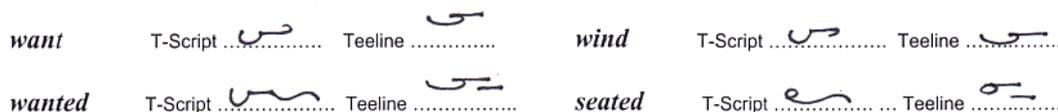
Teeline uses the same sign for both D and T, differentiating them only by position of writing; D is written on the line and T is written above the line.



*Troab* writes N as a progressive horizontal stroke.

Teeline writes a distinctive truncated script letter ‘n’. This two-directional letter often needs to be modified to join with other consonants, e.g. CN, DN, ON, TN, TCN, WN, NTh, NV, NW, and NCh.

*Troab* writes N consistently without distortion.



## 2.2 TH

*Troab* represents ‘TH’ by writing ‘T’ obliquely downwards as a single stroke. (CH is similarly formed with a slanted H.) Teeline writes T and H with separate strokes; the T is written in the T-position and the H rests on the line.



*Troab* writes the frequently occurring word ‘*that*’ as a Quick Form.

Teeline follows the spelling of the word, THT.

## 2.3 CH

*Troab* represents CH by writing H slanted obliquely (echoing TH).

Teeline writes CH in full as C + H. (For some words in Teeline the H is omitted and the C is suspended to indicate the missing H.)

<b>CH</b>	T-Script .....	Teeline .....			
<b>check</b>	T-Script .....	Teeline .....	<b>child</b>	T-Script .....	Teeline .....
<b>such</b>	T-Script .....	Teeline .....			

### 3. The sound of R

*Troab* indicates the sound of R by writing a double-size consonant or one written in the raised R-position. Teeline indicates R variously as a double-size letter, intersection, juxtaposition and a blended THR (but not initially).

<b>arrive</b>	T-Script .....	Teeline .....	<b>variety</b>	T-Script .....	Teeline .....
<b>weather</b>	T-Script .....	Teeline .....	<b>nerve</b>	T-Script .....	Teeline .....
<b>editor</b>	T-Script .....	Teeline .....	<b>bread</b>	T-Script .....	Teeline .....
<b>there</b>	T-Script .....	Teeline .....	<b>throughout</b>	T-Script .....	Teeline .....
<b>park</b>	T-Script .....	Teeline .....	<b>harder</b>	T-Script .....	Teeline .....

### 4. The sound of L

*Troab* writes L upwards (the initial stroke of a script letter L); the sound of L is read consistently after a letter written in a subscript position – *the L-position*.

Teeline writes a letter L downwards, sometimes modified but also with an alternative upward form (there is an additional advanced technique for writing PL)

<b>L</b>	T-Script .....	Teeline .....			
<b>listen</b>	T-Script .....	Teeline .....	<b>place</b>	T-Script .....	Teeline .....
<b>bill</b>	T-Script .....	Teeline .....	<b>rail, real</b>	T-Script .....	Teeline .....
<b>delete</b>	T-Script .....	Teeline .....	<b>value</b>	T-Script .....	Teeline .....
<b>detrimental</b>	T-Script .....	Teeline .....	<b>pearl</b>	T-Script .....	Teeline .....
<b>global</b>	T-Script .....	Teeline .....	<b>liberal</b>	T-Script .....	Teeline .....

### 5. Special or Quick Forms

*Troab* Quick Forms are created using the dominant sound or the first letter of the word; they may be combined in compound words or word groups.

<b>before</b>	T-Script .....	Teeline .....	<b>nothing</b>	T-Script .....	Teeline .....
<b>have</b>	T-Script .....	Teeline .....	<b>about</b>	T-Script .....	Teeline .....
<b>into</b>	T-Script .....	Teeline .....	<b>in-the</b>	T-Script .....	Teeline .....
<b>to-do</b>	T-Script .....	Teeline .....	<b>do-it</b>	T-Script .....	Teeline .....

## Frequently occurring phrases

*better-than* T-Script ..... Teeline .....  
*there-is-no-doubt* T-Script ..... Teeline .....  
*it-is a global-problem* T-Script ..... Teeline .....  
*it-will-be less-than* T-Script ..... Teeline .....

### 6. The Word Footprint.

Shorter word outlines in *Troab* result in a smaller word footprint; this term indicates the number of pen movements required to write an average shorthand word outline (a measurement of writing effort).

The word footprint is calculated by counting the number of pen movements required to write each shorthand word in a text passage and then dividing this total by the number of words in the passage.

The word footprint figure for Teeline is calculated at 2.6, and for *Troab* (*T-Script*), 2.0. (A large number of varied texts was used to arrive at these footprint figures.)

The difference between these two quotients is due partly to the design of the consonants and partly to the different principles of abbreviation. These differences are illustrated in the example words given above.

Thus a 400 word text passage written in Teeline requires 1040 pen movements (400 x 2.6). The same passage written in *Troab* will require 800 pen movements (400 x 2.0). The difference of 240 pen movements equates to some 100 words.

The simpler forms and rules applied in *Troab* result in a shorthand method that is simpler than Teeline and is also faster to write. (A dictation passage written by a Teeline writer at 100 words a minute would be written in *Troab* effectively at an equivalent rate of 75 words a minute.)

### 7. The multi-level method.

*Troab* is more than a professional shorthand system and has a wide application in note-taking. The *Troab* integrated shorthand method can be written at two levels to meet different user needs – Professional level for verbatim reporting and Alpha (or Basic) level for general note-taking. The differences illustrated above compare Teeline shorthand with the *Troab Professional level*; the following examples include Alpha (Basic) level sentences for comparison.

The *Troab Alpha level* is a method of speed-writing; it is written using familiar script letters except for the core letters, D, T, N, S, which are always written in the forms used at Professional level. These core letters occur so frequently that writing speed is significantly increased. The six vowel indicators are common to both levels and are used for clarification when needed; they are also used as Quick Forms and contribute to high writing speed with a minimum of learning. The few abbreviation rules are common to both levels. The *Alpha-Keyboard* version is written using a standard QWERTY keyboard.

The two-level approach is a significant difference of usage to Teeline and extends the potential use of the *Troab* shorthand method to a wide range of general note-takers in the office or classroom. Alpha level is ‘basic shorthand’ and the simple theory can be acquired in a few hours. Writers can easily move on to the Professional level shorthand if they have the need to write verbatim shorthand at speeds faster than 100 words a minute.

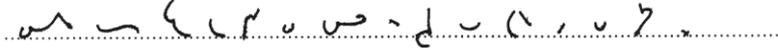
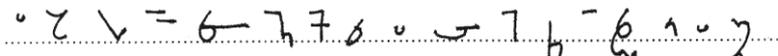
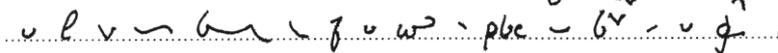
The two levels of *Troab* (*T-Script*) are compared with Teeline in the following sentences. The number of pen strokes used in each sentence are shown.

**Note**, at Alpha level the writer's own familiar script letters are used together with the contracted forms of D, T and N and the vowel indicators.

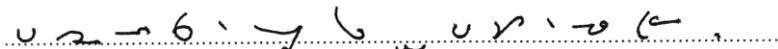
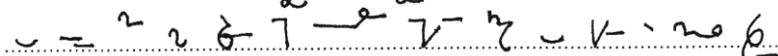
*"I do not need to tell you that this is a matter of national security".*

T-Script  (24 pen movements)  
 Teeline  (32)

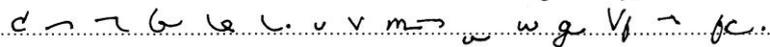
*"You will have to do better than that if you want the public to believe in you again".*

T-Script  (25 pen movements)  
 Teeline  (40)  
 Alpha  (39)

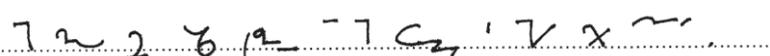
*"We did not know about the terrorist threat until we heard the news bulletin"*

T-Script  (29 pen movements)  
 Teeline  (43)  
 Alpha  (38)

*"I can do nothing about these things you have mentioned until we get verification of the facts".*

T-Script  (35 pen movements)  
 Teeline  (52)  
 Alpha  (45)

*"The new guidelines will be presented to the committee at their next meeting".*

T-Script  (30 pen movements)  
 Teeline  (38)  
 Alpha  (39)

**Summary.**

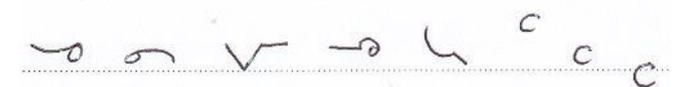
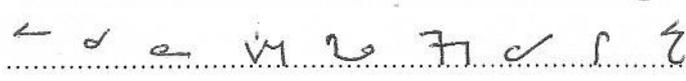
The differences illustrated above between Teeline and *Troab Professional* may be summarized as,

- *Troab* has a simpler structure than Teeline resulting in shorter and distinctive word outlines.
- *Troab* has fewer rules than Teeline and these are consistently applied.
- *Troab* is faster to write than Teeline.
- *Troab* words are particularly easy and fast to read.

*Troab* was designed as a shorthand system building on many years of early shorthand system design. Teeline was created as a method of fast writing using an alphabet of streamlined script letters and later ‘discovered’ to be a shorthand method. ( I.C.Hill, ‘How Teeline began’, in *Handbook for Teeline Teachers*, p.1 (1983).)

This sentence encapsulates the principal features of the *Troab* shorthand method;

“It is said everyone knows that the car can kill”.

Troab		15 pen movements
Teeline		28 pen movements