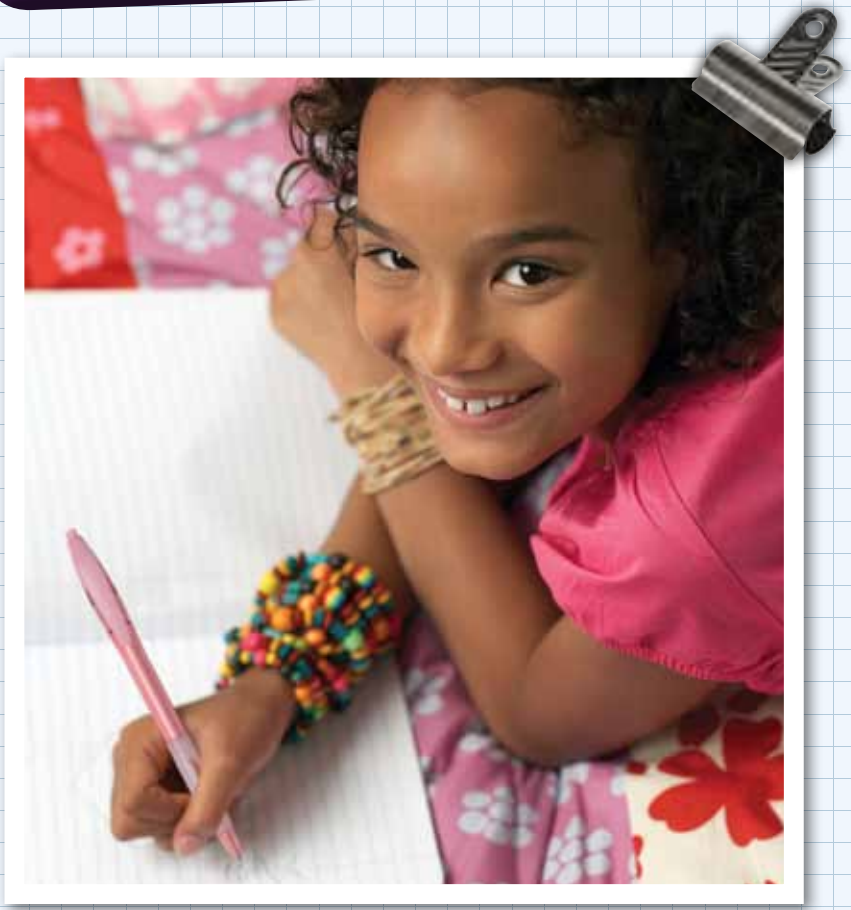
Pen and Ink



Written by Louise Finlay

Pen and Ink

For teachers' inspection ONLY

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Introduction

People all around the world use pens every day.
What kind of pen do you use?
Mostly, people use ballpoint pens.
Do you know how they are made?

Ballpoint pens have many different parts.
Some of them are made out of metal.
Some are made out of chemicals.
Mostly, they are made out of plastic.



Many people use ballpoint pens.



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Made out of Metal

The balls of the ballpoints
are made out of metal.
They roll along the paper
and spread the ink evenly.

The balls have to be loose enough to roll
and tight enough not to fall out.
They have to keep air out of the pen
so that the ink does not dry out.



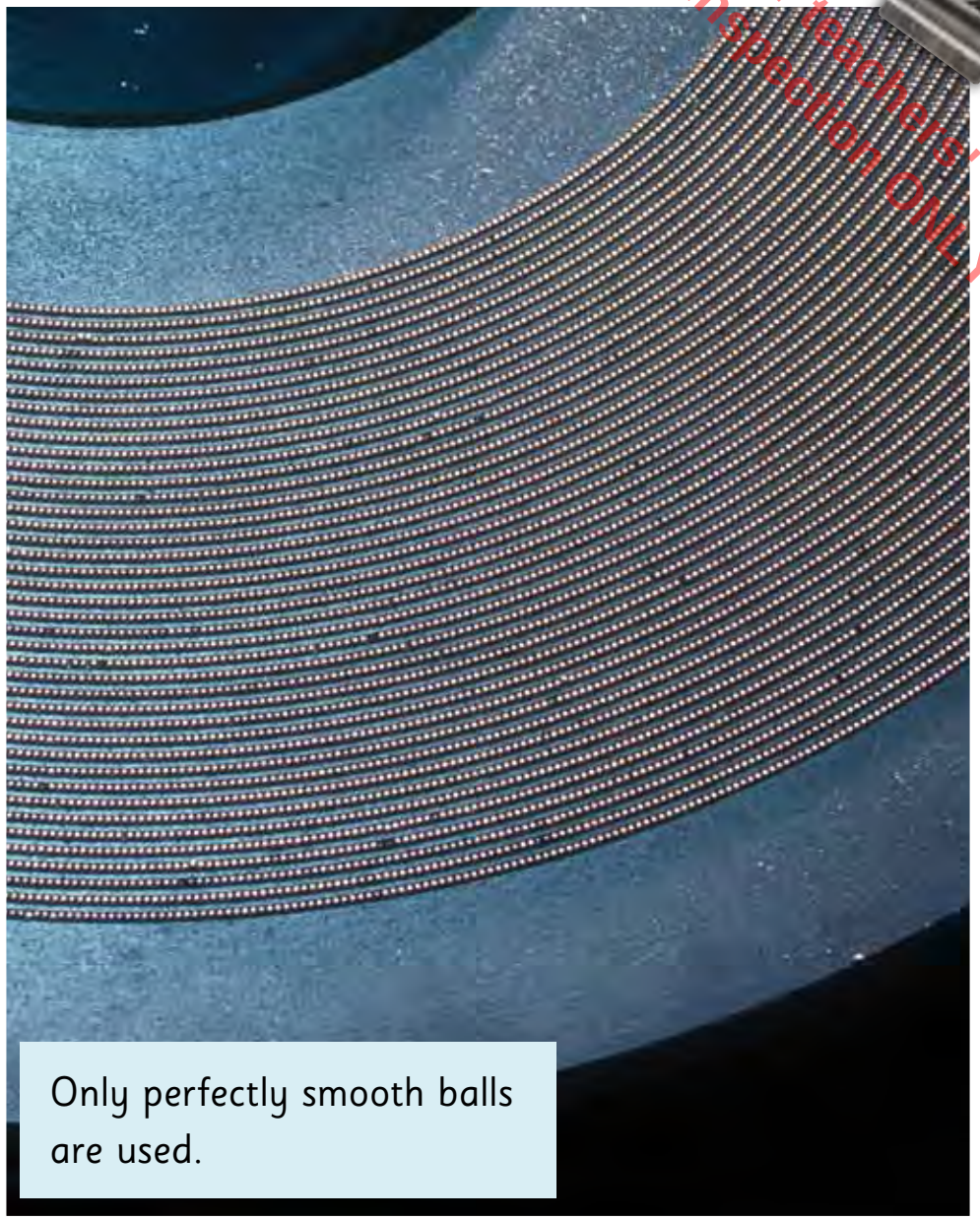
Balls for ballpoints
start out like this.



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The balls are made of a special, strong material,
but they are heated to make them even harder.
They are not smooth to start off with.
They are ground and polished many times.
After nine days, they are perfect spheres
and are as hard as diamonds.





Only perfectly smooth balls are used.

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