Sight Word Recognition and Tracing Plates: A Combined Worksheet Design

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A bank lists: was (2), saw (1), of (1), off (1). The find grid reads: saw, was, off, of, was. Which word is circled the wrong number of times, and what is the correct count?

Answer: All counts match: was appears twice, saw once, of once, off once. No word is wrong.

Reason: Count each target in the grid: was at positions 2 and 5 gives 2; saw at position 1 gives 1; off at position 3 gives 1; of at position 4 gives 1. Compare each with the bank count.

Check: Recount each word in the grid and write the tally beside the bank count; equal tallies confirm the match.

Task 2

A trace row shows the word of with a dotted outline. The learner's trace has the o sitting on the baseline but rising above the midline, and the f descending below the baseline. Using the convention that x-height is baseline to midline and descenders fall below baseline, which feature fails and what is the fix?

Answer: The o fails the x-height band because it rises above the midline. The fix is to rewrite of once, keeping the o between baseline and midline; the f descender is already correct.

Reason: The convention defines x-height as baseline to midline, so a lowercase o without an ascender should not exceed the midline. The f descender direction is correct, so only the o needs correction.

Check: Compare the o against the midline guide; if any part crosses above it, rewrite the word once and recheck.

Task 3

A plate states a reference style with single-storey a. A learner traces was using a double-storey a but keeps baseline contact and x-height band correct. According to the rubric, is this trace valid?

Answer: Yes, it is valid if the rubric scores feature compliance rather than exact mimicry. The double-storey a meets baseline contact and x-height band, so it is an acceptable alternative.

Reason: The rubric accepts valid letter styles when stated features are met. The reference style is a guide, not a single universal answer, so a different a form can pass if the features hold.

Check: Check baseline contact and x-height band for each letter; if both hold, mark the trace valid and note the style difference.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A find section contains: of, off, of, off, of. The bank states of (3) and off (2). A learner circles all five words. What recognition error occurred, and what count check reveals it?

Answer: The learner circled off words as if they were of, or circled every word without discriminating. The count check reveals it because of should be 3 and off should be 2, but the learner's total is 5 with no separation.

Reason: The bank gives separate counts for of and off. Circling all five words ignores the distinction. Counting each word separately against the bank counts exposes the error.

Check: Tally of and off separately in the learner's circles; compare each tally with the bank count.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Recognition: circled targets match the stated count for each bank word.
- [ ] Discrimination: distractors are similar enough to require letter-by-letter comparison.
- [ ] Tracing: strokes follow the dotted outline without unnecessary lifts.
- [ ] Features: baseline contact, x-height band, and ascender or descender direction are present.
- [ ] Alternatives: valid letter styles are accepted when the stated features are met.
- [ ] Self-check: the learner counts circled words and compares with the bank counts.
- [ ] Layout: recognition and tracing zones are separate and clearly labeled.

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