Traceable Letter Strokes with a Small Drawing Box

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A page shows lowercase t models. The key says: vertical downstroke from above the midline to the baseline, then a horizontal crossbar at the midline. The learner traces three models and writes one freehand t. The freehand t has a crossbar at the midline but the vertical stroke stops 2 mm above the baseline. Is the freehand t acceptable?

Answer: No, not yet. The vertical stroke should reach the baseline under this key.

Reason: The key defines the downstroke as ending at the baseline. A 2 mm gap is a checkable difference on the printed page.

Check: Measure the gap between the bottom of the vertical stroke and the baseline with a ruler; compare to the key.

Task 2

A drawing box is labeled 'Draw a ball' for letter b. The learner draws a bat and says 'bat.' Is this acceptable?

Answer: Yes, if the learner explains that 'bat' begins with the b sound and the drawing fits the box.

Reason: The task allows a different valid word beginning with the target letter. The boundary is one small picture, not a caption.

Check: Ask the learner to say the word and identify the first sound; check that the picture is one object and fits the box.

Task 3

A trace row has four models of lowercase a. The learner traces only two models and writes two freehand a letters. The freehand letters sit between baseline and midline. Does the page meet the trace-row check?

Answer: No. The trace-row check requires all four models traced.

Reason: The check is simple and countable: four models, four traces. Freehand letters are a separate check.

Check: Count the traced models against the number of models in the row.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A planned page uses a 40 mm trace row and an 80 mm by 60 mm drawing box on a 210 mm by 297 mm sheet. The printer's actual usable width is 190 mm. Is the planned width within the usable width?

Answer: Yes, 80 mm is less than 190 mm, but the full page layout must still be measured.

Reason: The box width is a hypothetical example. The check compares the box width to the measured usable width.

Check: Measure the printed box width and the usable page width; confirm the box fits with margins.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Trace row: all models traced in the stated stroke direction.
- [ ] Freehand letter: body between baseline and midline; downstroke reaches baseline.
- [ ] Drawing box: one recognizable picture, no caption sentence.
- [ ] Word choice: picture word begins with the target letter.
- [ ] Convention: valid alternative letter styles accepted when consistent with the key.

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