Put It in Writing 711
Sopris West Six-Minute Solutions

When you do your homework or write a letter to a friend, the marks you make on the paper stand for the sounds you make when you talk. Writing is a way of turning *sounds* into marks that fit together and *make* words. With writing, people can "talk" to one another from miles and miles (a) way. Writing is a marvelous invention (that) began many thousands of years ago.

(Historians) believe that writing began in ancient (Mesopotamia). Ancient people called Sumerians invented writing. (Writing) was probably invented out of economic (necessity). People needed a way to keep (track) of products that they sold or (bought) from one another. The first written (symbols) were pictographs. Pictographs are pictures that (stand) for ideas. Sumerians drew pictographs on (damp) clay using a thin plant stalk. (By) about 2500 B.C., Sumerians were using (a) type of writing called cuneiform. They (had) taken picture symbols and made them (wedge-shaped).

Cuneiform had about 600 symbols. Some symbols (were) made up on only one wedge. (Other) symbols were more complicated. These could (have) up to 30 wedges. This system of (writing) was used in the Middle East (for) almost 2,000 years. Over the years, archaeologists (have) found many clay tablets with cuneiform (symbols).

Eventually, another group of ancient people (invented) a different type of writing. The (Phoenicians) used a system with only twenty-two (symbols). Each of these symbols represented one (sound). This system became the first alphabet. (Just) as there are different languages all (over) the world, there are different kinds (of) writing. Arabic writing looks like flowing (curves), with dots and dashes mixed in. (Chinese) writing looks like little squares, windows, (and) stick figures. Whatever kind of writing (it) may be, the marks stand for (a) people's spoken language.
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When you do your homework or write a letter to a friend, the marks you make on the paper stand for the sounds you make when you talk. Writing is a way of turning (sounds, cuddly, exchange) into marks that fit togethere and (elegantly, make, do) words. With writing, people can "talk" (to, canvas, pocket) one another from miles and miles (busily, property, a) way. Writing is a marvelous invention (that, from, school) began many thousands of years ago. (Stocking, Purpose, Historians) believe that writing began in ancient (store, Mesopotamia, plain). Ancient people called Sumerians invented writing. (Writing, Badly, Suppose) was probably invented out of economic (mute, necessity, monthly). People needed a way to keep (track, disapprove, war) of products that they sold or (bought, scary, understand) from one another. The first written (grotesque, finger, symbols) were pictographs. Pictographs are pictures that (honestly, sadly, stand) for ideas. Sumerians drew pictographs on (damp, hurt, recognize) clay using a thin plant stalk. (By, Reject, Following) about 2500 B.C., Sumerians were using (too, a, reject) type of writing called cueniform. They (had, itself, notwithstanding) taken picture symbols and made them (carriage, wedge-shaped, range). Cuneiform had about 600 symbols. Some symbols (wind, were, year) made up on only one wedge. (Include, Other, Tight) symbols were more complicated. These could (uptight, radiate, have) up to 30 wedges. This system of (exchange, curtain, writing) was used in the Middle East (anybody, deep, for) almost 2,000 years. Over the years, archaeologists (begin, while, have) found many clay tablets with cuneiform (idea, symbols, possess). Eventually, another group of ancient people (become, invented, umm) a different type of writing. The (Phoenicians, proud, um) used a system with only twenty-two (disagree, symbols, known). Each of these symbols represented one (became, sound, money). This sytem became the first alphabet. (Wide, Lain, Just) as there are different languages all (reading, really, over) the world, there are different kinds (of, slope, hurt) writing. Arabic writing looks like flowing (curves, punishment, middle), with dots and dashes mixed in. (Chinese, Punishment, Poorly) writing looks like little squares, windows, (accept, spoken,
and)stick figures. Whatever kind of writing (injure, it, accidentally) may be, the marks stand for (a, soap, rat) people’s spoken language.