Draw a Dollar Sign: Stroke Order and Serif Practice Plate

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

In a 20 mm by 30 mm cell with baseline at the bottom and midline halfway up, draw a dollar sign with no serifs. State the stroke order and one check.

Answer: Keep the baseline at the bottom and the midline halfway up the cell. Use inset S-body and bar endpoints so no final stroke touches a cell edge. Draw the upper arc from its upper-right open end around the top toward the left and into the center, then the lower arc toward the lower right and around to an open lower-left end. Add the centered vertical bar extending slightly beyond both arcs. No serifs. Check that the bar crosses the connected S center, both lobes stay open and all ink remains inside the cell.

Reason: The three-stroke order keeps the arcs balanced before the vertical stroke is placed. The midpoint check confirms the vertical stroke is centered.

Check: Measure from the top of the upper arc to the crossing point and from the crossing point to the bottom of the lower arc; the two distances should be equal within your drawing tolerance.

Task 2

Draw two dollar signs in separate cells using the single crossbar serif variant. The cells are 25 mm wide and 35 mm tall as a hypothetical example. Describe how you keep the serifs consistent.

Answer: Draw both signs with the same stroke order and add horizontal serifs of equal length at the top and bottom of each vertical stroke. Keep serif length to about one quarter of the cell width, measured on your own cell.

Reason: Consistency comes from repeating the same serif length and placement in every cell. Measuring the cell width gives a repeatable reference.

Check: Compare the two serifs in each sign by length and placement; they should match each other and not touch the arcs.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

A learner draws a dollar sign where the upper arc closes into a loop and the vertical stroke stops at the arcs. Identify two mistakes and give a fix for each.

Answer: Mistake one: upper arc too closed. Fix: end the upper arc near the center without curling inward. Mistake two: vertical stroke too short. Fix: extend the vertical stroke slightly above and below the arcs.

Reason: A closed upper arc changes the sign into a figure eight, and a short vertical stroke weakens the dollar sign structure. Both fixes restore the intended shape.

Check: Check that the upper arc remains open and that the vertical stroke extends beyond both arcs by a small, equal amount.

Task 4

Plan a practice row of five cells. Cells 1 and 2 are tracing, cells 3 to 5 are freehand. Describe the serif variant you will use and the final check for the row.

Answer: Choose one serif variant, such as bracketed serif, and use it in all five cells. After drawing, check stroke order, arc openness, serif consistency, and that each sign fits its cell without touching the edges.

Reason: A single variant per row makes comparison fair. The final check covers the main rubric points in one pass.

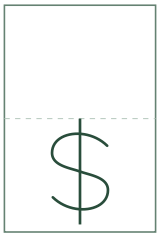
Check: Compare each cell to the step diagram and to the other cells; mark any cell that fails a rubric point and redraw only that cell.

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Task 1 / answers

Dollar sign / selected open S then bar / true cell dimensions / no universal typeface claim

NO SERIF



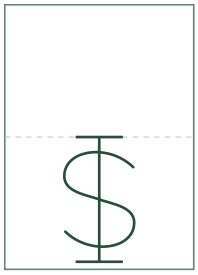
One connected open S body is drawn in upper/lower strokes, then the centered bar. The cell baseline is at bottom and its midline is 15 mm above it. Insets keep all final ink within the cell.

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Task 2 / answers

Dollar sign / selected open S then bar / true cell dimensions / no universal typeface claim

MODEL 1



MODEL 2



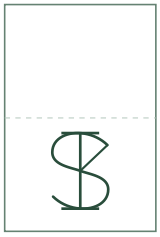
Each cap is one quarter of 25 mm: 6.25 mm. Both top and bottom caps match in the two model cells; they remain clear of the open S arcs.

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Task 3 / answers

Dollar sign / selected open S then bar / true cell dimensions / no universal typeface claim

GIVEN / two errors



CORRECTED



The given closes the upper lobe and stops the bar at the arcs. The corrected S is open and its bar extends 2 mm beyond each arc while remaining inside the cell.

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Task 4 / answers

Dollar sign / selected open S then bar / true cell dimensions / no universal typeface claim



Chosen bracketed variant in all five cells. Only cells 1 and 2 have light actual tracing models; cells 3 to 5 contain guides only. Keep the upper/lower/bar order, then serifs, and inspect your own result. The inset bar stays within the cell.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Stroke order follows upper arc, lower arc, then vertical stroke.
- [ ] Vertical stroke crosses the S at its midpoint.
- [ ] Upper and lower arcs are open and similar in height.
- [ ] Serif variant is consistent across the row.
- [ ] Sign fits within the cell without touching the edges.
- [ ] Valid alternatives: no serif, single crossbar serif, or bracketed serif, if used consistently.

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