

*x-height* *x-height*

X-Height is an old printing term which refers to the height of the lowercase letters. Calligraphers measure X-height by keeping the edge of the nib horizontal to the writing line and marking 'steps' or 'nib widths' as shown above. The height of the lowercase letters changes depending on which size nib is used.

Ascenders—this is any stroke that starts above the top of the writing line ie: b, d, h

*b d f h*

Minuscule—refers to lower case letters

*g p q y*

Descenders—this is any stroke that ends below the bottom writing line ie: g, p, q, y

*minimum*

Pen angle—This is the angle that the nib must be held in relation to the writing line. This can be anything between 0° and 70°. This angle should be kept as constant as possible

*A B C D E F G*

Majuscule—refers to upper case letters