Spelling Copy-and-Test Worksheet: Dictation Practice with Self-Check

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Copy these words onto blank lines: 'ship', 'cloud', 'train'. Then fold the sheet and write each word from dictation. Check your dictation against the list.

Answer: Correct spellings are s-h-i-p, c-l-o-u-d, t-r-a-i-n. The dictation should match these letter orders.

Reason: Each word is copied once, then written from dictation after the list is hidden. Checking compares letter order from left to right.

Check: Compare each dictation word with the list letter by letter. Mark a tick for an exact match and a cross for any missing, extra, or out-of-order letter.

Task 2

A learner writes 'garden' as 'gardn' on the copy line and 'garden' in the dictation column. Identify the spelling error and state whether the dictation is correct.

Answer: The copy is missing the letter e, so it is incorrect. The dictation is correct because it matches g-a-r-d-e-n.

Reason: The copy is compared with the list and the missing e is found. The dictation is compared separately and matches exactly.

Check: Say the letters of the list word aloud while pointing to each letter in the learner's word. The missing e becomes clear at position five.

Task 3

Using the baseline and midline convention, decide whether a handwritten word is acceptable when the letters sit on the baseline but the letter o does not reach the midline. The word is 'mop'.

Answer: The handwriting is not fully acceptable under the convention because o is an x-height letter and should reach the midline. The spelling m-o-p is correct.

Reason: The convention checks x-height letters against the midline. The letter o is an x-height letter, so its top should reach the midline. Baseline placement alone is not enough for this letter.

Check: Measure from the baseline to the top of the o and compare it with the baseline-to-midline distance on the same line. If the top is clearly below the midline, mark midline placement for practice.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

During dictation, a learner writes 'becaus' for the list word 'because'. The learner then unfolds the sheet and marks the word correct. Explain the error in self-checking and give the correct spelling.

Answer: The self-check is wrong because the final e is missing. The correct spelling is b-e-c-a-u-s-e.

Reason: The learner compared the word as a whole instead of letter by letter. The missing final e is visible when the letters are counted and matched in order.

Check: Count the letters in the list word and in the dictation word. Because has seven letters; becaus has six. The missing letter is the final e.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Spelling: all words match the list in letter order.
- [ ] Spelling: most words match with one or two clear errors.
- [ ] Spelling: several words have missing, extra, or out-of-order letters.
- [ ] Handwriting: letters sit on the baseline and x-height letters reach the midline.
- [ ] Handwriting: most letters sit on the baseline with minor midline variation.
- [ ] Handwriting: letters are legible but baseline or midline placement needs practice.
- [ ] Self-check: learner marks and corrects errors accurately.
- [ ] Self-check: learner needs support to compare letter by letter.

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