Dotted-Midline Ruled Paper: Teaching Letter Zones and Formation

Original tasks 1, 2, 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 1

Describe where a lowercase o sits on dotted-midline paper and how to trace it.

Answer: Typically the o starts at or near the dotted midline, curves down to the baseline, and closes back at the midline. Some styles place it slightly below the midline.

Reason: The body zone runs from baseline to dotted midline, so o occupies that zone.

Check: Use the rubric: body rests on baseline and reaches or approaches the midline; allow style variation.

Task 2

Describe where the bowl and stem of p sit.

Answer: The bowl of p rests on the baseline and tops at the dotted midline; the stem descends below the baseline.

Reason: p is a descending letter, so its body is in the baseline-to-midline zone and its stem drops below.

Check: Rubric: bowl on baseline, tops at or near midline, stem below baseline.

Task 3

Plan one practice row containing c, o and a with one model set, two faded tracing sets, and blank space.

Answer: Write model c, o, a once; add two faded tracing sets of c, o, a in the same order; leave blank space for independent writing.

Reason: A single combined row keeps the same letters in order so the learner compares like with like.

Check: Rubric: model present, two faded sets, blank space, letters in consistent order.

Task 4

Describe where t sits and note style variation.

Answer: In typical print, t is a tall letter reaching or approaching the top line; some styles place it slightly lower.

Reason: Tall letters occupy the zone up to the top line, but styles vary.

Check: Rubric: tall letter reaches or approaches the top line; allow style variation.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Small letters rest on the baseline.
- [ ] Small letters reach or approach the dotted midline at the top.
- [ ] Tall letters reach or approach the top line.
- [ ] Descenders drop below the baseline.
- [ ] Letter shapes are closed or open as the chosen style requires.
- [ ] Spacing between letters is even.
- [ ] The learner can write the letter without tracing.

Reflection: What did you check, what did you change, and what will you try next?