Copying Paragraph Worksheets: Model Paragraphs with Ruled Lines

Rubric key

Concise rubric key for both pages.

Rubric key: 1. All model words present and in order. 2. Capitalization and punctuation match. 3. Lower-case bodies between baseline and midline; ascenders above midline; descenders below baseline. 4. Even word spacing and legible letters. 5. Consistent style; valid alternative styles accepted.

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Complete worked example / separate answer key

A model paragraph reads: The sun rose over the hill. Birds sang in the trees. We packed a small bag and set off. Copy it onto four ruled lines using the baseline and midline convention, then check it.

Answer: The copy should place each lower-case letter body between baseline and midline, keep ascenders above the midline and descenders below the baseline, match the three sentences and their punctuation, and use even word spacing. A legible print or joined style is acceptable.

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Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Copy this model onto three ruled lines: The cat sat on the mat. It looked at the door. Then it slept. Check that each sentence ends with a full stop.

Answer: A legible copy of the three sentences with full stops after mat, door, and slept, and with lower-case letter bodies between baseline and midline.

Reason: The task checks sentence boundaries and punctuation while applying the x-height convention to a short paragraph.

Check: Compare the copy word by word with the model, then confirm three full stops and consistent letter placement.

Task 2

Copy this model onto four ruled lines: We walked to the park. The gate was open. A dog ran past us. We laughed and followed. Check that the word spacing is even.

Answer: A legible copy of the four sentences with correct capitalization and full stops, and with even spaces between words.

Reason: The longer model tests whether spacing and punctuation remain consistent as the paragraph grows.

Check: Read the copy aloud and mark any word gap that is noticeably wider or narrower than the others.

Task 3

Copy this model onto three ruled lines using a joined style if you prefer: Rain fell all morning. The streets were quiet. We stayed inside and read. Check that ascenders and descenders stay in their zones.

Answer: A legible copy in print or joined style, with ascenders above the midline and descenders below the baseline, and with correct punctuation.

Reason: This exercise confirms that the convention accepts valid alternative styles while still checking letter zones.

Check: Inspect letters with ascenders and descenders and confirm they cross the midline or baseline as appropriate.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Copy this model onto four ruled lines: The bus arrived late. We found two seats. The ride was smooth. We reached town by noon. Check capitalization and full stops.

Answer: A legible copy of the four sentences with capital letters at the start of each sentence and full stops at the end.

Reason: The task isolates capitalization and sentence punctuation within a slightly longer paragraph.

Check: Circle each capital letter and full stop in the copy and compare the count with the model.

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Worked example, Task 1, Task 2, Task 3, Task 4 / Separate answer sheet: model paragraphs, rubric, and four exercise answers with check methods

Text-only key for genuinely qualitative copying tasks.

Worked example prompt: A model paragraph reads: The sun rose over the hill. Birds sang in the trees. We packed a small bag and set off. Copy it onto four ruled lines using the baseline and midline convention, then check it.

Worked example answer: The copy should place each lower-case letter body between baseline and midline, keep ascenders above the midline and descenders below the baseline, match the three sentences and their punctuation, and use even word spacing. A legible print or joined style is acceptable.

Rubric: (1) All words from the model paragraph are present and in the correct order. (2) Capitalization and punctuation match the model. (3) Lower-case letter bodies sit between baseline and midline, with ascenders and descenders in their zones. (4) Word spacing is even and letters are legible. (5) The style is consistent across the paragraph; valid alternative styles are accepted.

Exercise 1 answer: A legible copy of the three sentences with full stops after mat, door, and slept, and with lower-case letter bodies between baseline and midline. Reasoning: The task checks sentence boundaries and punctuation while applying the x-height convention to a short paragraph. Check method: Compare the copy word by word with the model, then confirm three full stops and consistent letter placement.

Exercise 2 answer: A legible copy of the four sentences with correct capitalization and full stops, and with even spaces between words. Reasoning: The longer model tests whether spacing and punctuation remain consistent as the paragraph grows. Check method: Read the copy aloud and mark any word gap that is noticeably wider or narrower than the others.

Exercise 3 answer: A legible copy in print or joined style, with ascenders above the midline and descenders below the baseline, and with correct punctuation. Reasoning: This exercise confirms that the convention accepts valid alternative styles while still checking letter zones. Check method: Inspect letters with ascenders and descenders and confirm they cross the midline or baseline as appropriate. Exercise 4 answer: A legible copy of the four sentences with capital letters

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] All words from the model paragraph are present and in the correct order.
- [ ] Capitalization and punctuation match the model.
- [ ] Lower-case letter bodies sit between baseline and midline, with ascenders and descenders in their zones.
- [ ] Word spacing is even and letters are legible.
- [ ] The style is consistent across the paragraph; valid alternative styles are accepted.

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