Draw the Letter E: Block and Serif Stroke Construction

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a block E with height 30 mm, width 15 mm, and uniform stroke width 3 mm. Use equal arm lengths. After drawing, measure the middle arm position and state whether it is at half height.

Answer: The middle arm should be at 15 mm above the baseline. If measured within 2 mm of 15 mm, it is acceptable.

Reason: Half of 30 mm is 15 mm. The middle arm is placed at half the letter height to create balanced proportions. Equal arm lengths and uniform stroke width are style choices for this block E.

Check: Measure height from baseline to midline; measure middle arm height from baseline; compare to half height. Measure stroke width at three points and confirm within 1 mm of 3 mm.

Task 2

Draw a serif E with height 40 mm, width 22 mm, stem width 5 mm, arm thickness 3 mm, and serif extension 2 mm on each side of the stem. Add serifs at the top and bottom of the stem and at the right ends of the arms. Check stem serif symmetry.

Answer: Stem serifs should extend 2 mm left and 2 mm right of the stem, making the total serif width 9 mm (5 mm stem plus 2 mm each side). Left and right extensions should be equal within 1 mm.

Reason: Serifs are short strokes perpendicular to the main stroke. Symmetry on the stem ensures a balanced look. The hypothetical values are examples; actual measurements should be taken from your drawing.

Check: Measure left and right extensions of the top stem serif; they should be equal within 1 mm. Repeat for bottom stem serif. Check that arm serifs are present and proportional.

Task 3

Draw a block E with height 50 mm and width 25 mm. Choose a middle arm that is 20 percent shorter than the top and bottom arms. State the length of the middle arm and check that the letter remains clearly an E.

Answer: Top and bottom arms are 25 mm long. The middle arm is 20 percent shorter, so 25 mm minus 5 mm equals 20 mm. The letter should still be clearly an E because the middle arm is present and proportional.

Reason: A shorter middle arm is a valid stylistic alternative. Twenty percent of 25 mm is 5 mm, so the middle arm is 20 mm. This keeps the letter readable while following a consistent style rule.

Check: Measure top, middle, and bottom arm lengths. Confirm middle arm is 20 mm within 1 mm. Visually confirm the letter is recognizable as an E.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Draw a serif E with height 35 mm and width 18 mm. Use a stem width of 4 mm and arm thickness of 2.5 mm. Add angled serifs at the right ends of the arms, keeping them small (about 1.5 mm extension). Check that the serifs are consistent and do not overlap.

Answer: Angled serifs are acceptable if they are consistent in angle and size. Each arm serif should extend about 1.5 mm beyond the arm end. Check that no serif overlaps another stroke and that the letter is clearly an E.

Reason: The rubric allows valid alternatives such as angled serifs. Consistency and proportionality are key. The hypothetical extension of 1.5 mm is small relative to the 35 mm height.

Check: Measure serif extensions at each arm end; confirm they are approximately equal within 0.5 mm. Check visually for overlaps. Confirm stem width is about 4 mm and arm thickness about 2.5 mm.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Letter is clearly recognizable as a capital E.
- [ ] Height and width are measured and consistent with the chosen style.
- [ ] Middle arm is positioned at approximately half the letter height (within a few millimeters).
- [ ] Arms are parallel to the baseline and stem is vertical.
- [ ] Stroke thickness is uniform for block style or appropriately differentiated for serif style.
- [ ] Serifs, if used, are proportional, symmetric on the stem, and consistent.
- [ ] Valid stylistic alternatives (e.g., shorter middle arm, angled serifs) are applied consistently and documented.

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