# Hyphen-Joining Drills for Drawing Five-Line Music Staves

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A hyphen row has five levels with a 5 mm gap between adjacent levels (hypothetical example). You draw all five lines. What is the total height from the top line to the bottom line? Show your arithmetic.

Answer: 20 mm. Four gaps of 5 mm each give 4 × 5 = 20 mm.

Reason: Five lines create four intervals between adjacent lines. Multiply the number of intervals by the gap size.

Check: Measure the total height at the left and right ends of your drawn staff. Both should be close to 20 mm if the spacing is even.

Task 2

You draw a staff and measure the total height at the left end as 24 mm and at the right end as 30 mm. The intended gap was 6 mm (hypothetical example). Is the spacing even? Explain using arithmetic.

Answer: No. An even staff with four gaps of 6 mm should measure 24 mm at both ends. The right end is 30 mm, which is 6 mm larger, indicating at least one gap is too wide.

Reason: Four gaps of 6 mm give 24 mm. A 30 mm measurement means the gaps do not all equal 6 mm.

Check: Measure each of the four gaps separately at the right end. Compare each to 6 mm and identify which gap is too wide.

Task 3

A tracing row has faint guide lines, and a freehand row has only hyphen marks. You complete both. Describe two specific comparisons you can make between the rows to decide whether you are ready for more freehand practice.

Answer: Compare the total height at the left and right ends of each row, and compare the middle gap to the end gaps. If the freehand row has similar total height and even middle spacing, you are ready for more freehand practice.

Reason: The tracing row provides a reference for even spacing. The freehand row tests whether you can reproduce that spacing without continuous guides.

Check: Use a ruler to measure total height at both ends of each row. View both rows from arm's length and check whether the five lines read as an even group.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

You are drawing the top line of a staff by connecting hyphens. After three hyphens, the line drifts upward by about 2 mm (hypothetical example). What should you do next, and how will you check the result?

Answer: Stop the line at the last hyphen, restart from the next hyphen at the correct level, and keep the new segment level. Check by comparing the new segment to the hyphen level and by viewing the whole staff from arm's length.

Reason: Correcting with a heavy stroke thickens the line and may distort spacing. Restarting from the next hyphen keeps the line level and light.

Check: Measure the vertical distance from the top line to the second line at the left and right ends. The two measurements should be close, and the top line should not slope noticeably.

# Hyphen-Joining Drills for Drawing Five-Line Music Staves

Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Five lines are present and clearly separated.
- [ ] Vertical spacing between adjacent lines is visually even across the row.
- [ ] Lines are level enough that the staff reads as a horizontal group from arm's length.
- [ ] Lines are continuous or have only small gaps; heavy corrections are avoided.
- [ ] The drawing follows the hyphen guide levels without adding clefs or notation symbols.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted: slight waviness, small gaps, or minor spacing differences that do not disrupt the five-line group.

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