Dashed-Line Paper with a Dashed Midline: Spacing, Baselines, and Letter Practice

Complete worked example / separate answer key

Plan a short practice row for the letters o and l on dashed-line paper with a baseline and a dashed midline, using hypothetical spacing you will verify by measurement.

Answer: Set a hypothetical body height of 10 mm between baseline and dashed midline, then print a test sheet and measure the actual gap with a ruler. Write o so its bottom touches the baseline and its top reaches the midline. Write l so its base sits on the baseline and its stem rises above the midline. Add one traceable copy of each and two independent attempts, then check baseline contact, midline height for o, and stem height for l against the rubric.

Reason: The two letters test different features: o checks short-letter height at the midline, and l checks ascender height above it. Measuring the printed gap confirms the spacing you intended rather than assuming it.

Check: Use a ruler on the test sheet to confirm the baseline-to-midline gap, then score each attempt with the rubric criteria.

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

Task 1

Describe where the bottom and top of the letter o should sit on dashed-line paper.

Answer: The bottom touches the baseline; the top reaches the dashed midline.

Reason: Short round letters occupy the body height between baseline and midline.

Check: Compare the written o against the baseline and midline with a ruler or by eye.

Task 2

Explain how to place the letter l relative to the baseline and dashed midline.

Answer: The base sits on the baseline and the stem rises above the dashed midline.

Reason: The l is a tall letter, so its ascender extends beyond the short-letter height.

Check: Check that the base contacts the baseline and the stem clearly passes the midline.

Task 3

You want wider spacing for a beginner. What should you change first, and what should you measure?

Answer: Increase the baseline-to-midline gap to match a larger letter body height, then measure the printed gap with a ruler.

Reason: Spacing should follow the intended letter size, and printed output must be verified rather than assumed.

Check: Measure the baseline-to-midline distance on a test print and compare it with your intended value.

Task 4

Create a rubric for a practice row containing a, c, o, b, d, and h.

Answer: Score baseline contact, midline height for a, c, and o, ascender height above the midline for b, d, and h, consistent slant, and even spacing between letters.

Reason: Handwriting has multiple valid outcomes, so criteria describe features rather than one exact shape.

Check: Apply the rubric to each letter and note which criterion needs the next practice attempt.

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Worked example, Task 1, Task 2, Task 3, Task 4 / Rubric-based answer key for the practice sheets

Qualitative rubric key; no single correct letter shape.

Baseline contact: every letter in the row rests its base on the baseline.

Midline height: short letters a, c, o reach the dashed midline without overshooting.

Ascender height: tall letters b, d, h rise above the midline while keeping their base on the baseline.

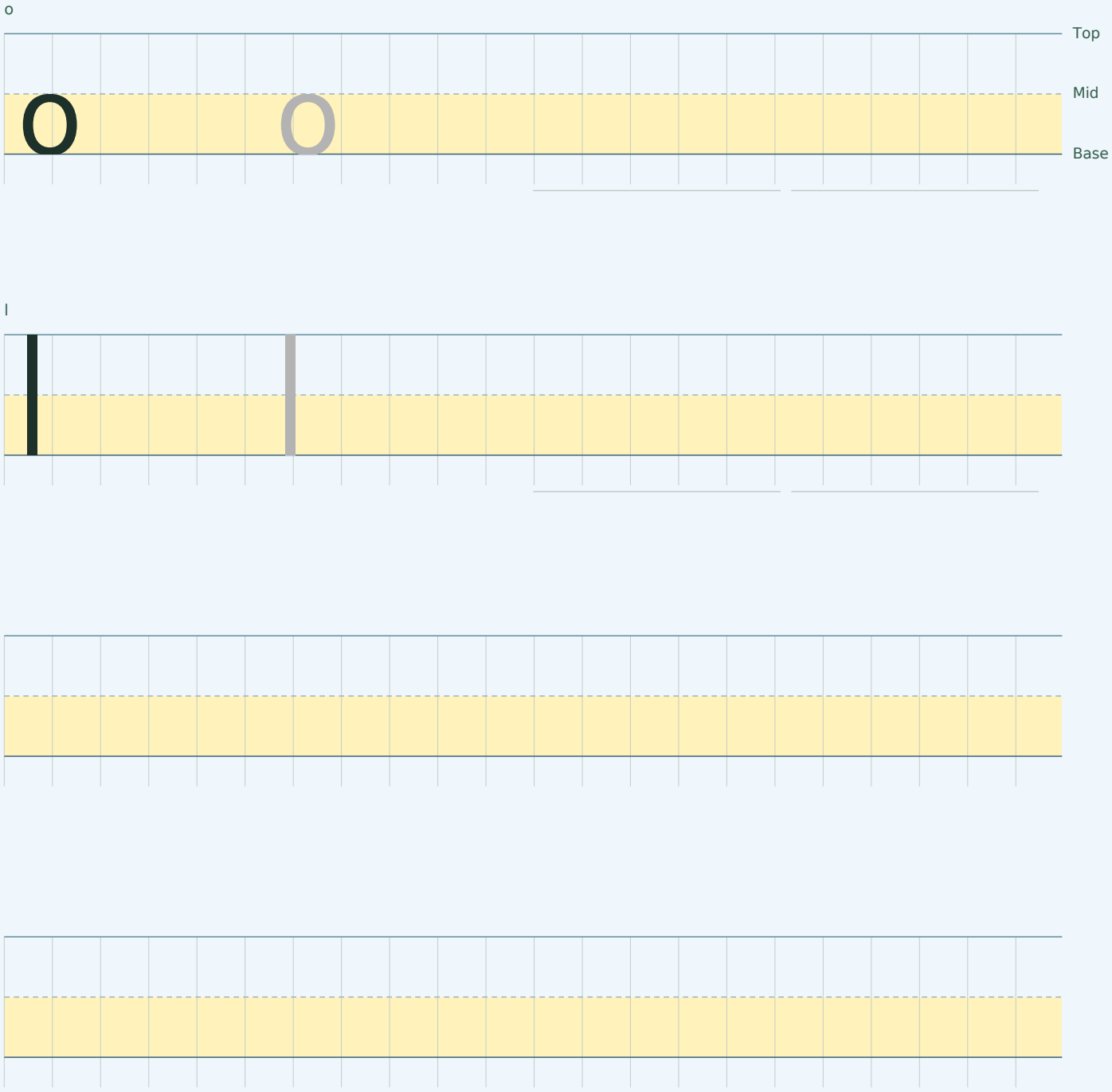
Slant: slant is consistent within the practice row.

Letter spacing: spacing between letters is even enough to read the row clearly.

Recorded spacing: spacing values are recorded and match the measured printed output.

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Worked example / Worked example: o and l on dashed-line paper



Worked example: 10 mm body; o at midline, l above; one trace, two blanks.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Baseline contact is consistent across letters in the row.
- [ ] Short letters reach the dashed midline without overshooting.
- [ ] Tall letters rise above the midline while keeping their base on the baseline.
- [ ] Slant is consistent within the practice row.
- [ ] Spacing between letters is even enough to read the row clearly.
- [ ] Spacing values are recorded and match the measured printed output.

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