Make Your Own 2nd Grade Lined Paper With Spacing Guides

Fair-checking rubric

Rubric key. Accept valid letter-style alternatives if legible and placed correctly.

Criterion	What to check
Header	Name and date are present and readable.
Baseline	Most letters sit on the baseline.
X-height	Short letters reach the midline within the convention.
Spacing	Word gaps are visible and letters within words are close but not touching.
Legibility	Writing can be read by another person.
Alternatives	Different letter styles are accepted if legible and placed correctly.

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Complete worked example / separate answer key

On a planned wide-ruled sheet with a 1.1 cm baseline gap, write the word cat and the word dog with one clear gap. Check that c, a, and t sit on the baseline and that a reaches the midline.

Answer: Write cat, leave a gap about the width of one small letter, then write dog. Check: c sits on the baseline, a reaches the midline, t is tall, and the gap between cat and dog is visible. Count 6 letters on the baseline and 1 clear word gap.

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Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Write the word sun on a baseline. Check that s, u, and n sit on the baseline and that u and n reach the midline.

Answer: sun written with all three letters on the baseline and u and n reaching the midline.

Reason: The convention measures x-height from baseline to midline, so short letters should touch the midline.

Check: Count 3 letters on the baseline (s, u, n) and 2 short letters reaching the midline (u, n); s sits on the baseline but is not counted as reaching the midline.

Task 2

Write two words: map and top. Leave one clear gap between them. Check that m, a, t, and o sit on the baseline, that p descends below the baseline, and that the gap is visible.

Answer: map top with a visible gap; m, a, t, and o sit on the baseline, and p descends below the baseline.

Reason: Word gaps help readers separate words; the baseline check keeps letters aligned, while descenders like p correctly go below the baseline under the convention.

Check: Count 4 letters on the baseline (m, a, t, o), note that p descends below the baseline, and count 1 clear word gap.

Task 3

Write the tall letter l and the short letter e three times each on separate baselines. Check that l goes above the midline and e reaches the midline.

Answer: Three l letters above the midline and three e letters reaching the midline, all on the baseline.

Reason: Tall and short letters follow the same baseline but different heights under the convention.

Check: Count 3 tall letters above the midline and 3 short letters reaching the midline.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Write the sentence: I see a cat. Use a capital I and a period. Check that the capital I is tall, the period is after cat, and the word gaps are clear.

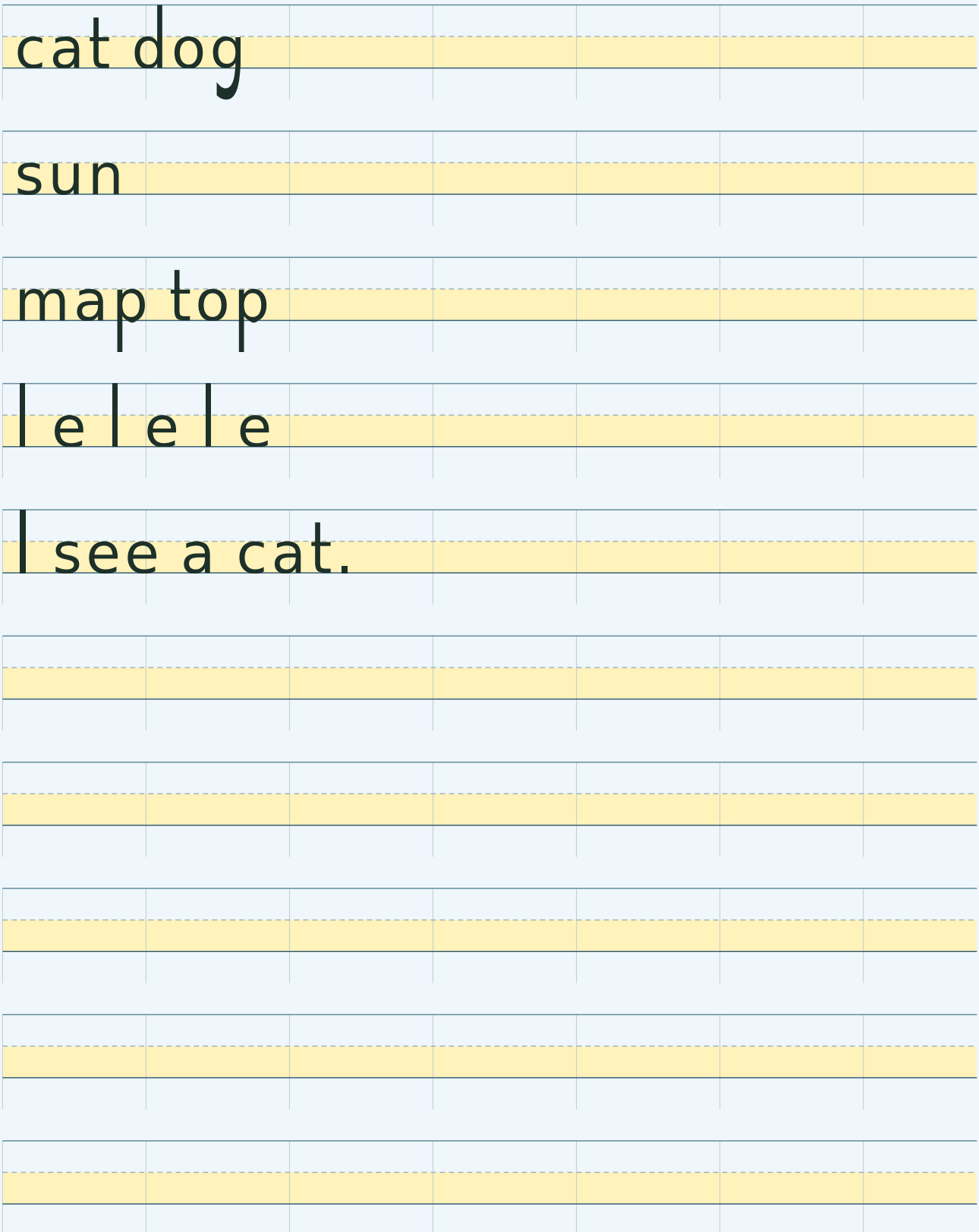
Answer: I see a cat. with a tall capital I, three clear word gaps, and a period.

Reason: Capitals and punctuation are part of legible writing; spacing guides help keep words separate.

Check: Count 4 words, 3 gaps, 1 capital letter, and 1 period.

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Worked example, Task 1, Task 2, Task 3, Task 4 / Model words drawn for the answer key



Model words for the answer key. Hypothetical examples.

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Answer sheet plan. All measurements are hypothetical examples.

Worked example: On a planned wide-ruled sheet with a 1.1 cm baseline gap, write the word cat and the word dog with one clear gap. Check that c, a, and t sit on the baseline and that a reaches the midline.

Worked answer: Write cat, leave a gap about the width of one small letter, then write dog. Check: c sits on the baseline, a reaches the midline, t is tall, and the gap between cat and dog is visible. Count 6 letters on the baseline and 1 clear word gap.

Task 1 answer: sun written with all three letters on the baseline and u and n reaching the midline. Reasoning: the convention measures x-height from baseline to midline, so short letters should touch the midline. Check: count 3 letters on the baseline (s, u, n) and 2 short letters reaching the midline (u, n); s sits on the baseline but is not counted as reaching the midline.

Task 2 answer: map top with a visible gap; m, a, t, and o sit on the baseline, and p descends below the baseline. Reasoning: word gaps help readers separate words; the baseline check keeps letters aligned, while descenders like p correctly go below the baseline under the convention. Check: count 4 letters on the baseline (m, a, t, o), note that p descends below the baseline, and count 1 clear word gap.

Task 3 answer: Three l letters above the midline and three e letters reaching the midline, all on the baseline. Reasoning: tall and short letters follow the same baseline but different heights under the convention. Check: count 3 tall letters above the midline and 3 short letters reaching the midline.

Task 4 answer: I see a cat. with a tall capital I, three clear word gaps, and a period. Reasoning: capitals and punctuation are part of legible writing; spacing guides help keep words separate. Check: count 4 words, 3 gaps, 1 capital letter, and 1 period.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Header: name and date are present and readable.
- [ ] Baseline: most letters sit on the baseline.
- [ ] X-height: short letters reach the midline within the convention.
- [ ] Spacing: word gaps are visible and letters within words are close but not touching.
- [ ] Legibility: writing can be read by another person.
- [ ] Alternatives: different letter styles are accepted if legible and placed correctly.

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