Cursive Practice Lines: Upper, Lower, and Sentence Copying

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A lowercase row has a hypothetical 6 mm x-height. A learner writes e five times: three letters reach the midline, one stops 1 mm below it, and one crosses 1 mm above it. How many letters meet the convention, and what is one fix?

Answer: Three letters meet the convention. Fix: rewrite the short letter to reach the midline and the tall letter to stop at the midline.

Reason: The convention is baseline to midline. A 1 mm deviation is a checkable error against the 6 mm x-height.

Check: Compare each letter's top to the midline and count those within the tolerance.

Task 2

A capital row uses a midline 10 mm above the baseline. A learner writes four capitals with tops at 14 mm, 15 mm, 14 mm, and 18 mm above the baseline. Which capital is least consistent, and what should be checked next?

Answer: The capital at 18 mm is least consistent. Check its top against the other capitals and rewrite it to about 14 to 15 mm above the baseline.

Reason: Three capitals cluster at 14 to 15 mm; 18 mm is 3 to 4 mm higher, which is a visible inconsistency.

Check: Measure each capital top from the baseline and compare the range.

Task 3

A sentence has five words. A learner leaves gaps of 4 mm, 5 mm, 4 mm, 9 mm, and 5 mm between words. Using a hypothetical target gap of 5 mm, which gap is the outlier and what is the fix?

Answer: The 9 mm gap is the outlier. Fix: rewrite that space to about 5 mm, matching the other gaps.

Reason: Four gaps are 4 to 5 mm; 9 mm is nearly double the target and breaks even spacing.

Check: Measure each gap and compare to the 5 mm target.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A learner joins e to a five times. Three joins are smooth; two have a 1 mm gap at the baseline. What is the count of smooth joins, and what correction should be practiced?

Answer: Three joins are smooth. Practice keeping the pen on the baseline from the e exit stroke into the a entry stroke to remove the gap.

Reason: A gap at the baseline is a checkable join error; smooth joins meet the convention.

Check: Inspect each join at the baseline and count those without a gap.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Lowercase bodies touch the baseline and reach the midline within a small tolerance.
- [ ] Capitals sit on the baseline and keep a consistent height across the row.
- [ ] Joins are smooth and start from the exit stroke without sharp corners.
- [ ] Word spaces in sentences are roughly one lowercase o wide and even.
- [ ] Letter shapes are legible; valid style alternatives are accepted.

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