Guitar Chord Grid Paper: Diagram Chords Clearly

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a diagram for a hypothetical chord: string 6 open, string 5 fret 2, string 4 fret 2, string 3 fret 1, string 2 open, string 1 open. Use leftmost-is-string-6.

Answer: Above nut: O over string 6, O over string 2, O over string 1. Grid: dot string 5 fret 2; dot string 4 fret 2; dot string 3 fret 1.

Reason: Each fretted string gets one dot in its cell. Open strings get O above the nut. No string is muted, so no X.

Check: Count six strings and six marks. Confirm dots are between fret lines. Confirm left-to-right order is 6,5,4,3,2,1.

Task 2

A student draws a dot on the first horizontal fret line for string 3. Explain the error and correct it for a hypothetical chord where string 3 is fretted at fret 1.

Answer: The dot should be in the cell between the nut and the first fret line, not on the line. Move the dot into that cell for string 3.

Reason: Fret 1 is the space below the nut. A dot on a line does not identify a fret cell.

Check: Verify the dot is centered between two horizontal lines and directly between the vertical lines for string 3 and its neighbor.

Task 3

Draw a hypothetical barre chord: strings 6 through 1 all fretted at fret 3 with one barre. Show the barre and any open or muted marks.

Answer: Draw a thick horizontal line across all six strings in the fret 3 cell. No O or X marks are needed because every string is fretted by the barre.

Reason: A barre covers multiple strings at one fret, so one thick line replaces separate dots. Every string has a mark through the barre.

Check: Confirm the barre spans all six vertical lines and sits between the fret 2 and fret 3 lines. Count six strings covered.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Using a blank chord box with six vertical lines and four horizontal lines below the nut, sketch a hypothetical chord: string 6 X, string 5 fret 3, string 4 fret 2, string 3 open, string 2 fret 1, string 1 X. Then state one check you would perform.

Answer: Above nut: X over string 6, O over string 3, X over string 1. Grid: dot string 5 fret 3; dot string 4 fret 2; dot string 2 fret 1. Check: every string has exactly one mark.

Reason: Muted strings get X, open gets O, fretted get dots. The blank box uses the same string order.

Check: List the six strings and their marks; confirm no string has two marks and none is missing.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Six vertical lines are present and evenly spaced.
- [ ] Leftmost line is labeled or understood as string 6; rightmost as string 1.
- [ ] A thicker nut line is at the top, with fret lines below.
- [ ] Each string has exactly one mark: O, X, dot, or barre.
- [ ] Dots sit in cells between fret lines, not on lines.
- [ ] Open and muted marks sit above the correct string line.
- [ ] Barre, if used, is drawn as a thick line across affected strings.
- [ ] Any alternative convention is stated clearly beside the diagram.

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