Wilson-Style Lettering Boxes: Skyline, Plane Line, and Baseline Practice

Original tasks 1, 2, 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 1

A hypothetical box is 10 mm high with the plane line at half height. A small e reaches 5 mm above the baseline. Does it meet the zone criterion?

Answer: Yes. Half of 10 mm is 5 mm, so the plane line is at 5 mm. The e reaches the plane line and should also touch the baseline.

Reason: Divide box height by two to locate the plane line, then compare the letter's top with that value.

Check: Measure the e from baseline to top and compare with half the box height.

Task 2

A tall h in a 14 mm box reaches 9 mm above the baseline. The skyline is at 14 mm. Does it meet the tall-letter criterion?

Answer: No. The h falls 5 mm short of the skyline and needs to reach 14 mm.

Reason: Subtract the reached height from the skyline height: 14 minus 9 equals 5 mm short.

Check: Measure the h from baseline to top and compare with the skyline height.

Task 3

A descender p in a 12 mm box falls 4 mm below the baseline. The next row starts 6 mm below the baseline. Does it clear the next row?

Answer: Yes. The p falls 4 mm, which is less than the 6 mm gap, so it clears the next row by 2 mm.

Reason: Compare descender depth with row gap: 6 minus 4 equals 2 mm clearance.

Check: Measure descender depth and row gap, then subtract.

Task 4

A sheet has three rows of 12 mm boxes with 6 mm gaps. What vertical space do the three rows and two gaps occupy?

Answer: 48 mm. Three boxes give 36 mm and two gaps give 12 mm, totalling 48 mm.

Reason: Multiply box height by row count, multiply gap by gap count, then add: 12 times 3 equals 36; 6 times 2 equals 12; 36 plus 12 equals 48.

Check: Measure the total vertical span on the sheet and compare with 48 mm.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Small letters touch the baseline and reach the plane line without crossing it.
- [ ] Tall letters reach the skyline and touch the baseline.
- [ ] Descenders fall below the baseline without touching the next row.
- [ ] Zone placement is consistent across guided and free rows.
- [ ] Letter style is consistent and legible; valid alternatives are accepted.
- [ ] Measurements are recorded and labelled as hypothetical examples where chosen.

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