Hiragana Tracing Grid: Stroke-Order Practice Sheet

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

In a tracing cell, the model character い has two strokes: a short left stroke and a longer right stroke with a curve. The arrows are numbered 1 for the left stroke and 2 for the right stroke. A learner traces stroke 2 first, then stroke 1. Using the rubric, identify the error and state the fix.

Answer: The learner reversed the stroke order. The fix is to trace stroke 1 first, then stroke 2, following the numbered arrows. The relative lengths in the supplied hypothetical description are not a universal Japanese letterform rule; use an independently recognizable model when assessing shape. This question diagnoses the stated stroke numbering, not a national left/right length standard.

Reason: The rubric requires stroke order to match the numbered arrows. Tracing stroke 2 before stroke 1 violates the order criterion.

Check: Compare the learner's trace to the numbered arrows and confirm that stroke 1 is completed before stroke 2 begins.

Task 2

A grid row has four empty cells. A learner writes う in each cell. The first character sits between baseline and midline. The second character floats 2 mm above the baseline. The third and fourth sit between baseline and midline. Using the rubric, describe which cell needs rewriting and why.

Answer: The second cell needs rewriting because the character floats above the baseline instead of sitting between baseline and midline.

Reason: The rubric requires the body to sit between baseline and midline. Floating above the baseline fails the placement criterion.

Check: Measure the gap between the baseline and the bottom of each character; the second character has a 2 mm gap, while the others have no gap.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

A learner copies か into four grid cells. The stroke order is correct, but the spacing between the first and second characters is 4 mm, between the second and third is 1 mm, and between the third and fourth is 4 mm. Using the rubric, state whether the spacing criterion is met and what the learner should do.

Answer: The spacing criterion is not met because the gaps are uneven. The learner should rewrite the row with equal spacing between characters.

Reason: The rubric requires even spacing. The 4 mm, 1 mm, 4 mm pattern is uneven, so the row fails the spacing criterion.

Check: Measure the gaps between adjacent characters and compare them; equal gaps meet the criterion, unequal gaps do not.

Task 4

A learner traces さ with correct stroke order and placement. The curve of the second stroke is wider than the model but still sits between baseline and midline. A teacher says the trace is wrong because it does not match the model exactly. Using the rubric, explain whether the teacher is correct and why.

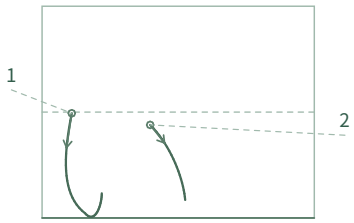
Answer: The teacher is not correct. The rubric accepts valid style alternatives that preserve stroke order, start points, and placement. The wider curve is acceptable because the body remains between baseline and midline.

Reason: Letter styles vary, and the rubric does not require pixel-perfect matching. The trace meets the order and placement criteria, so it is valid.

Check: Check the stroke order, start points, and baseline-to-midline placement; if all are correct, the style variation is acceptable.

Hiragana / one chosen handwriting model with independently checked stroke order

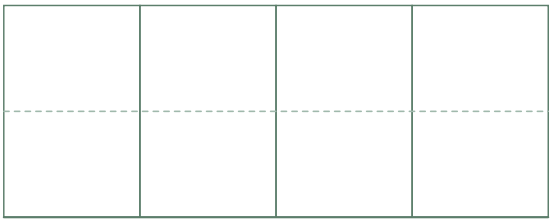
Selected cells: 18 x 28 mm / baseline-to-midline band: 14 mm / four copies per row



Given learner sequence: stroke 2 first, then stroke 1.

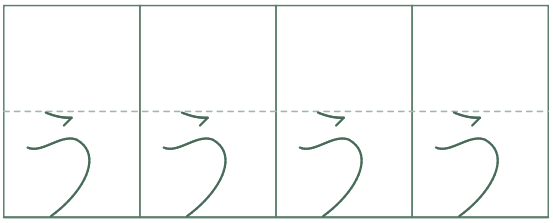
This independently recognizable model uses 1 at the left start and 2 at the right start. The task hypothetical relative-length wording is not a universal Japanese shape rule.

Correction: trace stroke 1 before stroke 2. Diagnose the reversed sequence; shape is assessed separately.



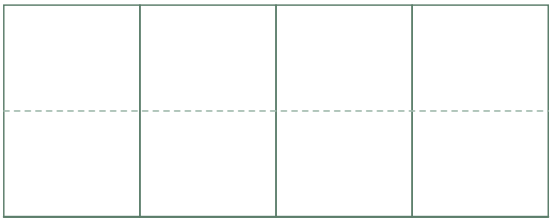
Hiragana / one chosen handwriting model with independently checked stroke order

Selected cells: 18 x 28 mm / baseline-to-midline band: 14 mm / four copies per row



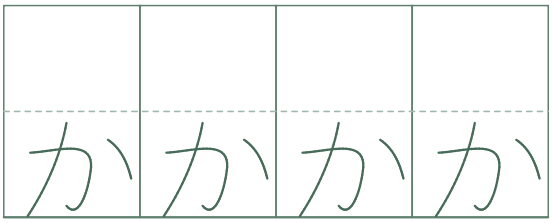
Corrected example: all four bodies start on the same baseline.

Rewrite cell two. Its original 2 mm gap was a placement error; the other three cells met the given baseline condition.



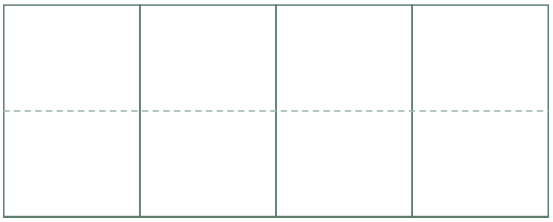
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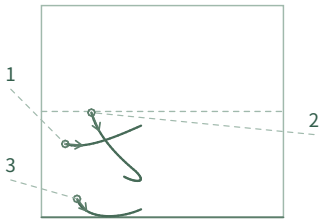
One corrected example: visible-ink gaps 4 mm / 4 mm / 4 mm.

The source does not choose a universal gap. This key selects 4 mm consistently; equal gaps are the criterion. Physical gaps include line width, not merely path centerlines.

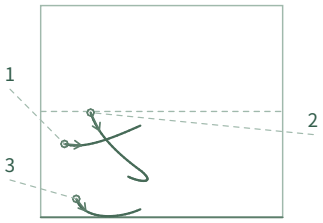


Hiragana / one chosen handwriting model with independently checked stroke order

Selected cells: 18 x 28 mm / baseline-to-midline band: 14 mm / four copies per row



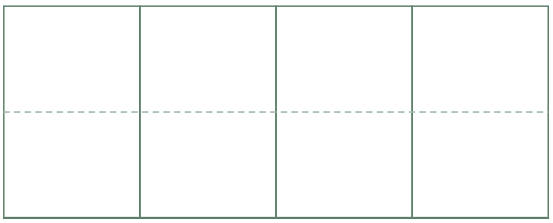
Selected model



Given wider second stroke

The second curve is wider. Both examples keep the same three start points, order and baseline-to-midline placement. Other two strokes are unchanged.

The alternative is acceptable under this lesson rubric. Exact pixel matching is not a criterion.



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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Stroke order matches the numbered arrows.
- [ ] Each stroke starts at the correct start point.
- [ ] Character body sits between baseline and midline, with valid style variations allowed.
- [ ] Spacing between characters in the grid row is even.
- [ ] Four consistent copies are produced in the empty grid cells.

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