Graph-Paper Alphabet Lettering Sheet: Height and Spacing Guides

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

On a hypothetical grid with baseline at square 0, midline at square 2, and top line at square 4, a learner writes the lowercase letter c. The c touches square 0 and square 2. Is the height correct for x-height? Explain.

Answer: Yes. The c sits between the baseline and the midline, so its height is two squares, which matches the x-height zone.

Reason: X-height is defined as baseline to midline. The c touches both lines and does not rise above the midline or drop below the baseline.

Check: Measure the c from square 0 to square 2. If it touches both lines and stays inside, the height is correct.

Task 2

A row shows four capital H letters. The baseline is square 0 and the top line is square 4. The first H reaches square 4, the second reaches square 3, the third reaches square 4, and the fourth reaches square 4. Which letter is off its target zone, and by how many squares?

Answer: The second H is the only letter not meeting the top line; it is one square short, which is within the one-square tolerance, so it may be accepted but should be noted.

Reason: Capitals should reach the top line at square 4. The second H reaches square 3, one square short. The rubric marks and rewrites letters more than one square from target, so a one-square difference is within tolerance.

Check: Compare each capital height to square 4. The second H is one square short. Since the rubric rewrites only letters more than one square off, this H is within tolerance and may be accepted, but note that it is the only letter not meeting the top line.

Task 3

A learner uses a hypothetical three-square gap between letters. In a row of five letters, how many gaps are there, and how many total gap squares should be counted between the first and last letter?

Answer: There are four gaps, and the total gap squares between the first and last letter is twelve.

Reason: Five letters create four spaces between them. Each space is three squares, so four times three equals twelve squares.

Check: Count the spaces between the five letters and multiply by three. Confirm the total is twelve squares.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A lowercase g is planned to descend two squares below the baseline. The baseline is square 0, the midline is square 2, and the top line is square 4. A learner writes a g that starts at square 2 and ends at square -2. Is the descender correct? Explain.

Answer: Yes. The g starts at the midline and ends two squares below the baseline, so the descender is correct.

Reason: The planned descender is two squares below square 0, which is square -2. The g reaches that point and starts at the midline, so it fits the convention.

Check: Measure from the baseline to the bottom of the g. If it is two squares below square 0, the descender is correct.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Each letter stays within its planned height zone: x-height letters between baseline and midline, capitals at the top line, descenders below the baseline.
- [ ] The gap count between letters is consistent within a row and matches the chosen number of grid squares.
- [ ] The learner uses one letter style per row and does not mix styles within the row.
- [ ] Any letter more than one grid square from its target zone is marked and rewritten.
- [ ] The learner measures the actual printed grid and records any difference from the planned square size.
- [ ] Valid alternative letter styles are accepted when the height zones and gap count are respected.

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