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## The Qwerty Keyboard

Jan Ball

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## **The Qwerty Keyboard**

Genetically predestined for the academic stream in high school, her Advanced English, Latin and World History courses impractical according to her parents who insist she study typing and shorthand, she memorizes the loops and dots of Gregg like an Arab kindergartener learning to read as well as practicing her typing: tap, space, tap, space, on the business department's new electric typewriter ad infinitum to improve her speed, foregoing fumes of sulphur, chlorine and hydrochloric acid in the chem lab, pulleys and centrifugal force in physics, as well as surfaces, lines and angles in trig, unable to fit the sciences into her schedule packed with extra business courses. Years later, she sits before her Dell computer; fingers butterfly across the keys, reach over to "delete" without looking, adept as a billiard player banking a shot into the side pocket, just the right angle in the knuckles, the right amount of pressure in the fingertips, wrists arched as precisely as when she learned the Qwerty Keyboard.

-Jan Ball  
Chicago, IL