

# Apprenticeship



NATIONAL  
PRINT MUSEUM  
Músaem Náisiúnta Cló

Do you think you would like to have been a printer? It was very difficult to do because you firstly had to find someone who would agree to supervise you and then you had to complete seven years of training. Yes **seven years!**

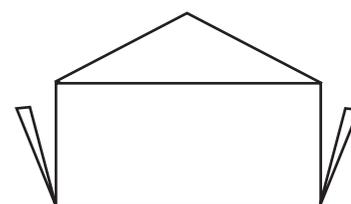
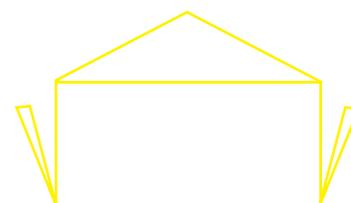
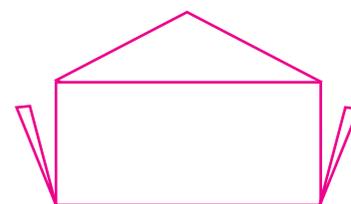
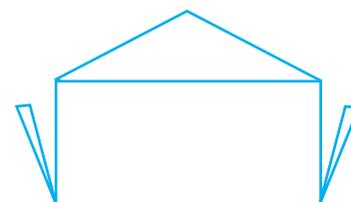
The seven years of training was called an apprenticeship and began when you were about 12 years old. As a new apprentice you had to sign a contract (like a footballer or model) called an indenture. In this contract you had to promise to work very hard during your training and to have no fun for seven years – Imagine that!

The first thing you would learn as an apprentice is how to make a printers hat.

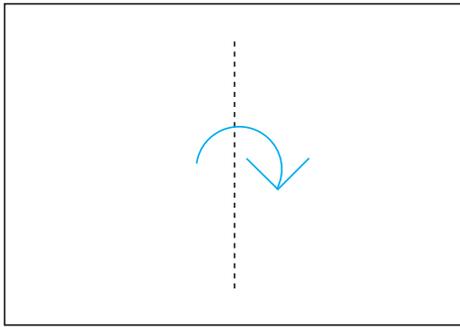
Why not have look at the instructions on the next page and have a go at making a printer's hat?

During the apprenticeship, you would learn how to become a printer and would have to do all the nasty jobs that the grown-up printers didn't want to do! You would have been in charge of collecting all the scrap metal in the workshop and bringing it to the hell box (which was just as nasty as it sounds) where all the metal was melted back down into liquid metal to be used again – recycling! Working at the hell box wasn't much fun – it was really hot, smelly and dangerous because the liquid metal bubbled and spat up into the air (like lava in a volcano). All the apprentices were given to stop them getting sick was some milk!

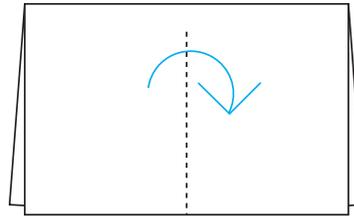
It wasn't all bad though, an apprentice printer made more money than an apprentice in other jobs. So, if you think you would like to try your hand at printing, sign your name to the Indenture and come along to the National Print Museum sometime and have a go!



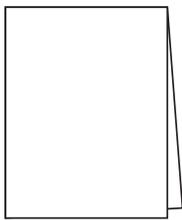
# How to make a Printer's Hat



Take an A3 sheet and fold it in half

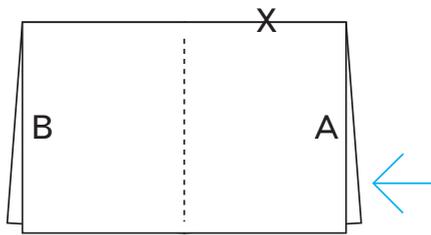


Then fold it in half again

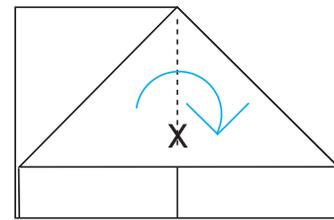


With the opening towards you...

**next is the tricky bit!**

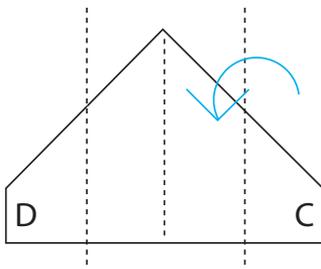


Put a flat hand between one open side edge. Push the side A over onto side B with the line of X meeting the centre fold, creating the shape in the next image

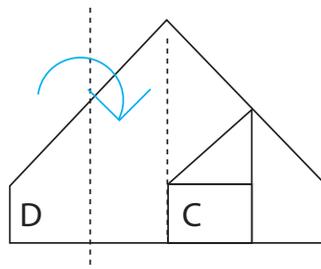


Fold the top flap back

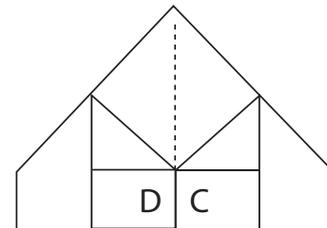
Turn over and repeat on the other side



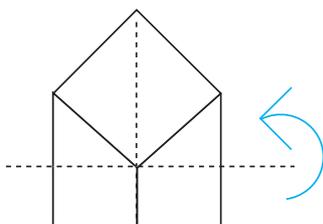
Fold edge C into the centre, meeting the fold line



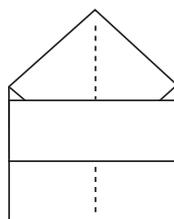
Fold edge D into the centre, meeting the fold line and the edge of C



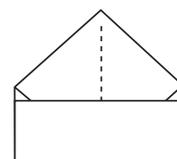
Turn over and repeat on the other side



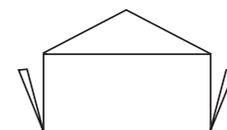
Fold the top layer/flap up, using the base of the triangle as the crease line



Turn over and repeat on the other side



Place your thumbs between these sides and gently pull it apart to create your hat!





## *This Indenture*

Witnesses that \_\_\_\_\_  
(Apprentice's name)

of her/his own free will and with the consent of an adult; \_\_\_\_\_  
(adult's name)

will put her/himself Apprentice to the National Print Museum,  
Beggars Bush Barracks, Haddington Rd, Dublin 4, to the art of printing,  
to serve from

\_\_\_\_\_  
(today's date)

until the full end and term of seven years Apprenticeship.

During this term, the said Apprentice will serve the master, follow all rules, and keep all the secrets of the master. S/He/They will promise to remain honest and lawful while working with the master. S/He/They shall do no damage to the master's things. S/He/They will promise not to go to the cinema, the swimming pool, parties or shows.

S/He/They will promise that s/he will not watch tv or dvds, play any games console, go online or listen to music during the term of the Apprenticeship. The Master will agree to teach, instruct and correct the Apprentice in the art of printing in the best way possible.

Under said Apprenticeship the following rate of wages will apply:

|                              |                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| First Year - €50 per week    | Fifth Year - €115 per week |
| Second Year - €65 per week   | Fourth Year - €95 per week |
| Third Year - €80 per week    | Sixth Year - €130 per week |
| Seventh Year - €150 per week |                            |

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

(Apprentice)

Signed *Johann Gutenberg*

(Master)