Kana Practice on Square Grids with Stroke Boxes

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

Task 1

A stroke box is 10 mm tall and the midline is at 5 mm. A vertical stroke starts at the top of the stroke box and ends at the baseline. How long is the stroke in millimetres?

Answer: 10 mm.

Reason: The stroke runs from the top of the stroke box to the baseline, which is the full height of the box.

Check: Measure the stroke box height and confirm the stroke spans it completely.

Task 2

A kana is drawn in a 12 mm stroke box. Its leftmost point is 2 mm from the left edge and its rightmost point is 4 mm from the right edge. Is it centered? Use a hypothetical tolerance of 2 mm.

Answer: No, it is off-center by 2 mm, which is at the tolerance limit.

Reason: The left margin is 2 mm and the right margin is 4 mm. The difference is 2 mm, so it is not evenly centered.

Check: Measure both margins and subtract the smaller from the larger.

Task 3

A horizontal stroke should sit at x-height in a stroke box 14 mm tall with the midline at 7 mm. The stroke is drawn at 10 mm from the baseline. How far above the midline is it?

Answer: 3 mm above the midline.

Reason: 10 mm minus 7 mm equals 3 mm.

Check: Measure the stroke height and subtract the midline height.

Task 4

You write the same kana three times in blank cells. The start points are 6 mm, 7 mm, and 6 mm from the baseline. What is the range of start points, and what does it suggest?

Answer: The range is 1 mm, which suggests fairly consistent placement.

Reason: The largest value is 7 mm and the smallest is 6 mm, so the difference is 1 mm.

Check: List the three measurements and subtract the smallest from the largest.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Stroke box is square and centered in the grid cell.
- [ ] Baseline and midline are marked and used consistently.
- [ ] Each kana is placed deliberately relative to the stroke box.
- [ ] Repeated attempts show consistent start and end points.
- [ ] Romaji margin notes are short and useful.
- [ ] Valid style alternatives are accepted if placement and proportion are consistent.

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