Blank Calligraphy Guideline Template: Adjustable Slant and x-Height

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Calculate the horizontal offset at a 10 mm ascender line for a 15° slant from vertical.

Answer: About 2.68 mm.

Reason: Offset = rise × tan(slant) = 10 × tan(15°) ≈ 10 × 0.268 = 2.68 mm.

Check: Use a calculator to confirm tan(15°) ≈ 0.268 and multiply by 10 mm.

Task 2

Calculate the horizontal offset at a 20 mm ascender line for a 25° slant from vertical.

Answer: About 9.33 mm.

Reason: Offset = 20 × tan(25°) ≈ 20 × 0.466 = 9.33 mm.

Check: Confirm tan(25°) ≈ 0.466 and multiply by 20 mm.

Task 3

Design a blank guideline template with a 12 mm ascender height, an x-height ratio between 0.4 and 0.7, and a slant between 10° and 30° from vertical. State your chosen values and calculate the offset.

Answer: One valid example: ascender 12 mm, ratio 0.5 gives x-height 6 mm; slant 20° gives offset 12 × tan(20°) ≈ 4.37 mm. Other valid combinations within the stated ranges are acceptable.

Reason: The x-height is ascender height × ratio. The offset is ascender height × tan(slant). Multiple combinations satisfy the stated ranges.

Check: Use the rubric: ratio within 0.4–0.7, slant within 10–30° from vertical, offset matches the calculation within a reasonable tolerance.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A writer's stems consistently diverge from 15° guides. Suggest two valid corrections and explain how you would check each.

Answer: Valid corrections include adjusting the template to a different angle, adjusting hand position, or choosing a different target angle. Check by writing a short line and comparing stem direction with the new guide.

Reason: Alignment depends on both the guide angle and the writer's hand; multiple corrections can work.

Check: Use the rubric: correction is stated, a check method is described, and multiple valid options are allowed.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Slant angle is stated in degrees from vertical and matches the drawn slanted lines within 2–3° when measured.
- [ ] x-height ratio is stated and the x-height line is placed consistently with the chosen ascender height.
- [ ] Offset at the ascender line is calculated as ascender height × tan(slant) and matches the drawn guide within a reasonable tolerance.
- [ ] Template is blank and adjustable, not presented as fixed guide paper.
- [ ] Any correction to stem alignment allows multiple valid options: adjust template, adjust hand, or choose a different angle.

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