Writing the Alphabet

Writing the alphabet in the 'correct' order is not as strict as writing *kanji* or *kana*, but there is a generally agreed stroke order, and getting the order right makes your writing faster and more efficient to write, and easier to read, especially when writing cursive (or 'joined-up').

Look at the letters below and practice the correct stroke order. Read the notes carefully, these are letters many Japanese people get wrong.

Vocabulary:				
Curve	Horizontal	Tail	Vertical	

Cursive	Print	Notes	Cursive	Print	Notes
á			ĥ		make sure the vertical is long
ķ				- 	Vertical then the point. Notice that it is a <i>point</i> , not a <i>dash</i> .
Ċ			j	a ²	Vertical then the point. The 'tail' goes goes below the line.
d			k		
e			l	- - -	
² f		Vertical then horizontal	m		
ģ		The tail goes goes below the line.	n		make sure the vertical is short

Cursive	Print	Notes	Cursive	Print	Notes
Ò		start at the top or to the right, NOT the bottom	-U		
p		The tail goes goes below the line.	ĨV.		make sure the second line is away from the first
Ą		The tail goes goes below the line.	U		Print can also be done as one line, the same as cursive.
r		make sure the curve is close to the vertical	X	7 X 2	
Ś	S		y		The tail goes goes below the line.
ť		Vertical then horizontal	Ż		