# Boxed-Cell Writing Grid: Letter Placement Practice

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A cell is 24 mm tall. State the midline height and name the zone for the letters b, o, and g.

Answer: Midline is 12 mm above the baseline. b is an ascender, o is x-height, g is a descender.

Reason: Half of 24 mm is 12 mm. b rises above the midline, o stays between baseline and midline, and g crosses the baseline.

Check: Verify 24 divided by 2 equals 12. Confirm each letter's zone against the definitions.

Task 2

A word uses 5 letters and one empty cell between two words. How many cells are used in total?

Answer: 6 cells: 5 letter cells plus 1 empty cell.

Reason: Each letter takes one cell, and the word gap takes one empty cell. Adding them gives 5 plus 1 equals 6.

Check: Count the letter cells and the empty cell separately, then add.

Task 3

A trace row uses 18 mm cells and the blank row uses 22 mm cells. Is this a fair placement comparison? Explain.

Answer: No. The cell heights differ, so the midline heights differ and placement cannot be compared directly.

Reason: An 18 mm cell has a 9 mm midline; a 22 mm cell has an 11 mm midline. The same letter would sit at different heights relative to the cell.

Check: Calculate both midlines: 18 divided by 2 equals 9, and 22 divided by 2 equals 11. Compare the values.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

In a 16 mm cell, an x-height letter reaches 10 mm above the baseline. Does it meet the convention? State the midline and the fix.

Answer: No. The midline is 8 mm, so the letter is too tall. Fix: stop the letter at 8 mm above the baseline.

Reason: Half of 16 mm is 8 mm. A top at 10 mm rises 2 mm above the midline, which breaks the x-height rule.

Check: Calculate 16 divided by 2 equals 8. Measure the letter top and compare it to 8 mm.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] X-height letters rest on the baseline and reach the midline.
- [ ] Ascenders rise above the midline but stay inside the cell.
- [ ] Descenders cross the baseline into the lower zone.
- [ ] Letters stay within the left and right cell edges unless the chosen style requires otherwise.
- [ ] Model, trace, and blank rows use the same cell height.
- [ ] Word spacing uses a consistent number of empty cells.
- [ ] Valid alternative letterforms are accepted when zone rules are met.

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