Graffiti Word Layout: Spacing, Flow, and Composition

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A three-letter word has letter widths of 20 mm, 22 mm, and 18 mm. Two gaps are each 10 mm. What is the total word width, and does it fit a 100 mm panel with 10 mm margins on each side?

Answer: Total letter width is 60 mm; total gap width is 20 mm; total word width is 80 mm. Available width is 100 mm minus 20 mm, or 80 mm. It fits exactly.

Reason: Add the three letter widths, add the two gaps, then compare with panel width minus both margins.

Check: Re-add 20 plus 22 plus 18 equals 60, and 10 plus 10 equals 20; 60 plus 20 equals 80. Confirm 100 minus 10 minus 10 equals 80.

Task 2

You plan four letters with a hypothetical x-height of 24 mm. You want three normal gaps of half x-height. What is each gap in millimeters, and what is the total gap width?

Answer: Each gap is 12 mm; total gap width is 36 mm.

Reason: Half of 24 mm is 12 mm. Three gaps of 12 mm add to 36 mm.

Check: Multiply 24 by 0.5 to get 12, then multiply 12 by 3 to get 36. Confirm the units are millimeters.

Task 3

A word panel is 150 mm wide with 15 mm margins. Your letters total 90 mm and your gaps total 40 mm. Is the word too wide, too narrow, or exact? Show the arithmetic.

Answer: Available width is 150 minus 30, or 120 mm. Word width is 90 plus 40, or 130 mm. The word is 10 mm too wide.

Reason: Compare total word width with panel width minus margins.

Check: Recompute 150 minus 15 minus 15 equals 120; 90 plus 40 equals 130; 130 minus 120 equals 10 mm over.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

You want a flow note for a five-letter word. The slant line is consistent for four letters, but the last letter is upright. Describe a valid annotation and one spacing check you would record.

Answer: Annotation example: 'Last letter upright for emphasis; first four letters share the slant line.' Spacing check example: record each baseline gap as a fraction of x-height, such as half x-height, and confirm the total width fits the margins.

Reason: Flow can vary if the change is intentional and annotated. Spacing remains checkable at the baseline using the defined convention.

Check: Confirm the annotation names which letters change and why, and confirm every gap note uses one consistent unit.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Baseline, midline, margins, and x-height are labeled with consistent units.
- [ ] Spacing ticks are marked on the baseline and gaps are recorded as fractions of x-height or millimeters.
- [ ] Flow is shown with a baseline path and slant line, or intentional variation is annotated.
- [ ] Total width arithmetic is shown and matches the panel fit check.
- [ ] The word is readable and balanced, with valid stylistic alternatives accepted.

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