Dot-Grid Handwriting Practice: Letter Placement Guides for Clearer Writing

Worked example / complete source key

A dot grid has dots every 5 mm. You choose an x-height of one dot row, so the midline is 5 mm above the baseline. You write the word 'mane' and measure three inter-letter gaps: 5 mm, 6 mm, and 4 mm. Count baseline contacts and x-height tops for the four letters. Are the placement and spacing acceptable under the hypothetical thresholds of eight or more baseline contacts out of ten and gaps differing by no more than one dot interval?

Answer: All four letters, m, a, n, and e, sit on the baseline, so baseline contacts are 4 out of 4, which meets the threshold in this small sample. All four letters lack ascenders and reach the midline, so x-height tops are 4 out of 4. The gaps are 5 mm, 6 mm, and 4 mm, which in dot intervals are 1, 1.2, and 0.8. The largest difference is 0.4 interval, which is less than one interval, so spacing is acceptable. The word passes the check under the stated hypothetical thresholds.