

Test Your Skill: Can You Detect the Common Author ?

This is a skill test that demonstrates the nuances of handwriting. Even when someone writes the same word twice, there will be naturally occurring variations when comparing the same letter forms, the spacing between letters, the length of the t-bar crossings, overall slant and more.

This skill test can indicate whether or not you have a good eye for detail. Such skill can be useful when examining handwriting and documents for forensic purposes. Forensic document and handwriting professionals form opinions using the significant features observed by carefully examining the evidence. Their opinions may be used to support or refute claims that a signature or document may or may not be authentic. Providing such an opinion may have serious and significant consequences in the workplace and/or the justice system. Therefore, forensic professionals depend on many more factors than an "eye for detail" when conducting examinations.

This skill test shows the handwriting of 13 people who were asked to write the word "Washington" twice. Their writings were mixed up on this page and the pair may or may not be in the same column. Your challenge is to find the pair written by the same person. The answers are given at the bottom of the page. Try not to peek before you complete the test.

By taking this simple test, we hope you will see that there is more to identifying the handwriting's common author than originally meets the eye!

SKILL TEST:

<p>A <i>Washington</i></p> <p>B <i>Washinfor</i></p> <p>C <i>Washington</i></p> <p>D <i>Woshington</i></p> <p>E <i>Washington</i></p> <p>F <i>Washington</i></p> <p>G <i>Washingto</i></p> <p>H <i>Washington</i></p> <p>I <i>Washington</i></p> <p>J <i>Washington</i></p> <p>K <i>Washington</i></p> <p>L <i>Woshing ton</i></p> <p>M <i>Washington</i></p>	<p>N <i>Washington</i></p> <p>O <i>Woshington</i></p> <p>P <i>Washington</i></p> <p>Q <i>Washing ton</i></p> <p>R <i>Washington</i></p> <p>S <i>Washington</i></p> <p>T <i>Washington</i></p> <p>U <i>Washington</i></p> <p>V <i>Washington</i></p> <p>W <i>Washington</i></p> <p>X <i>Washington</i></p> <p>Y <i>Washington</i></p> <p>Z <i>Washington</i></p>
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Answer Key:
 A-E, B-Z, C-N, D-L, F-Y, G-O, H-U, I-R, J-V, K-T, M-O, P-W, S-X