

The Long S

The long s can be confused with the lowercase f, sometimes even having an f-like bar on the left side of its middle. In general, the long s fell out of use in professional printing by the 19th century, especially due to the development of new fonts in the mid-1790s.

He has diffolved Representative Houfes repeatedly, for oppofing with manly Firmnefs his Invaſions on the Rights of the People.

These are
not Fs.

“He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly Firmness his Invasions on the Rights of the People.”

The long s (*f*) is one form of the lowercase s that was used in the past when an s appeared at the beginning of a word or the middle. The double s in the middle of a word usually consists of a long s and a short s, as in “Firmnefs.”

ss = *f*s = fs

Congre*f*fs

Congre*f*fs

Tips and Tricks for Reading

- Write down any letters you can read, then sound out to see if it’s a word you know.
- Can’t figure out a letter? Look throughout the document to find similar letters or words that you can read.
- Ask for help! Maybe you can’t figure out what a word says, but maybe someone else can.
- Having trouble with a word, leave a space or put a bracket [] and go back to it later.
- Put down letters you think you see and you might be able to figure out what word it is.

Tips and Tricks for Writing

- Pick a pencil that you are comfortable writing with and grasp it firmly.
- Place your free hand on the paper to secure it in place.
- It’s okay to make a mistake, keep trying! Make sure to use a pencil to make erasing easier.
- Take it slow and focus on each letter you are making.