

A
SIMPLE EXPLANATION
OF THE
CORRECT USAGE OF
LONG AND SHORT S
WITH THE ADDITION OF
EXAMPLES FOR THE
EASE OF USE.

Decipimur specie recti.

PENSACOLA:
Printed by ALICE,
MMXVI.

P R E F A C E

THE entire motive which induces me to write this publication, is but one of necessity; for it may be noted, that in recent times the Art of Printing has fallen into a neglected state, in which it has too long been suffered to continue: thus I labour to raise it from that, and to remove the languid opprobrium which has so unjustly taken hold of it.

For this reason, I hope that I need not make any apology for publishing this work, since it is too plain and evident how necessary an undertaking of this nature is, when people write with so little care and mindfulness, that they become nearly completely unintelligible to the unaccustomed reader.

Therefore, after much toil, it is my greatest pleasure to share this publication, in hope that it will be used to inculcate into both beginning writers, and those who have more experience, some of the Rules that must be regarded in order to write Well and True by use of the long s.

All Lower Case letters retain their forms aside from the Long and Short forms of s. The two forms find their origins in the oldest forms of Roman Curfve in the first century, and saw continued use for several hundred years thereafter, only to fall out of favour in recent times.

Many people in the present day would vehemently decry its continued use; they willingly avail themselves of reason, when it cannot be pressed into the furthering of their cause—choosing instead to ignore its usage and commendment by a great number of our most eminent authors.

There are many reasons for its use; an important one being that it serves to well distinguish words by their readily varied appearances, as it renders a word to be more immediately legible at a glance.

Rules

Rules for Long S

THE rules for when to use the long form of s, rather than the short one are very simple; but can be more easily written by explaining when to use the short form—the rules are, viz.

Always use short s before and after an f, as: *satisfaction, offset*.

Always use short s at the end of a word or before any punctuation, as: *hers, confess, complaints, clos'd, &c.*

Always use short s before a j, as: *misjudge, disjoint*.

Use short s in hyphenated compound words in which the first element ends in s, as: *cross-stitch, press-work, spokes-person*.

Use short s before ft, fh, and fk in compound words that end in s, unless they would not naturally break there, in which case use long s followed by short s and the next letter, as: *misstatement, crostie; mishapen, crosshair; Ruskie, pafskey*.

In any other case, the long s is to be used—the rules are, viz.

Always use long s initially and medially, unless it would break one of the rules above, as: *song, use, success, possession, husband*.

Always use long s before a hyphen at a line break, even if it would be written otherwise without, unless it is a compound, as: *necessary, successful, offset, press-work*.

Always maintain long s in abbreviations, as: *f.* for *substantive*, *Genes.* for *Genesis*.

Use long s followed by short s in the combination fsb or hyphenate it, as: *crossbow* OR *cross-bow*.

Use long s followed by short s in the combination fll if the font be lacking the necessary ligature, as: *tussle, harmlessly, effortlessly; tuffle, harmlessly, effortlessly*.

