

The Graphologist Is In

Can this Shidduch Work?

THIS MONTH:

Your handwriting may reveal more than you think. Join Rabbi Yoseph Engel as he solves perplexing dilemmas using insights gained from handwriting analysis

familyconsultation



BY RABBI YOSEPH ENGEL

Hello Esti,
Here are my observations, based on my analysis of both handwriting samples.

Dear Rabbi Engel,

I have been in shidduchim for about a year. Two months ago, I met someone and we dated four times. I am interested in him and the chemistry is definitely there. However, there is a certain issue that has begun to bother me.

When I think about my parents' marriage, I realize that I do not want to experience the kind of relationship that my parents have. My mother completely runs the show; my father is weak and ineffective. I am nervous that the boy I am currently dating will be the same kind of spouse that my father is. I was wondering if you have some insight into what kind of relationship I should expect. I realize that in order to deduce this, you need samples of our writings, which I have enclosed.

Thank you,

Esti

His Writing:

My Writing:

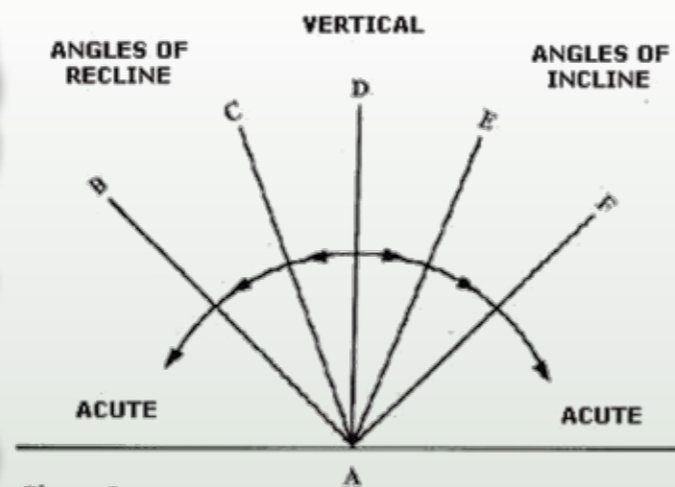
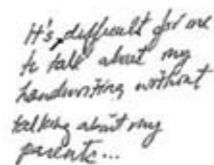
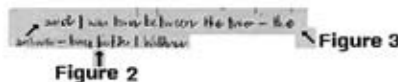


Figure 1

What's the Angle?

Picture a man standing bolt upright — the very image of independence, separateness. In Figure 1, look at line AD — it is straight. When one writes this way more or less consistently, we say that the writing is vertical. In line AE, however, we have a representation of a man reaching out physically, as if to speak with someone more closely, as though he were trying to meet the other person partway.

When you write, your intention is simple — to tell what is on your mind, to communicate. The vertical writer's approach is cool; his head (as opposed to heart) is in control. Vertical writers may indeed have intense emotions, but they are held in check.

When writing leans to the right, we call it inclined writing. The inclined writer moves toward the party he is dealing with. The wider the degree of the incline, the stronger the urge to communicate, and the stronger the writer's feelings.

If your prospective partner's writing were superimposed on Figure 1, it would correspond to line AD, and yours to line AE.

Communication and Initiative

The young man's writing has dashes — like invisible hands keeping others at a safe distance. The writing itself is small. These characteristics point to a relatively poor communicator.

His downward strokes have been formed with excessive pressure (Figure 2). Writing in a downward direction predominantly employs the flexor muscles (whereas in a rightward direction, the extensor muscles are primarily used). It is normal for downward strokes to be heavier than rightward strokes, since the flexor muscles are stronger than the extensors. When the downward stroke is excessively heavier, this usually indicates that the writer has specific, positive personality traits.

It seems that this young man is able to conceive ideas, or at least to take the initiative. He also has the will and the capacity to carry out what he undertakes. He is of upright character. He wants to be the protector of the weak. He is a person of convictions and is willing to fight for his beliefs. Since he has convictions, he can convince others. He is a leader, a "father ideal."

First Impressions and End Notes

In general, a man starts out trying to give the best possible impression. This is evident in the initial stroke of his sample (see arrows). After a while, he tends to let his guard down. He has asserted himself; he no longer needs to be overly exacting in his appearance. That is when his true character emerges. It is always interesting to compare the beginning strokes with the end ones; this comparison yields a wealth of information.

With the end stroke, the writer has a problem similar to that seen in his beginning stroke — he's unsure where to end. This isn't a mere matter of ink; it's actually a social decision, since the end of the word represents his relationship to his fellow man. Observe that his end strokes extend considerably rightward (Figure 3), further out than yours! This reflects the generous, giving and sympathetic nature on the part of the writer.

Glance at his unadorned capital "I." It shows nothing extra and similarly indicates a person who is content with the simplest essentials.

The Chazon Ish, *ztz"l*, was asked, "What should a woman look for in a husband?"

His response: A good heart, kind manners, the love of Torah, and the attribute of contentment. This young man seems to meet these criteria.

Putting the Two Together

Let's look at your handwriting now, keeping our previous observations in mind. You are warm and social and have a need to communicate, as is shown by the rightward slant of your handwriting. Like the young man in question, you are also mature and direct, evidenced by the lack of beginning strokes throughout both of your scripts.

Your writing first slants upward, then veers downward, indicating heavy mood swings, something with which your future spouse will need to contend. Interestingly, the fact that he is somewhat aloof might prove to be an advantage; your moodiness might be less challenging to him. As his writing slant is upright and yours rightward, you will primarily need to cater to him. This observation should probably lay to rest your fears about repeating the dynamics of your parents' marriage.

Conclusion: Although he might not be the ultimate communicator, this young man is very kind to others. You can anticipate a great rapport with him. I do not see any major issues to prevent you from going forward; on the contrary, you complement each other. ■

Rabbi Engel heads *Your Write Match*, a shidduch service, and *Graphology at Home*, a home-study course, and he analyzes handwriting. He authored *Handwriting Analysis Self-Taught* (Penguin Books).

Please follow the guidelines below if you would like to submit a handwriting analysis, to receive guidance on any issue or dilemma including but not limited to shidduchim.

- Place a piece of 8" x 11", unlined paper on a flat surface.
- Write with a properly functioning ballpoint pen.
- Your handwriting sample should be five or six lines long, and in script. If you normally print, write a few lines in print as well.