Kanji Grid Paper: Stroke-Order Tracing and Radical Practice

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

A kanji has three strokes. A stroke-order row has four squares. Describe what each square should contain and identify the error.

Answer: Square one contains stroke one; square two contains strokes one and two; square three contains strokes one, two, and three. The fourth square is extra and should be removed or relabeled, because a three-stroke kanji needs three stroke-order squares.

Reason: The convention is one added stroke per square, so the number of squares equals the number of strokes.

Check: Count the strokes on the model and count the squares; they must match.

Task 2

A tracing cell is 18 mm square and the radical box is 18 mm square, but the stroke-order squares are 9 mm. State whether placement comparisons between the tracing cell and stroke-order row are reliable, and give a fix.

Answer: They are not directly reliable because the stroke-order squares are half the size. Fix by using 18 mm squares in the stroke-order row, or by labeling the row as a reduced reference and not comparing placement across sizes.

Reason: Placement is judged against the cell, so different cell sizes change the meaning of baseline and midline positions.

Check: Measure one square from each section with a ruler and compare the measurements.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

A learner writes the radical three times in the radical box. Repetition one is stable, repetition two is stable, repetition three is cramped and the last stroke is shortened. What should the learner record, and what should they do next session?

Answer: Record that the third repetition became cramped and the final stroke shortened, likely from fatigue. Next session, do two repetitions and stop while the form is stable, then check the final stroke against the model.

Reason: The rubric rewards radical stability across repetitions; a deteriorating last repetition is a signal to reduce volume, not to force more repetitions.

Check: Compare the three repetitions side by side and note whether the final stroke length and position stay consistent.

Task 4

A sheet uses a documented alternative stroke order for one kanji but the stroke-order row follows the common order. Is the sheet internally consistent? Explain using the convention.

Answer: No. The sheet must use one order throughout. Either change the stroke-order row to the documented alternative or change the note to the common order, then apply it consistently in every square.

Reason: The convention requires a single chosen order per sheet, with alternatives documented once at the top.

Check: Read the note at the top, then check the first added stroke in each stroke-order square against that note.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Stroke order matches the chosen documented order in every stroke-order square.
- [ ] Each stroke-order square adds exactly one stroke and keeps earlier strokes in place.
- [ ] The full kanji sits consistently relative to baseline and midline across repetitions.
- [ ] The radical form is stable across the radical box repetitions.
- [ ] Valid style alternatives are accepted when documented and applied consistently.
- [ ] Square sizes are measured and any chosen numerical value is labeled as a hypothetical example.

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