

Learn more about

Typing

Before 1860, if you wanted to write something, you needed a pen or pencil. Today, you can also write with a typewriter, computer or phone. Here are some fun online facts about the art and science of writing with buttons.

1. Say, why aren't the keys in ABC order?

At www.invent.org/hall_of_fame/168.html you learn that the first typewriters had a key sticking problem. Inventor Christopher Sholes came up with a key layout that spread out the popular letters. The first row of letters spelled the word "QWERTY" so the name stuck. Today, Mr. Sholes would smile at the idea that every modern computer and cell phone uses his keyboard, even though there are no moving parts.

2. How fast can you type?

It is easy to find out. At www.rankmytyping.com, or www.typingtest.com, you can take a one minute test, and get your word count. If you're on Facebook, there are dozens of free typing games, including Typing Maniac <http://apps.facebook.com/typing-maniac/>. After you test your fingers, check out these videos of fast typers. www.youtube.com/watch?v=MolpqG9ZvGY and www.youtube.com/watch?v=BkKbCL9hMks

3. What country has the fastest thumb texters?

Twenty seven year old Pedro Matias from Portugal is currently the the world's fastest thumb typer (264 letters in 1 minute 59 seconds). See what he typed, at <http://bit.ly/6q5axm>. In the team competition USA's Morgan Dynda and Kate Moore earned \$10,000 for their fast thumbs, coming in second place to Korea.



4. Want to become a faster, more accurate typer? There are three ways: practice, practice and more practice. As long as you don't mind all the advertising, there are some pretty fun free online typing games.

a) www.FreeTypingGame.net is a collection of flash-based typing games, with lots of advertisting.

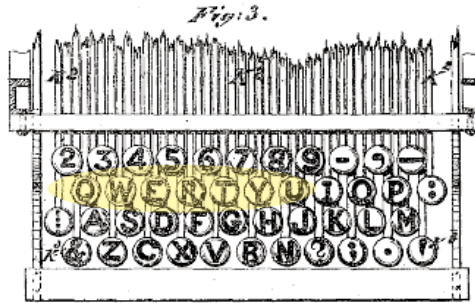
b) www.powertyping.com includes a set of typing tutorials, plus a lot of advertisements.

c) www.typing-lessons.org includes a set of free structured typing lessons.

d) QWERTY Warriors from www.diseasedproductions.net/qwerty.html is a fast-paced shooting game where you are required to type in order to survive. Warning -- there's a lot of fake blood and ads. But it isn't boring, and your skills improve.



www.mrmartinweb.com





Above: QWERTY typewriter key layout depicted in U.S. Patent No. 207,559, issued in 1878. Below: Team USA took second place in the texting contest.

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Make a Match!

- serif font • *slanted type*, like cursive typing
- italic • When type is lined up on both the left and right sides, in a clean line.
- kerning • The space between lines of text. It used to refer to the thickness of a strip of lead.
- justified text • A beautiful handwriting style, *like this*.
- leading • The name of a letter style or family of letter styles.
- The study of typefaces.
- sans serif • When the letters overlap each other's space, for a smoother look. 

- font • The tiny decorative flairs on the end of a letter. See the font called Times.
- caligraphy • When the letters have no extra flairs on the very tips of the letters. Example: See Helvetica.
- typography