Calligraphy Grid Practice Paper: Slanted Guide Cells for Angled Lettering

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A cell is 20 mm high with the x-height guide at the midline. What is the x-height in millimetres, and where should a lowercase body stroke end?

Answer: The x-height is 10 mm. A lowercase body stroke should end at the midline, 10 mm above the baseline.

Reason: The midline is halfway up a 20 mm cell, so 20 divided by 2 equals 10 mm. The x-height guide marks the top of lowercase bodies.

Check: Measure the cell height with a ruler, divide by two, and compare the result to the marked midline.

Task 2

A practice row has cells 12 mm wide with a 3 mm gap. Three words use 4 cells, 3 cells, and 5 cells, with one empty cell between words. How many cells wide is the row including gaps between words?

Answer: The row is 14 cells wide: 4 word cells plus 1 empty gap cell plus 3 word cells plus 1 empty gap cell plus 5 word cells equals 14 cells. The 14 cells include the two empty gap cells. There are 13 seams of 3 mm between consecutive cells. At 12 mm per cell, the cells total 14 × 12 = 168 mm; the 13 seams total 13 × 3 = 39 mm; the row is 168 + 39 = 207 mm wide.

Reason: Add the word cells and the two empty gap cells between the three words: 4 + 1 + 3 + 1 + 5 = 14 cells. The seams between consecutive cells number one fewer than the cells, so 14 − 1 = 13 seams.

Check: Count the cells on the row, including the two empty gap cells, and confirm the total is 4 + 1 + 3 + 1 + 5 = 14. Count the seams between consecutive cells and confirm there are 13. To check width, multiply 14 cells by 12 mm and 13 seams by 3 mm, then add: 168 + 39 = 207 mm.

Task 3

A learner draws a downstroke that leans 55 degrees from the baseline in a cell whose side edge leans 60 degrees. Is the stroke parallel to the cell edge? Explain using the angle difference.

Answer: No. The difference is 5 degrees, so the stroke is not parallel to the 60-degree cell edge.

Reason: Parallel lines have the same angle from the baseline. Comparing 55 degrees to 60 degrees gives a 5-degree difference.

Check: Place a straight edge along the cell edge and compare it to the stroke; a 5-degree difference is visible as a small gap at the top or bottom.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A page records an x-height of 9 mm and a cell height of 18 mm. A letter body measures 11 mm from baseline to top. Is the letter taller or shorter than the x-height guide, and by how many millimetres?

Answer: The letter is 2 mm taller than the x-height guide.

Reason: The x-height is 9 mm. The measured body is 11 mm. Subtracting 9 from 11 gives 2 mm.

Check: Measure the letter body with a ruler and subtract the recorded x-height; confirm the difference is 2 mm.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Slant angle is stated and used consistently across the row.
- [ ] Baseline and x-height guide are clearly distinguished and measured.
- [ ] Cell width and gap are recorded and repeated.
- [ ] Strokes are compared to cell edges and midline using a simple check.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are allowed when measured and recorded.

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