

Davy Notebooks Project

Field Guide



[As of 24 March 2022]

This is a download of the Davy Notebooks Project Field Guide on Zooniverse. It lists idiosyncratic features of Davy's texts that you'll encounter as you work through the notebooks. If you encounter something during the transcription process that seems a little unusual, there may well be an entry for it in the Field Guide.

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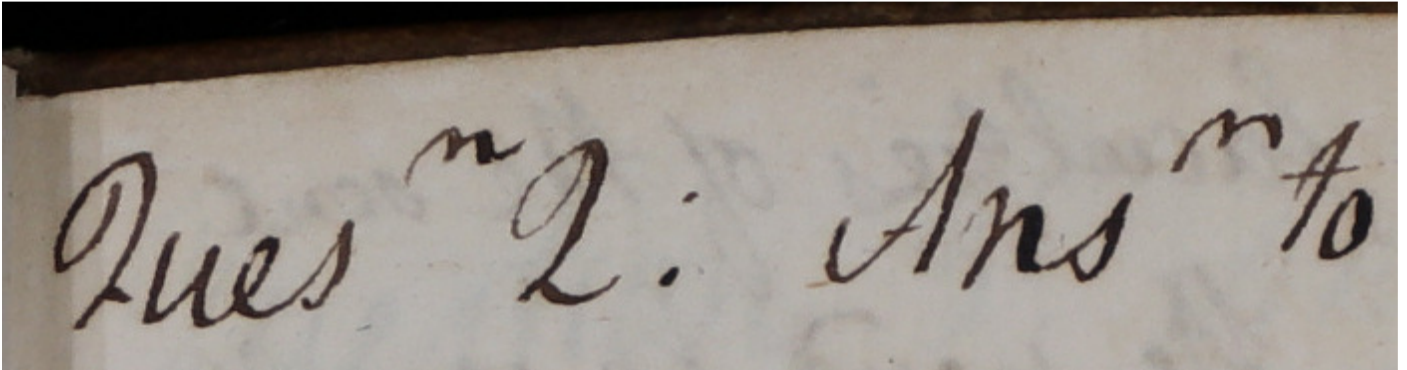
What's That?!

Sample Page Transcriptions

Tips for Transcribing

Before starting transcribing, it's often helpful to read and reflect on the entire page: what type of text is it (e.g. are these lines of poetry? Or prose? If prose, does it read like an account of an experiment? Or part of a philosophical essay?). Spending a little more time focusing on 'trouble spots' (e.g. where Davy's handwriting is particularly messy, or where he has made several revisions) before beginning transcription often pays off also. Take your time, and make use of the zoom and invert colour functions – both can often help. It might also help to read the line aloud as you transcribe – does your transcription make sense in context? Remember, too, that there's help available through the Talk boards – the Project Team and other users will be able to help you if you get stuck.

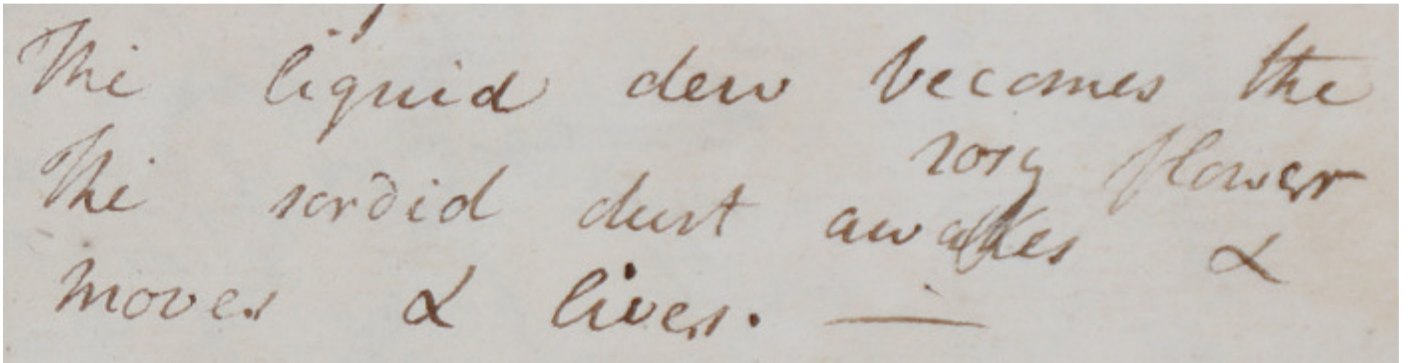
Abbreviations



Abbreviations used by Davy include 'exp' (for 'experiment'), 'Jan', 'Feb' etc. (for 'January', 'February'), 'yr' (for 'your'), 'quesⁿ' (for 'question'), and 'ans' (for 'answer'). Davy also uses standard abbreviations, such as 'NB' (for *nota bene*, or 'note well'). Please transcribe abbreviations exactly as they appear on the page, using the superscript tags as required. There are two abbreviations in the example above:

Quesⁿ 2: Ansⁿ to

Ampersand



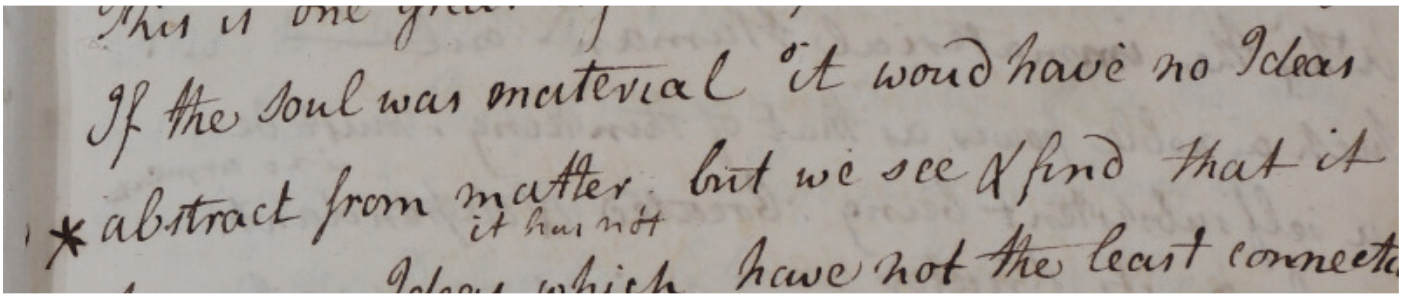
Davy's ampersand often looks like an 'x', as in the example above, which includes two ampersands. The example above should be transcribed as:

The liquid dew becomes the rosy flower

The sordid dust awakes &

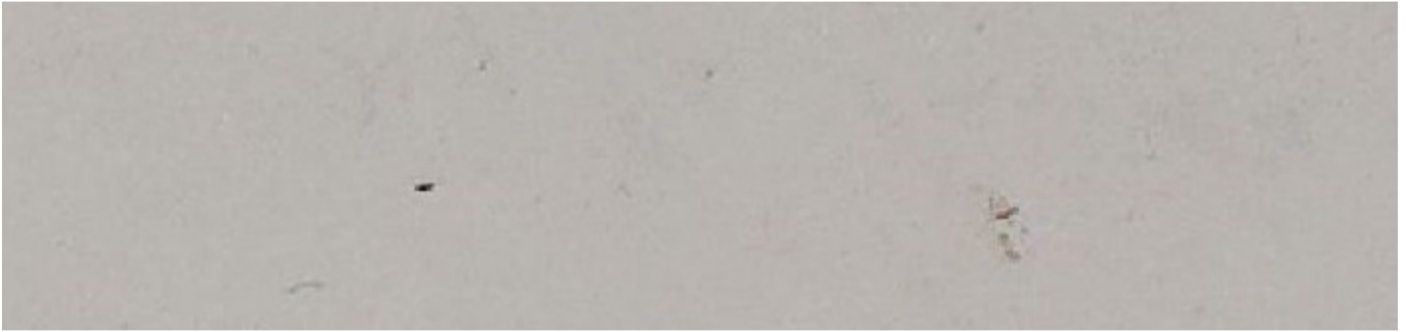
moves & lives. —

Asterisks and Similar Characters



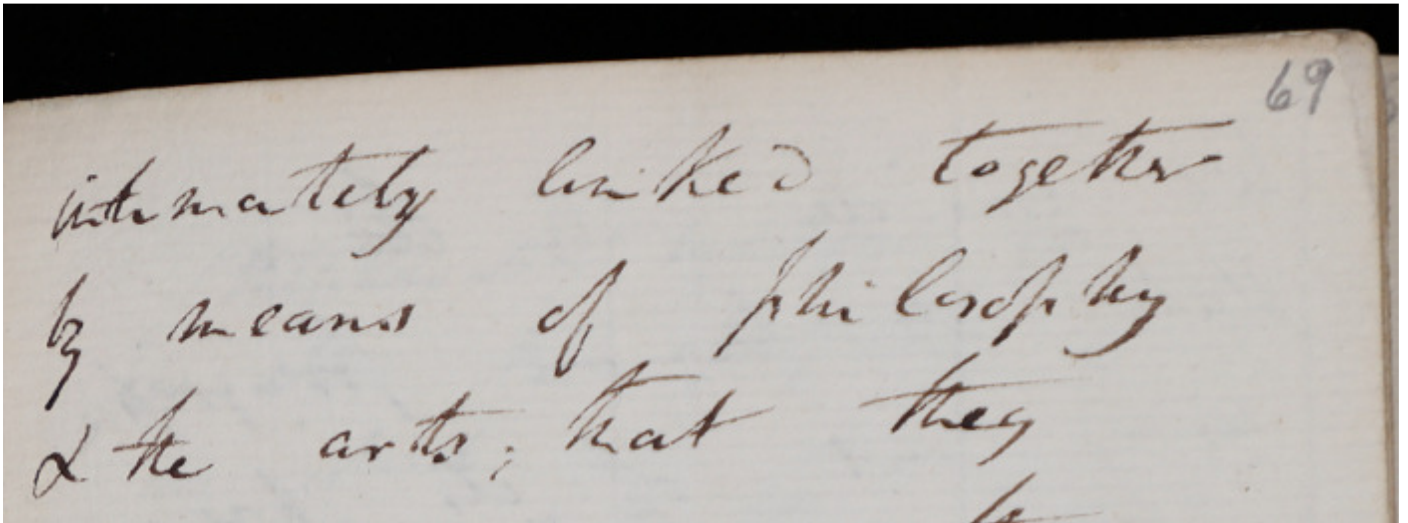
If special characters such as asterisks have an obvious equivalent on a standard keyboard, include them in your transcription.

Blank Pages



Occasionally, you may come across a blank page in a notebook. In those cases, just transcribe the curatorial mark if it has one (e.g. a pencil page number in the top corner). If the page is entirely blank, submit an empty transcription, and move on to the next page with text.

Squiggly 'by'



Here, the word 'by' has been written very quickly – it's the first word on the second line. Davy does this frequently. If you see a squiggly, short word like this, it might be 'by'! This should be transcribed as:

intimately linked together

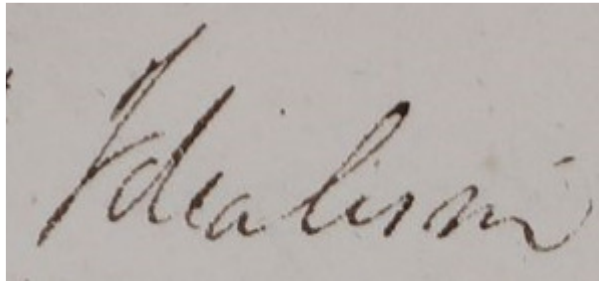
by means of philosophy

& the arts; that they

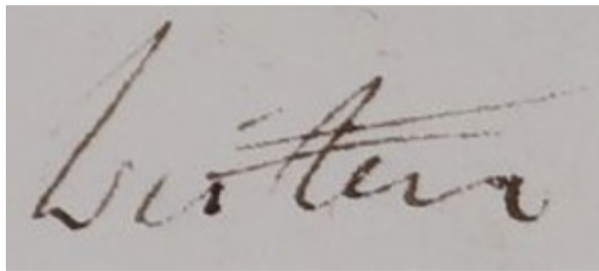
(Note the curatorial mark, in pencil, in the top corner of the page: 69. This is the page number of the notebook. This should also be transcribed in the usual way).

Capital Letters

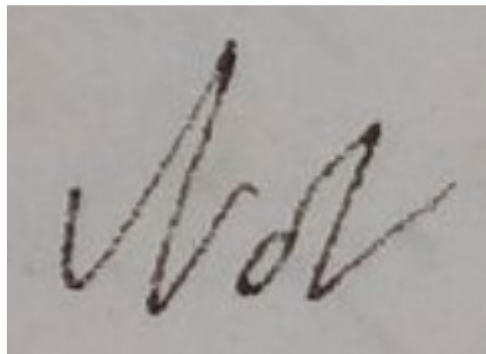
Here is a selection of capital letters in Davy's hand:

A close-up photograph of the word 'Idealism' written in a fluid, cursive script. The capital 'I' is the focus, showing a long, sweeping vertical stroke that curves into the first letter of the word.

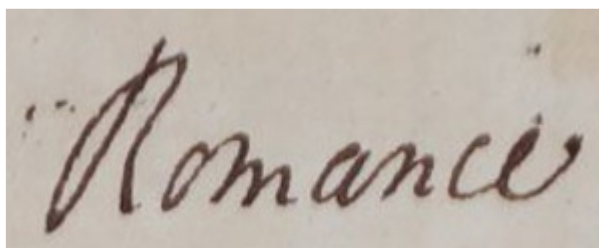
Capital I (Idealism)

A close-up photograph of the word 'Listen' written in a fluid, cursive script. The capital 'L' is the focus, showing a long, sweeping vertical stroke that curves into the first letter of the word.

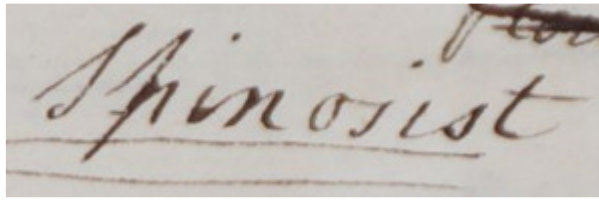
Capital L (Listen)

A close-up photograph of the word 'Not' written in a fluid, cursive script. The capital 'N' is the focus, showing a long, sweeping vertical stroke that curves into the first letter of the word.

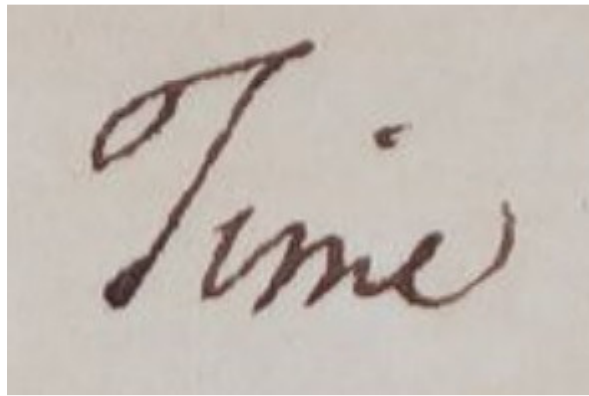
Capital N (Not)

A close-up photograph of the word 'Romance' written in a fluid, cursive script. The capital 'R' is the focus, showing a long, sweeping vertical stroke that curves into the first letter of the word.

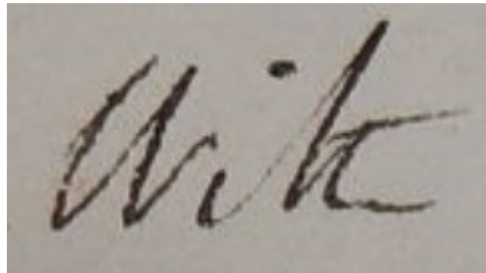
Capital R (Romance)

A close-up photograph of the word "Spinosist" written in a cursive script. The word is underlined with a single horizontal line. The ink is dark brown on a light-colored, slightly textured paper.

Capital S (Spinosist)

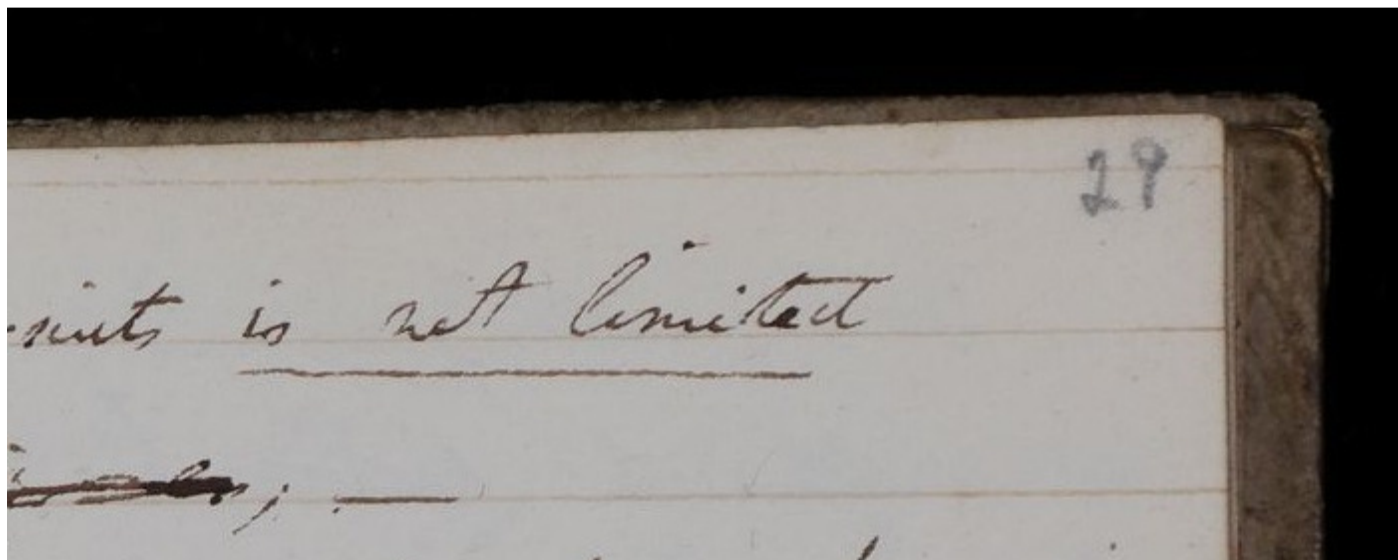
A close-up photograph of the word "Time" written in a cursive script. The word is written in dark brown ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper.

Capital T (Time)

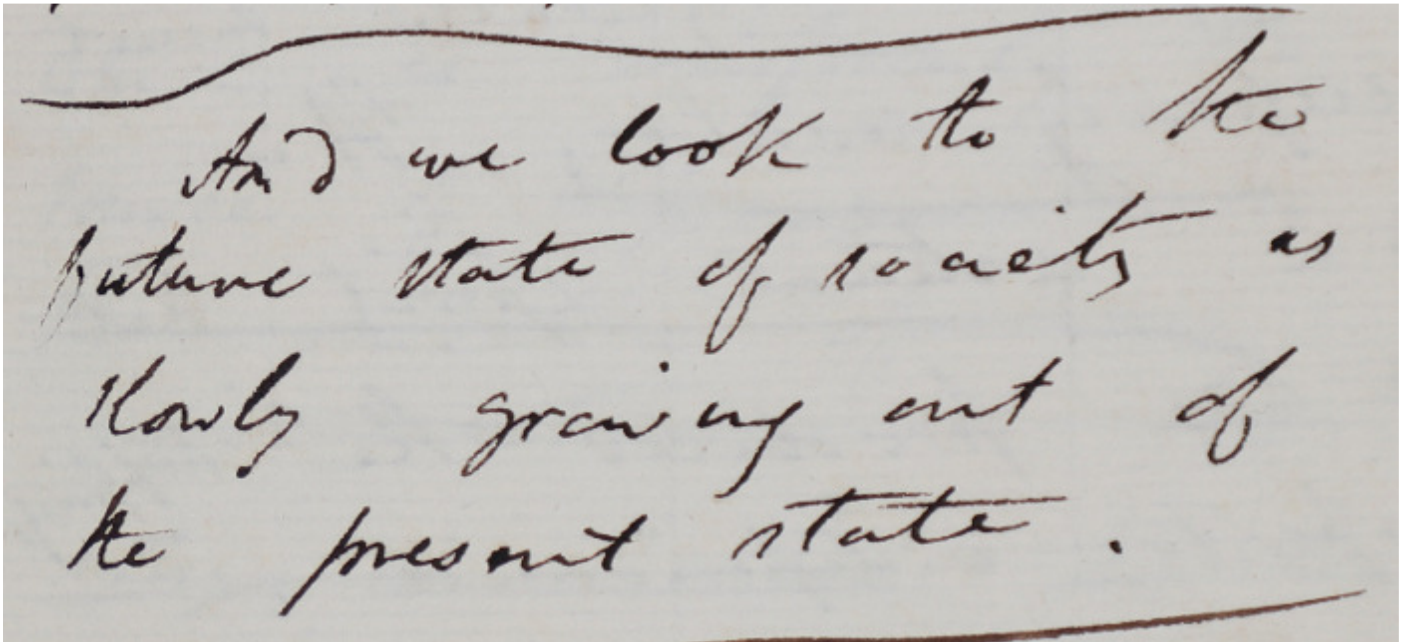
A close-up photograph of the word "With" written in a cursive script. The word is written in dark brown ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper.

Capital W (With)

Curatorial Marks



These are small portions of text, usually in pencil, that have been added to the notebook, after Davy used it, by the curatorial staff who look after it. The most common curatorial mark you'll encounter are pencil page numbers, in the top corner. Please include any curatorial marks in your transcription.

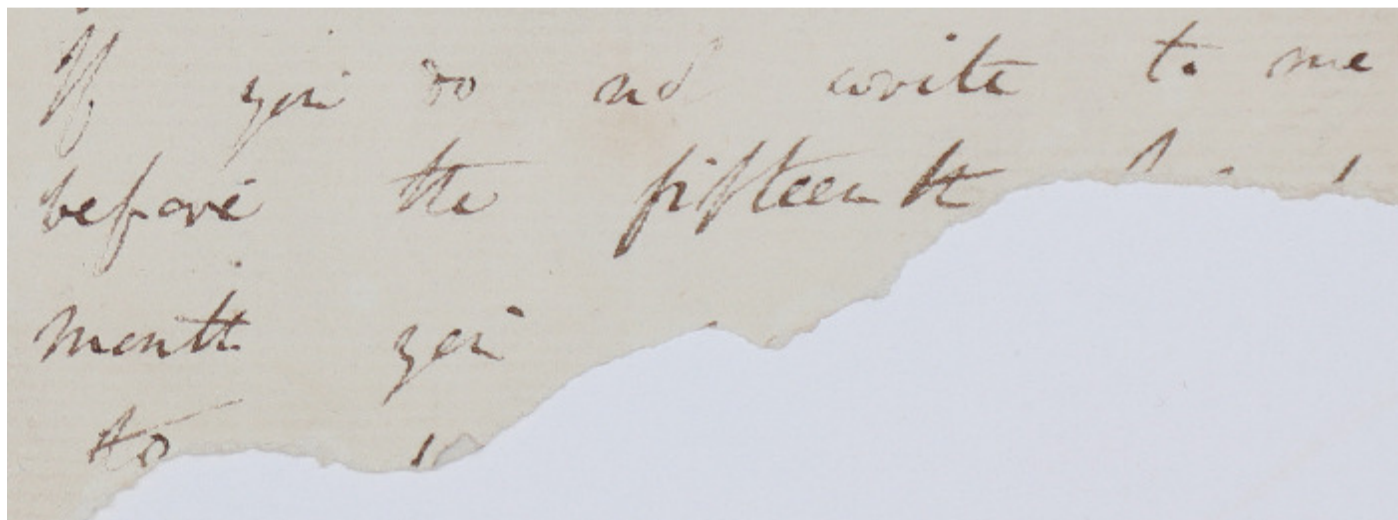
Curly 'd'

Here, the word 'And' ends with a curly 'd' – it's the first word on the first line. Davy does this frequently, but not always. This should be transcribed as:

**And we look to the
future state of society as
slowly growing out of
the present state.**

(Note Davy's poorly formed 'y' at the end of 'society' – we have to use our judgement as transcribers here).

Damaged Pages

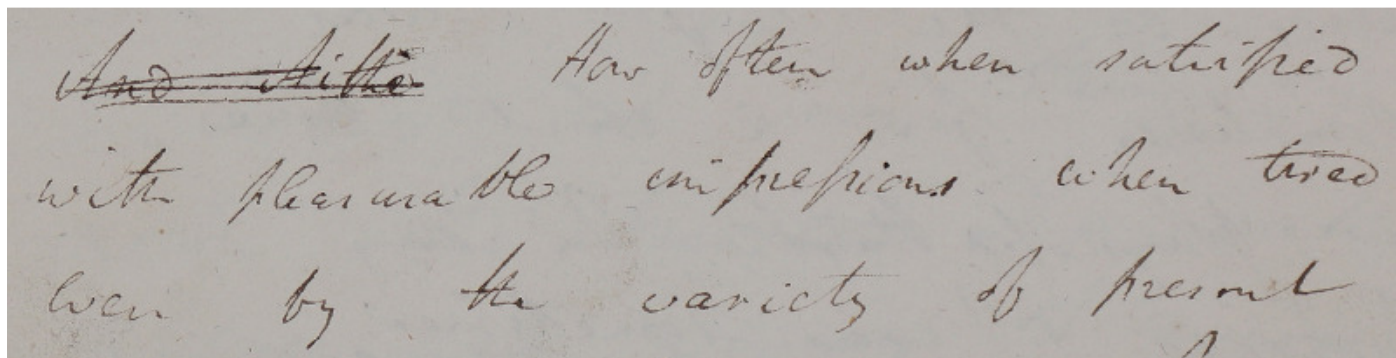


Since Davy used them, some of his notebooks have become damaged. In cases such as this, just transcribe as much of the text as you can. This should be transcribed as:

**If you do not write to me
before the fifteenth
month you
to**

(Note the barely visible letter 't' in 'not' – again, we have to use our judgement as transcribers here).

Double 's' [sometimes called a long 's']



Davy often uses a long character to represent two letter s's. The word above, in the middle of the second line, reads 'impressions'. This should be transcribed as:

[deletion]And Aithe[/deletion] How often when satisfied

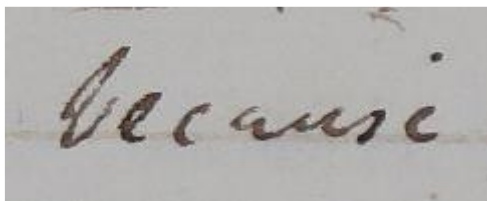
with pleasurable impressions when tired

even by the variety of present

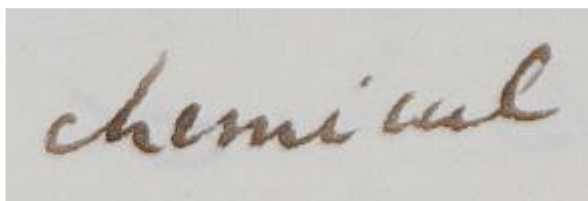
(Note the use of the [deletion] tag here – we can clearly read what Davy has crossed out). See also the entry for 'p' Character in the Field Guide – Davy's double 's' and 'p' characters occasionally look similar.

Frequently Used Words

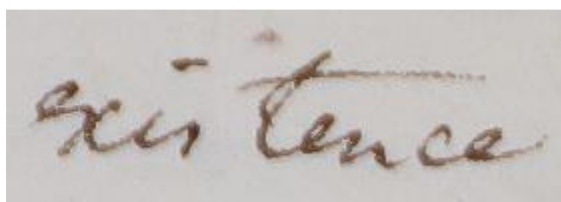
Here are examples, in Davy's handwriting, of words you'll encounter frequently in his notebooks:

A close-up photograph of the word "because" written in a cursive script on lined paper. The ink is dark brown, and the handwriting is fluid and connected.

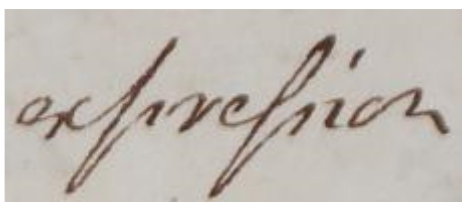
because

A close-up photograph of the word "chemical" written in a cursive script on lined paper. The ink is dark brown, and the handwriting is fluid and connected.

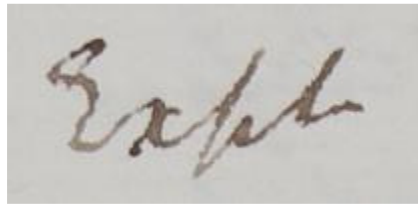
chemical

A close-up photograph of the word "existence" written in a cursive script on lined paper. The ink is dark brown, and the handwriting is fluid and connected.

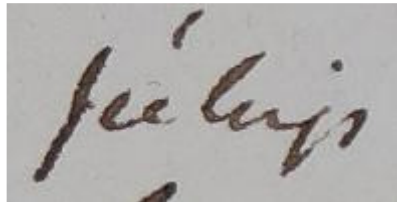
existence

A close-up photograph of the word "expression" written in a cursive script on lined paper. The ink is dark brown, and the handwriting is fluid and connected.

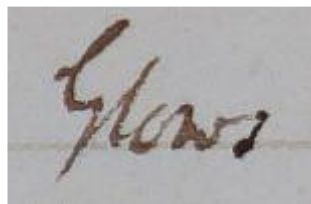
expression

A close-up photograph of the word "Expt" written in a cursive, handwritten style on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. The ink is a dark brown or black.

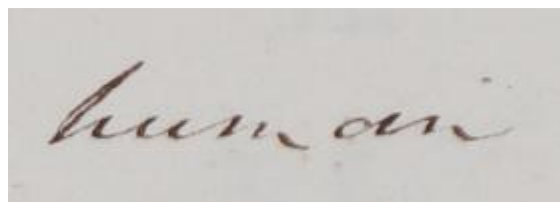
Expt (abbreviation of 'Experiment')

A close-up photograph of the word "feelings" written in a cursive, handwritten style on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. The ink is a dark brown or black.

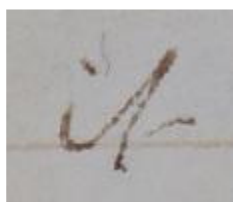
feelings

A close-up photograph of the word "Glow" written in a cursive, handwritten style on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. The ink is a dark brown or black.

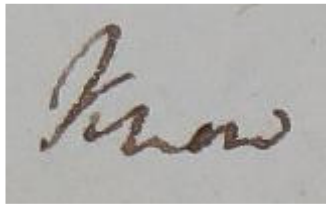
Glow

A close-up photograph of the word "human" written in a cursive, handwritten style on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. The ink is a dark brown or black.

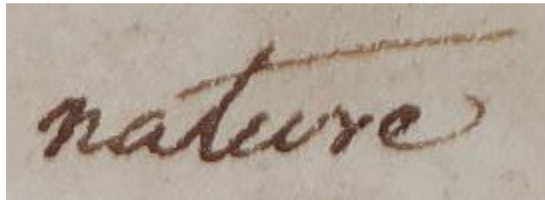
human

A close-up photograph of the word "it" written in a cursive, handwritten style on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. The ink is a dark brown or black.

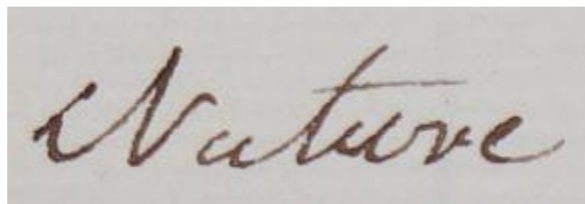
it

A close-up photograph of the word "know" written in a cursive script. The ink is dark brown on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. The letter 'k' is formed with a single, fluid stroke that loops around the 'n'.

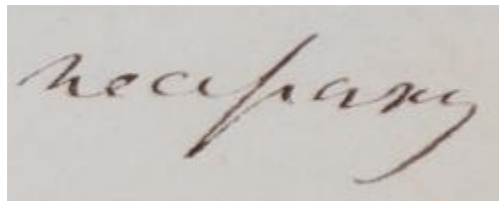
know

A close-up photograph of the word "nature" written in a cursive script. The ink is dark brown on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. The word is written in a single line, with the 'n' and 't' being particularly prominent.

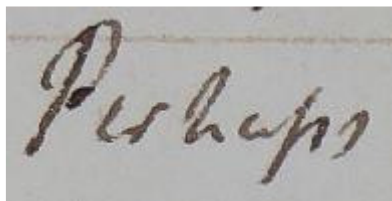
nature

A close-up photograph of the word "Nature" written in a cursive script. The ink is dark brown on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. The word is written in a single line, with the 'N' being particularly prominent.

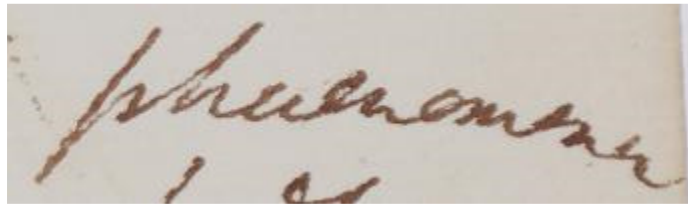
Nature

A close-up photograph of the word "necessary" written in a cursive script. The ink is dark brown on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. The word is written in a single line, with the 'n' and 'c' being particularly prominent.

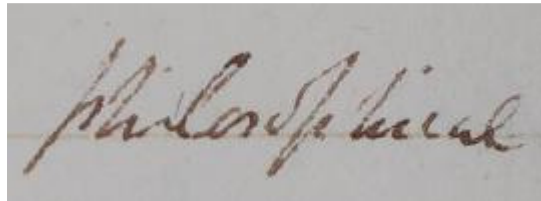
necessary

A close-up photograph of the word "Perhaps" written in a cursive script. The ink is dark brown on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. The word is written in a single line, with the 'P' being particularly prominent.

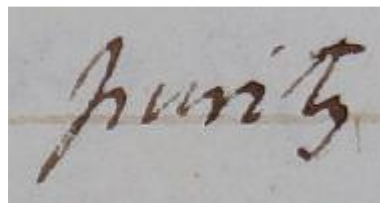
Perhaps



phaenomenon (note archaic spelling)



philosophical

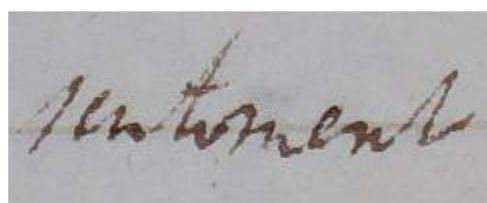


purity

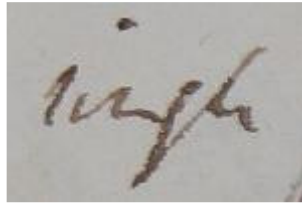
quere: See the standalone entry for this in the Field Guide.



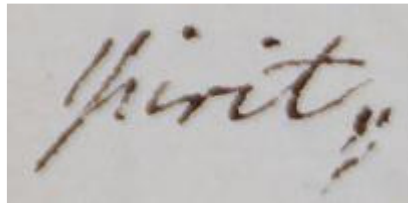
science



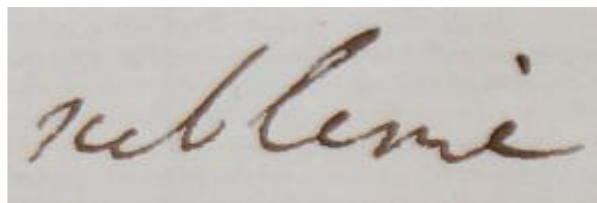
sentiment

A close-up photograph of the word "single" written in a dark brown ink using a cursive script. The letters are connected, with a prominent loop at the end of the 'e'.

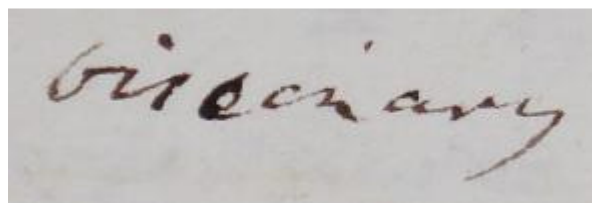
single

A close-up photograph of the word "spirit" written in a dark brown ink using a cursive script. The letters are connected, with a prominent loop at the end of the 't'.

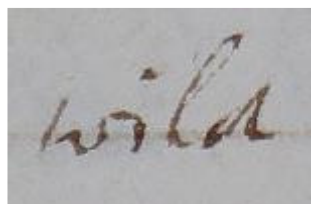
spirit

A close-up photograph of the word "sublime" written in a dark brown ink using a cursive script. The letters are connected, with a prominent loop at the end of the 'e'.

sublime

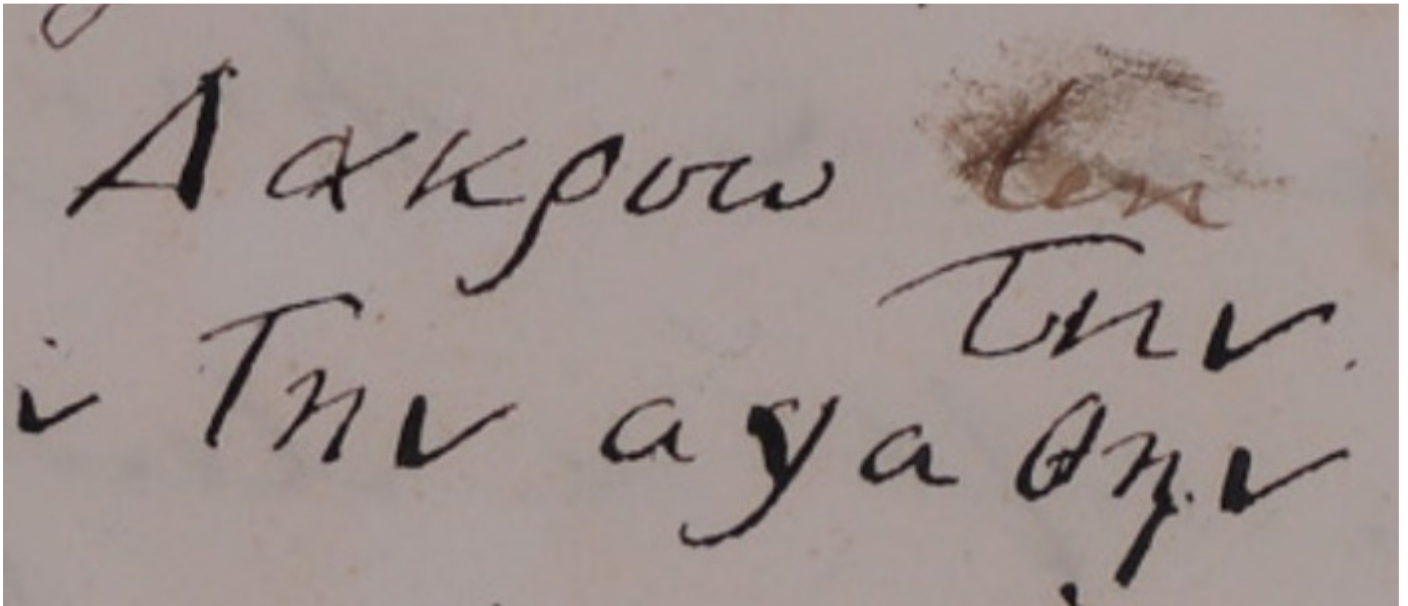
A close-up photograph of the word "visionary" written in a dark brown ink using a cursive script. The letters are connected, with a prominent loop at the end of the 'y'.

visionary

A close-up photograph of the word "wild" written in a dark brown ink using a cursive script. The letters are connected, with a prominent loop at the end of the 'd'.

wild

Greek Text

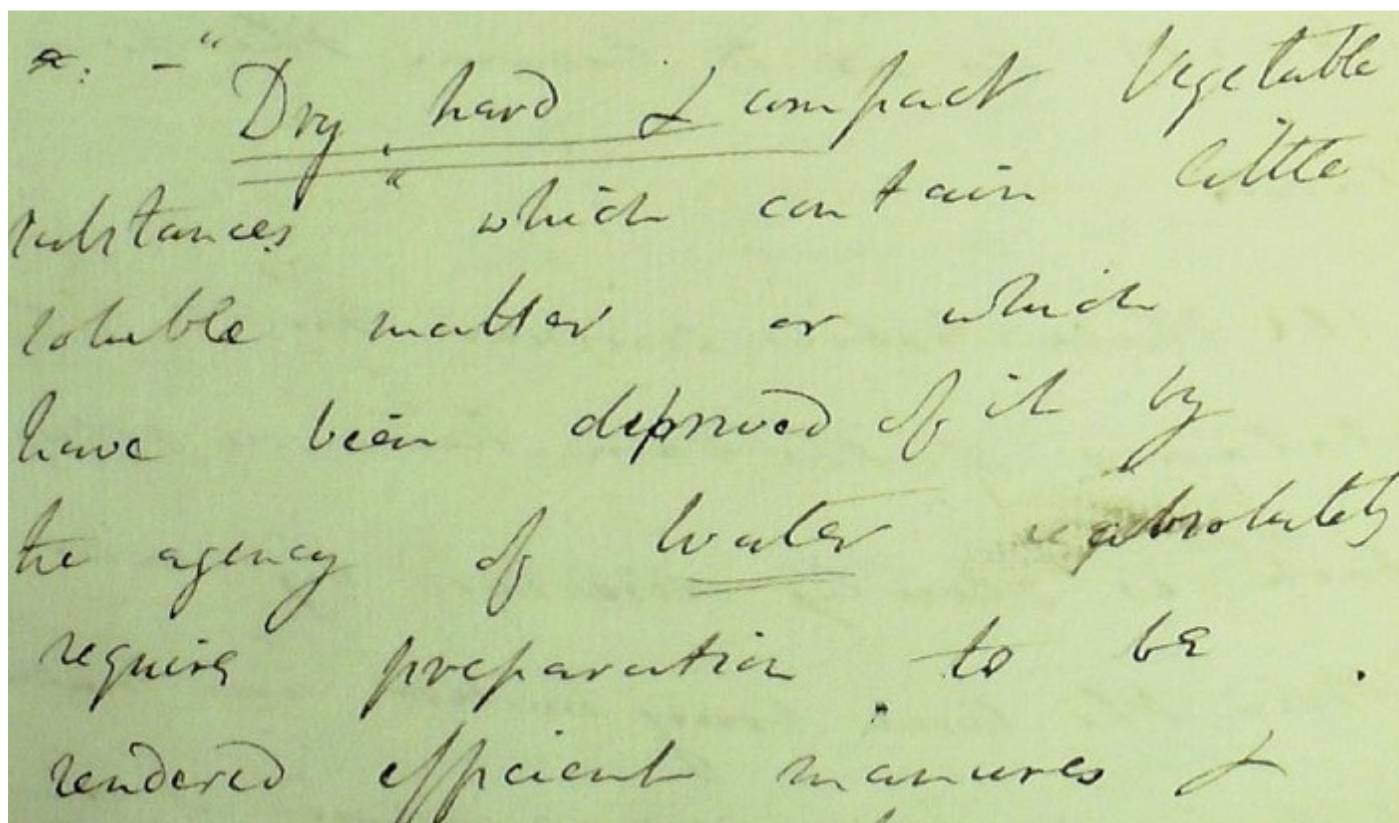


Αακρω ten
 i Tnv Tnv.
 Tnv aya θηv

As Greek text requires non-standard keyboard characters, please answer **Yes** to Q2 of the transcription task.

Handwriting That Isn't Davy's

Occasionally, you'll encounter some handwriting in Davy's notebooks that isn't actually by Davy. Here's a reminder of **Humphry Davy's** hand:



A handwritten note on aged paper, written in a cursive script. The text is as follows:
 &: - "Dry, hard & compact Vegetable
 substances" which contain little
 soluble matter or which
 have been deprived of it by
 the agency of water ~~absolutely~~
 require preparation to be
 rendered efficient manures &

This is **John Davy's** hand (John Davy is Humphry Davy's brother):

After waiting some time longer we
 found that the clergyman did not ap-
 pear and the congregation quietly
 dispersed. - This is not as we were told
 a common occurrence but it pro-
 duced very little sensation in re-
 turning we met a messenger from
 Gloucester who ought to have arrived
 two hours before with the clergyman.

You'll note that John and Humphry's hands are quite similar; John's tends to be neater and more regular. When he was working at the Royal Institution with Humphry (1808-11), Humphry occasionally gave John text to copy out.

This is **Jane Davy's** hand (Jane Davy is Humphry Davy's wife):

1034
 Dear Sir
 You will very particu-
 larly oblige me by getting
 immediately a copy of
 Salmonia & another of
 the Compendium, by Sir
 Humphrey, & making a
 neat small parcel, &
 sending them with the

Jane's sloping hand is quite distinctive. Her lines of text often have an unusually straight bottom edge.

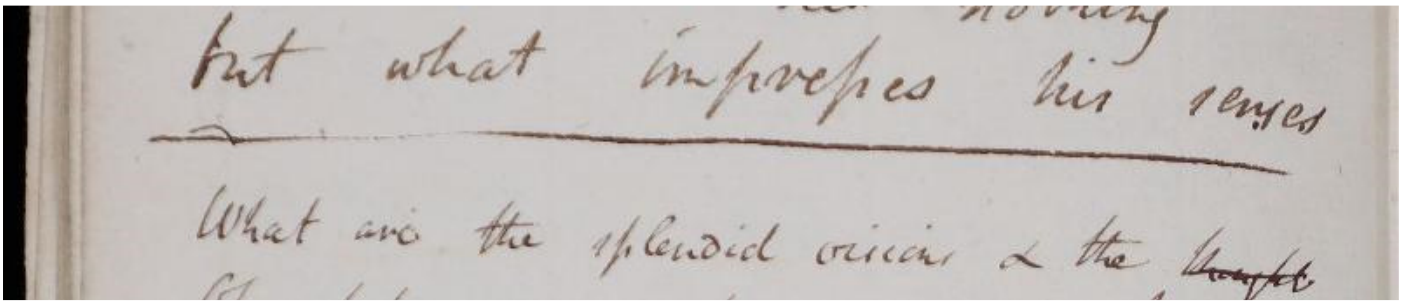
This is **Michael Faraday's** hand (Faraday worked with Davy from 1813 onwards):

Mont perdu (Espagne) -	3436	1763	id
Pic d'arbizon -	2885	1480	id
Port de Pinedo -	2436	1763	id - voy Perd
Point de Depart de la cascade de Gavarnie }	2331	1196	id
Pied de la cascade -	{ 1919.79 1920 }	985.	Moisset cite par Ramond
hauteur de la cascade	411.24	211.	Rabaut id
Breche de Tugue rouge	2904	1490	Ramond
Cedres -	1064	546	Moisset cite par Ramond
Gavarnie Eglise -	1444	741	id

Faraday's hand, which is often careful and neat in Davy's notebooks, is also quite distinctive.

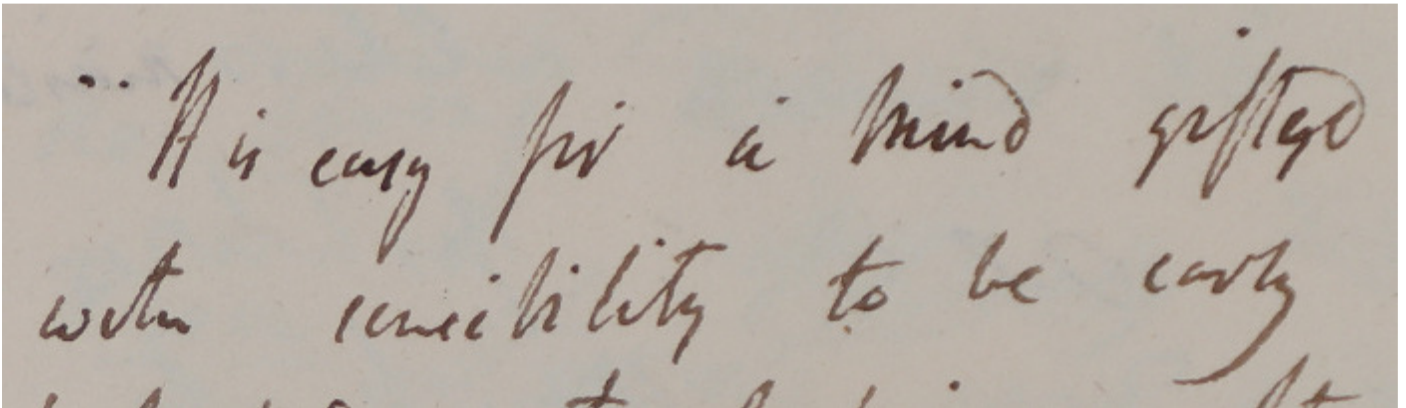
As you work through the notebooks (especially the laboratory notebooks), you might encounter other hands too, of **unknown amanuenses** (copyists).

Horizontal Rule



Horizontal rules - long lines separating passages of text, as in the example above - don't need to be tagged as sketches.

Illegible Words/Letters



At the end of the first line above is a word that we might not be able to make much sense of. Does it begin 'gi'? It looks to end with a curly 'd'. Perhaps the word is 'gifted'? To signal that we're not sure of what Davy's written, we would insert an Unclear tag, like this:

It is easy for a Mind [unclear]gifted[/unclear]

with sensibility to be early

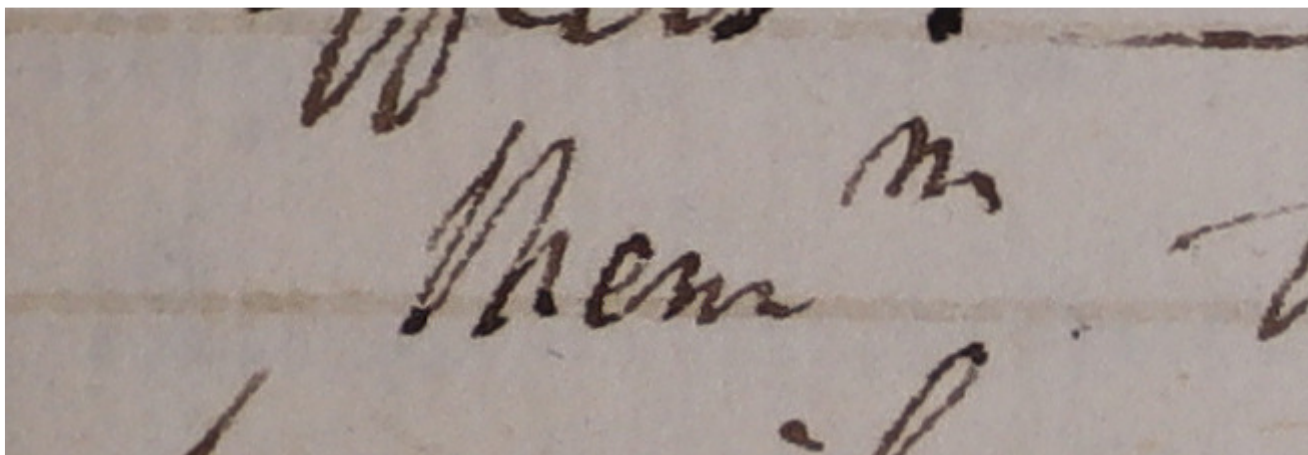
If the word is partly or entirely illegible, we can represent that like this, using an 'x' character for illegible letters:

[unclear]gifxxd[/unclear] (in this case, we're confident in 'gif' but can't make out the rest of the word)

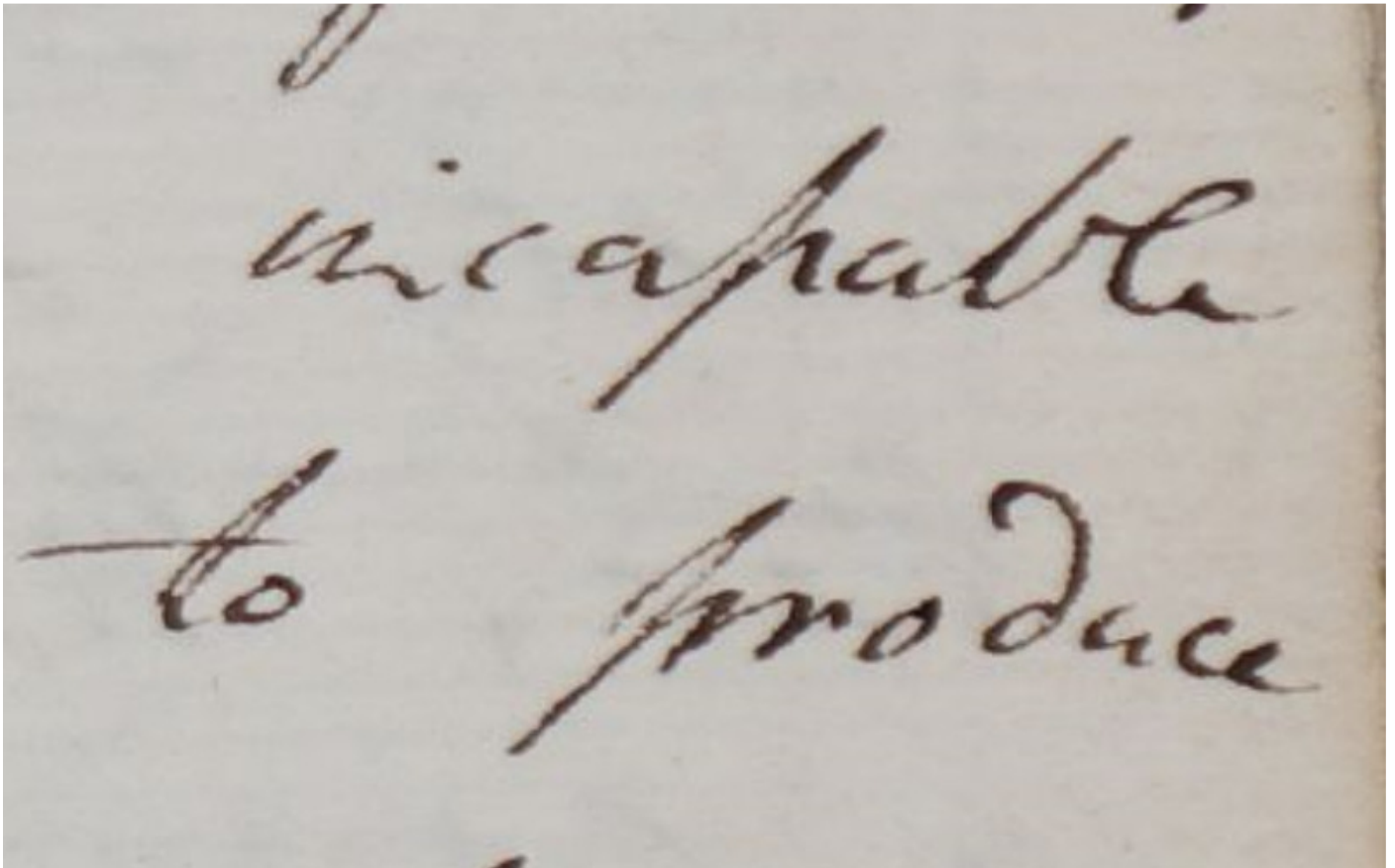
[unclear]xxxxxx[/unclear] (in this case, we can't make out/aren't confident in any of the letters)

If the word looks to be roughly six letters long, please use six 'x' characters, as in the example above.

'Mem^m'/'Mem'



Davy's abbreviation for 'Memorandum' - a note occasionally seen in his experimental accounts, serving as a reminder of a particular observation. (With thanks to Zooniverse volunteer [@deehar](#))

'p' Character

Davy's rendering of the character 'p' is often idiosyncratic. There are two examples of Davy's unusual 'p' characters above. The text above reads:

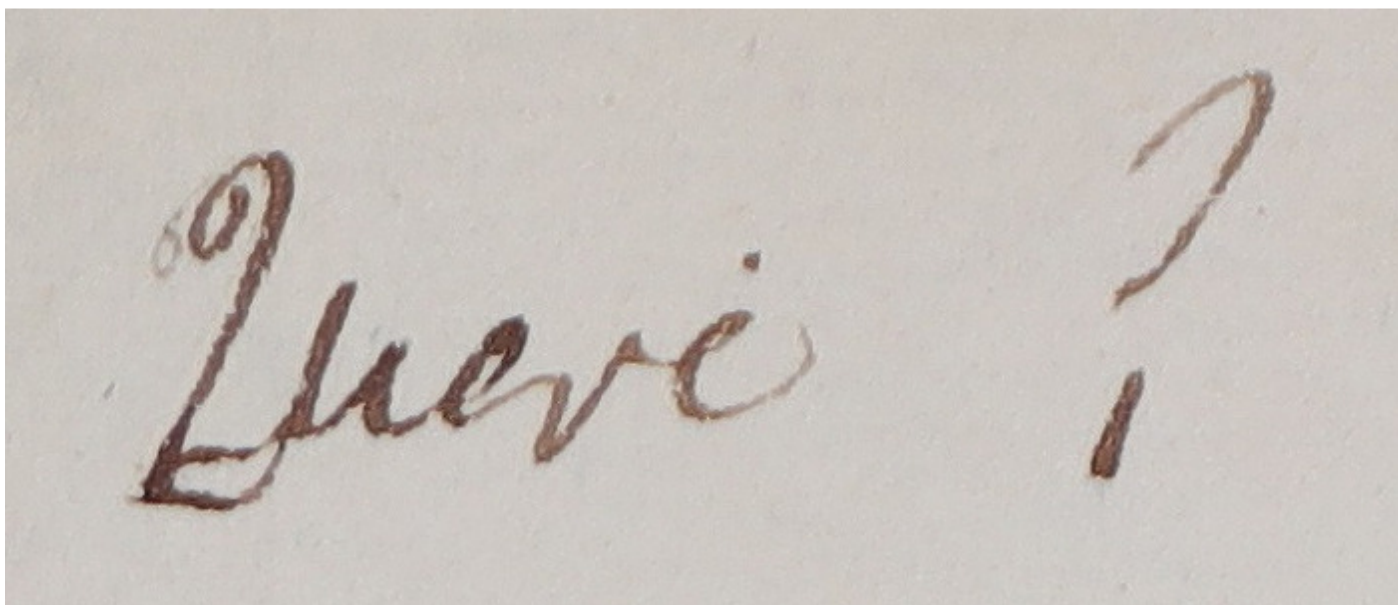
incapable

to produce

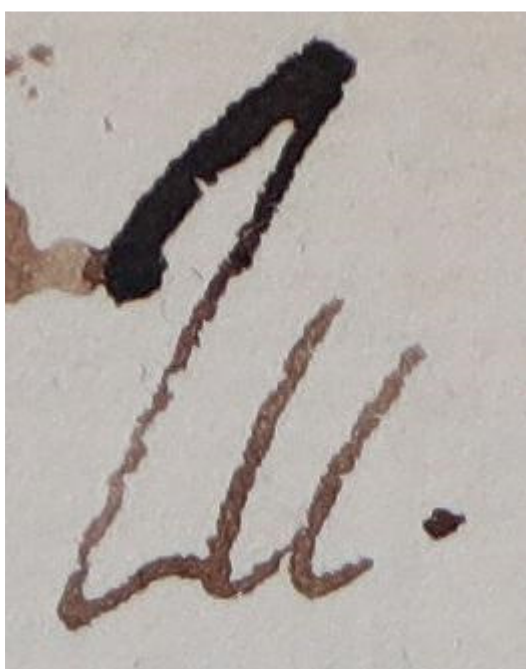
(Note the similarity of Davy's 'p' character to his double 's' character; there is a separate entry for the double 's' character in the Field Guide. If a doubtful character doesn't seem to make sense as a 'p' in the context of the line being transcribed, might it be a double 's', or vice versa?)

'Quere'

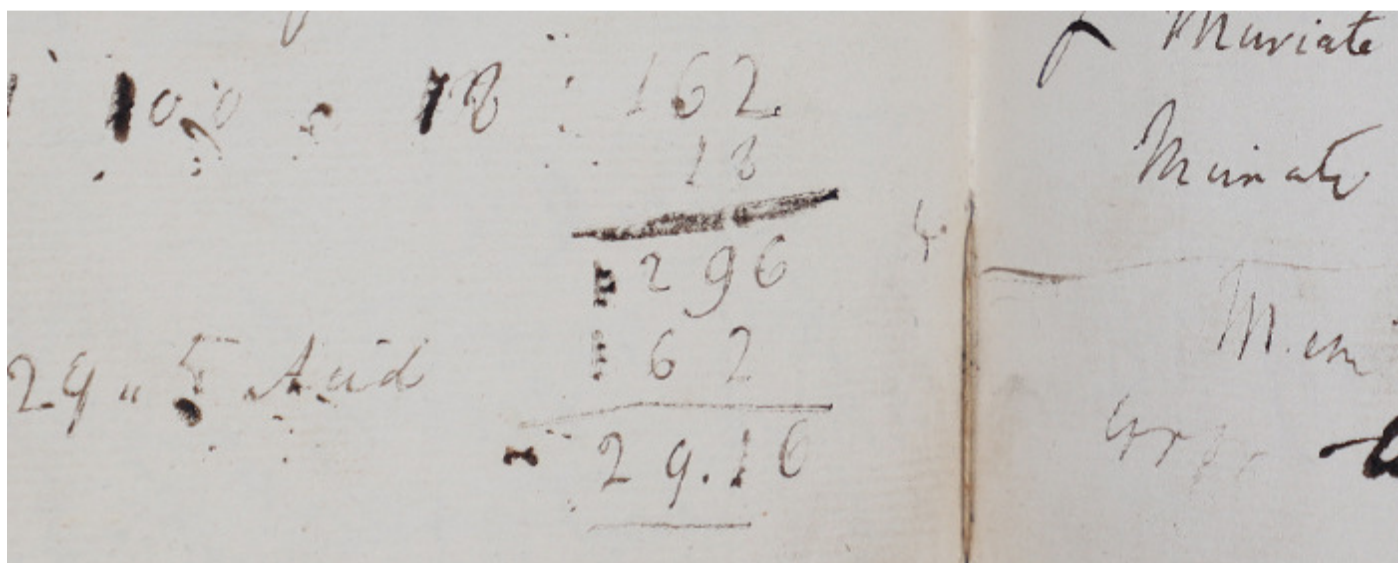
Davy uses this term, which is now archaic and rare, meaning 'to query' or 'to question'. You'll occasionally encounter it in his scientific notes. It might be followed by a question mark, as in the example below:



He also occasionally abbreviates it, as in the example below: **Qu.**

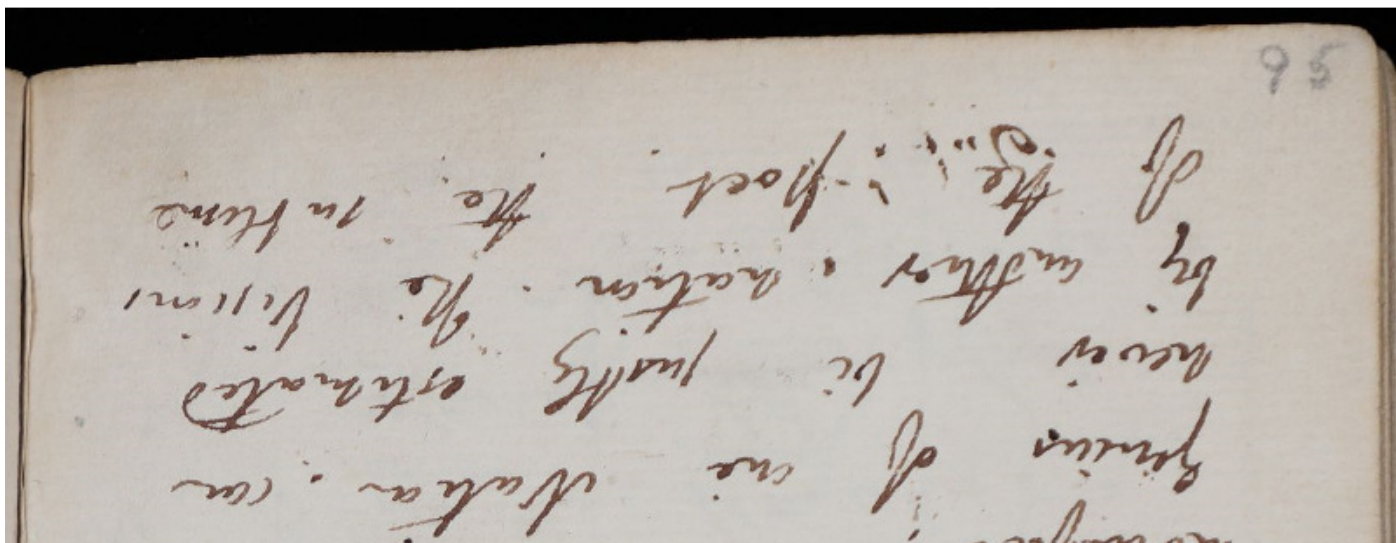


Tables of Figures, Equations, etc.



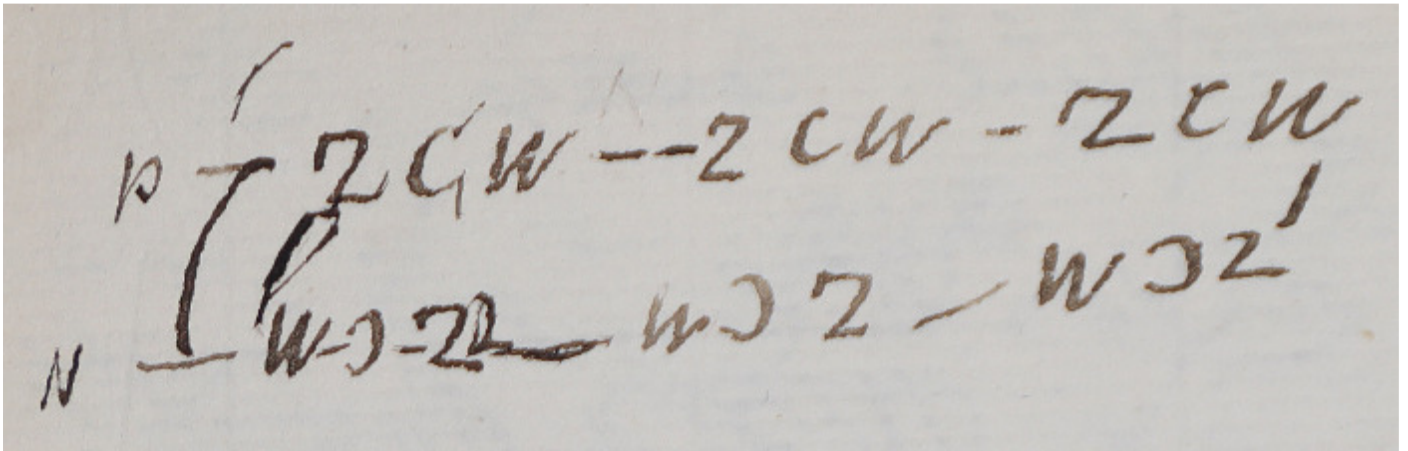
Where these can be transcribed easily as text, please do so. If they're too difficult to transcribe as text (e.g. if the characters aren't clear, or aren't on a standard keyboard), please flag them as a sketch, by answering **Yes** to Q2 of the transcription task. The numbers above are all fairly clear, so they can be transcribed as text.

Upside-Down Pages



Some of the pages that you'll be presented with will be upside-down. Don't worry - this is intentional! Davy occasionally flipped the notebook over, and started to write the other way up. Sometimes he does this as he's changing his subject, e.g. from a philosophical essay to scientific notes. Paper was also an expensive commodity in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, so it was important to get the most out of it. In cases such as these, use the rotate button to rotate the notebook page so that the main body of the text can be read and transcribed. Remember to transcribe the curatorial mark (usually a page number) if there is one in the top right of the page before rotating.

What's That?!



Occasionally, you'll encounter features that don't make much sense, even in the context of what's around them. In cases such as these, where there's no easy way to transcribe them, or where you're not sure if it's even text, simply treat the feature as a sketch by answering **Yes** to Q2 of the transcription task.

Sample Page Transcriptions

Here are some images from notebook 15E. Here's how we would transcribe them:

It may be a matter of surprise that the influence
 of philosophical opinion has been so little
 felt & so transient in its operation
 but all astonishment will cease when
 it is considered that the writers of
 Science have been always limited to
 a certain number of individuals
 & that they appeal to the reason
 of men & not to their feelings.
 However eloquent the language in
 which they have been delivered
 its character must of necessity
 have been different from that
 of popular declamation which
 relates to objects familiar to
 all & to passions which

7

It may be a matter of surprize that the influence
of philosophical opinion has been so little
felt & so transient in its operation
but all astonishment will cease when
it is considered that the truths of
Science have been always limited to
a certain number of individuals
& that they appeal to the reason
of Men & not to their feelings.
However eloquent the language in
which they have been delivered
its character must of necessity
have been different from that
of popular declamation which
relates to objects familiar to
all & to passions which

every mind is capable of
feeling. —

The progress of philosophical
discussion is like that ^{of a} ~~the~~ ^{quell'd} ~~the~~ ^{lurking}
the ~~the~~ ^{the} stream it
descends pure & clear
it either flows by obstacles
~~then~~ ^{slowly} it ^{or} ^{rapids} then
foundations it fertilizes
& advances. — Winter

The course of popular opinion
is similar to that of new made
the torrent swollen by rains
It rapidly ⁱⁿ ~~overflows~~
it banks & carries it
with it mud & stones

every mind is capable [insertion]guiding[/insertion] of
feeling. – .

The progress of philosophical
discussion is like that of

the the [deletion]Quiet[/deletion] stream [insertion]of [unclear]all wild[/unclear]

Country[/insertion] it

descends pure & clear

it either moves by obstacles

[deletion]xxxx[/deletion] [deletion]xx[/deletion] or [insertion]slowly[/insertion] saps their
foundations it fertilizes

& adorns. – [deletion]xxxxx[/deletion]

The course of popular opinion

is similar to that of new [unclear]made[/unclear]

the Torrent swollen by Rains

It rapidly moves along [unclear]overflows[/unclear]

it banks & [insertion]it[/insertion] carries it

with it mud & stones

45

... Philosophy ^{Nature}
 The Experimental Sciences
 have one common foundation
 facts which are observed
 in Nature or ~~produced~~ by
~~means~~ developed by artificial
 inventions.

Experimental researches
 have led to the greatest
 discoveries made in modern
 times for by the mere
 contemplation of events
 extensive truths are seldom
 gained. The senses are imperfect
 they need assistance to enable
 them to discover truth
 & the active enquiry by
 the trials of results seems

45

[deletion]The Sciences[/deletion]

The [deletion]Experimental[/deletion][insertion]Natural[/insertion] Sciences

have one common foundation

facts which are observed

in Nature or [deletion]procured by[/deletion]

[deletion]means[/deletion] developed by artificial

inventions.

Experimental researches

have led to the greatest

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contemplation of events

extensive truths are seldom

gained; the senses are imperfect

they need assistance to enable

them to discover truth

& [unclear][deletion]the[/deletion][unclear] active enquiry by

the trials of results seems

Remember, help will be on hand on the Project's Talk boards – if you're unsure of anything, please don't hesitate to ask using the Talk feature.