Lowercase Stroke Tracing: Build Small Letters from Parts

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A row has three curve strokes. Each start dot is on the midline, and each dotted path bends to the baseline. Trace all three curves and state how many strokes stayed in the x-height zone.

Answer: Three curves traced; all three should stay between midline and baseline, so the count is three.

Reason: A curve starts at the midline and ends at the baseline, so its zone is the x-height zone. Tracing each from its start dot keeps it in that zone.

Check: Count the traced curves and confirm each touches the baseline but not below it; the count should equal three.

Task 2

A row shows one ascender stroke with a start dot at the baseline and a dotted path up to the ascender line. The x-height is given as a hypothetical 8 mm. Trace the ascender and state the height it should reach above the baseline.

Answer: The ascender should reach the ascender line, which is 16 mm above the baseline in this hypothetical example.

Reason: The ascender line is one x-height above the midline, and the midline is one x-height above the baseline, so the ascender line is two x-heights above the baseline. With an 8 mm x-height, that is 16 mm.

Check: Measure from the baseline to the top of the traced stroke; it should equal twice the recorded x-height.

Task 3

A row has a loop stroke and a descender stroke. The loop start dot is on the midline; the descender start dot is also on the midline and its path goes below the baseline. Trace both and state which stroke enters the descender zone.

Answer: The descender enters the descender zone; the loop stays in the x-height zone.

Reason: A loop closes within the x-height zone, while a descender is defined by going below the baseline into the descender zone.

Check: Confirm the loop does not cross the baseline and the descender crosses the baseline once; only the descender should be below the baseline.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Combine a loop body and an ascender stem into the letter d on a new row. The loop body sits between baseline and midline; the ascender stem rises from the loop to the ascender line. Use the same stroke order as the component rows. State the zones for each part and give one check.

Answer: The loop body stays between baseline and midline; the ascender stem rises from the loop to the ascender line. Check that the combined letter uses the same zones as the components and that the start dot was used.

Reason: The letter d is built from a loop body plus an ascender stem attached to it. Keeping the component stroke order and zones makes the combined letter consistent.

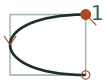
Check: Compare the combined letter to the component rows: loop body in the x-height zone, ascender stem touching the ascender line, start dot used, and stroke order unchanged.

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Task 1 / ordered drawing key

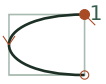
Follow this lesson pen order / print scale 1 / dimensions describe the original drawing

Curve 1



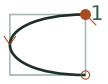
Curve / frame 10 x 8 mm

Curve 2



Curve / frame 10 x 8 mm

Curve 3



Curve / frame 10 x 8 mm

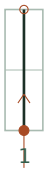
One chosen guide layout, not a handwriting standard. Solid starts; open unshared ends.

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Task 2 / ordered drawing key

Follow this lesson pen order / print scale 1 / dimensions describe the original drawing

Ascender / 16 mm above baseline



Ascender / frame 5 x 16 mm

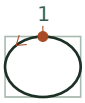
Numbers mark the pen order. Solid starts; open unshared ends. Joined parts can share a start or stop.

Lowercase Stroke Tracing: Build Small Letters from Parts

Task 3 / ordered drawing key

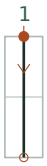
Follow this lesson pen order / print scale 1 / dimensions describe the original drawing

Loop / x-height zone



loop / frame 10 x 8 mm

Descender / below baseline



Descender / frame 5 x 16 mm

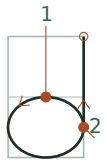
One chosen guide layout, not a handwriting standard. Solid starts; open unshared ends.

Lowercase Stroke Tracing: Build Small Letters from Parts

Task 4 / ordered drawing key

Follow this lesson pen order / print scale 1 / dimensions describe the original drawing

d / loop body followed by rising stem



d / frame 10 x 16 mm

One chosen guide layout, not a handwriting standard. Solid starts; open unshared ends.

Lowercase Stroke Tracing: Build Small Letters from Parts

Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Start dot is used for every traced stroke.
- [ ] Curves stay between baseline and midline.
- [ ] Loops cross themselves once and stay in the x-height zone.
- [ ] Ascenders reach the ascender line.
- [ ] Descenders enter the descender zone below the baseline.
- [ ] Combined letters use the same zones as their component strokes.
- [ ] Stroke order is consistent across rows.
- [ ] Valid alternative styles are accepted if they are consistent and respect the zones.

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