How to Draw 3D Letters in One Point Perspective

The One Point perspective is probably the most realistic and best looking way how to draw 3D letters. This perspective takes into account that three-dimensional objects become smaller and smaller, the farther away they are from the observer.

Follow the three steps below to draw block letters.

Drawing Block Letters Step 1:
Write your word or words on the paper lightly, getting them to fit the space well first. Your letters should be evenly spaced, not crowding each other too much. Use light pressure so you don’t draw too dark.

Drawing Block Letters Step 2:
Still using light pressure, trace around your line letters to make them block style letters. It may help to draw a guide line across the top and bottom of the letters to keep you on track. For some letters tracing around the line like on the "3" works. For other letters such as the "L" and the "E," you may need to build the block letter off to the right of the line letter. Just work your way through the letters doing your best to even out the spacing.
Drawing Block Letters Step 3:
Outline your block letters with a dark pencil. Once you have outlined and refined your letters’ edges, you can erase the sketch lines you made to build the 3d block letter shapes.

Now that you have learned how to draw block letters, you will learn how to make these letters look 3D by using a one point perspective drawing technique. Follow the steps below to make your block letters 3D letters.
Changing Block Letters to 3D Letters Step 1:
Arrange your 2D letters in a way that fits your purpose. Remember to allow some space between each letter. Choose a point on your paper and make a little cross there. This cross is your vanishing point, towards which the letters will become smaller and smaller.

![Image of 2D letters with a vanishing point]

Changing Block Letters to 3D Letters Step 2:
Take a ruler and connect each edge of your letters with a line to the vanishing point (these lines are called perspective lines). Draw these lines lightly, but don’t draw any lines that would cut through a letter. In some cases, like at the bottom of the '3', you can draw the lines for a short distance, until they touch a letter (a 'D' in this example). This gives the impression that the three dimensional shape of the '3' continues behind the 'D'. All lines, no matter how short you draw them, have to point directly towards the vanishing point.

In the case of rounded letters, like the 'S' or the 'D', you don’t have any edges from which to start your perspective lines. Draw tangents to the sides of the letters in this case. (A tangent is a straight line, which touches a curve in one point, without crossing it.)

![Image of 3D letters with perspective lines]
Changing Block Letters to 3D Letters Step 3:
Now you know how to draw 3D letters that beam into infinity. If your letters are supposed to end somewhere, you have to cut them off at one point. Below I use a 'T' to demonstrate how to do this.

A. Place a little mark on one of the perspective lines, where you want your letter to end. The closer you place this mark to the vanishing point, the thicker the letter will appear to be.

B. Use this mark as the starting point to draw a line that runs parallel to the front side of the letter. In our example this line is the top of the T's back side.

C. From where this line touches the next perspective line, you continue to draw the back side of the 'T' parallel to the front side. In this case, it is the right edge of the 'T', which runs straight downwards.

D. Now you have completed the upper part of the 'T'. But where you have to cut off the trunk is not immediately visible. To solve this problem, you can draw in the whole backside of the 'T' with dotted lines:
   i. First you can draw in the whole rectangle of the T's upper part.
   ii. Since you know that the trunk of the 'T' lies exactly in the middle of this rectangle, you can use this knowledge to draw in the whole trunk with dotted lines.
   iii. On the right side, where the trunk is not covered by the top of the 'T', runs the line we were looking for.

E. Erase your dotted lines afterwards, and you have successfully constructed the back side of your 3D letter!

Now use the same method for all of your letters. For some this will be easier than for others. Rounded letters are especially difficult because you have to draw parallel curves instead of straight lines.
Finally you can erase all perspective lines and the vanishing point, as well as any other dotted lines you may have drawn for additional orientation. And there you have your 3D letters, floating in the depth of space!

*Side Note:*
This method is a generally good way how to draw in perspective. You can use it to draw any sort of objects in 3D, not just as a way how to draw 3D letters. First you draw your object in 2D. Then you connect its edges with your chosen vanishing point. Afterwards you draw in the backside and erase the superfluous lines. That’s it! A circle, for example, would become a long, round pipe; and a square with a triangle on top of it would become a 3D house.