# Triple-Lined Paper: Top, Middle and Base Guide Lines Explained

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

On a triple-ruled row, write m, a and n. Mark each letter that touches the base line and each letter that stays below the dashed middle line.

Answer: All three letters should touch the base line and stay below the dashed middle line.

Reason: Short letters occupy the x-height zone, which is bounded by the base line below and the dashed middle line above.

Check: Use the rubric: confirm base-line contact and x-height placement for each letter separately.

Task 2

Which letters in the set b, d, h, k, l and t typically reach the top line?

Answer: b, d, h, k and l typically reach the top line, and t often does; style may vary.

Reason: Tall letters and many uppercase letters use the top line as ascender or cap height, but t is often shorter than full ascender height.

Check: Compare each stem to the top line and note any style variation rather than forcing one exact height.

Task 3

Write i and g on a triple-ruled row. State where the body of i sits, where its dot sits, and where the tail of g goes.

Answer: The body of i stays in the x-height zone and its dot sits above that zone. The body of g stays in the x-height zone and its tail crosses the base line into the space below.

Reason: The dot of i is not part of the x-height body, and descenders use the space between the base line and the next row's base line.

Check: Use the rubric to check body placement and descender space separately.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Design a short practice row for a beginner using a hypothetical base line at 0 mm and the next base line at 18 mm. Include one short letter, one tall letter and one descender, and explain your spacing choice.

Answer: A valid response places the short letter in the x-height zone, the tall letter reaching the top line, and the descender crossing the base line into the space between 0 mm and 18 mm. Spacing should give the descender room without collision. Multiple valid layouts exist.

Reason: The task tests zone placement and descender space, not one exact letter shape.

Check: Score with the rubric: base-line contact, x-height, ascender reach, descender space and spacing.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Short letters touch the base line and stay below the dashed middle line.
- [ ] Tall letters touch the base line and their stems reach the top line.
- [ ] Descenders cross the base line into the space below without colliding with the next row.
- [ ] Spacing between letters and words is consistent enough to read.
- [ ] The writer can name one zone to practise next based on the rubric.

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