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## The Importance of a Good Grip

### Either the Traditional or Don Thurber's

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The importance of a good grip cannot be emphasized too much. No one seems to question the baseball, tennis, or golf coaches when they stress the importance of the grip. And they shouldn't. A good grip on the tool, whether it is a baseball bat, a tennis racket, a golf club, a pencil or a pen, is essential to get good results.

We all know the traditional grip, but many of us refuse to use it ourselves. Many of us have given up insisting that our children use it. But, we should really try to make sure that our children grip their pens and pencils correctly. They should place the pen or pencil between their thumb and index finger and use the tri-pod finger grip (thumb-index finger-middle finger).

If for some reason, physiological or psychological, a child can't seem to handle the traditional grip, we suggest that you teach the grip used by glass-cutters for accuracy and ease. This grip is advocated by Donald Neal Thurber, the inventor of D'Nealian® Handwriting. In the glass-cutter's grip (Don Thurber's grip) you let the pen or pencil rest on the web between your index finger and the middle finger. Now you have a balance of two fingers above the pencil (index and middle finger) and two fingers below (the thumb and ring finger). The hand rests on the heel of the hand. It glides across the paper on the tips (or fingernails) of the fourth and fifth fingers.

The advantage of this grip is that it takes less pressure to control the pencil. Less pressure converts to less energy. Less energy used means the child doesn't get as tired writing.

On the following page are illustrations of the two grips: traditional and the new Don Thurber's. This grip was first reported in *Communication Outlook*, Volume 9, Number 4. Artificial Language Laboratory, Michigan State University. For more information on this grip, contact Donald Thurber at 12674 North Lakeshore, LaSalle, MI 48145.

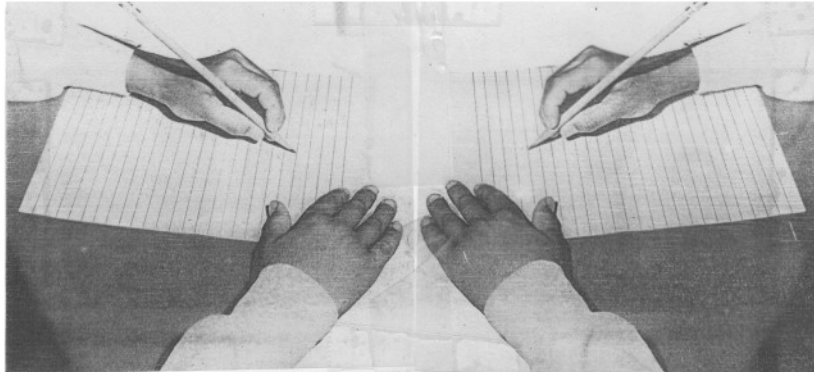
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## The Traditional Grip

**Left-hand**

**Right-hand**



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## Don Thurber's New Grip

**Left-hand**

**Right-hand**

