Paired College-Ruled and Wide-Ruled Sheets for Spacing Comparison

Worked example / complete source key

A learner writes a forty-five-word passage on a college-ruled sheet with a hypothetical spacing of 7.1 mm and uses twelve lines. On a wide-ruled sheet with a hypothetical spacing of 8.7 mm, the same passage uses ten lines. Estimate the vertical space used on each sheet and state whether the wider-ruled sheet used fewer lines.

Answer: College-ruled estimate: 12 lines times 7.1 mm equals 85.2 mm. Wide-ruled estimate: 10 lines times 8.7 mm equals 87.0 mm. The wider-ruled sheet used fewer lines, ten instead of twelve, while the estimated vertical space is similar. The x-height should be checked on both sheets against the baseline-to-midline convention.