Hyphen-Joining Drills for Drawing Five-Line Music Staves

Worked example / complete source key

A practice row has five hyphen levels. The vertical gap between adjacent levels is 6 mm (a hypothetical example). You connect the hyphens into five lines. What total height should the staff have from the top line to the bottom line, and how would you check it?

Answer: There are four gaps between five lines. Four gaps of 6 mm give 24 mm total height. Check by measuring from the top line to the bottom line at the left end and at the right end; both measurements should be close to 24 mm. If one end is noticeably different, the spacing is uneven and the row should be redrawn with slower hand speed.