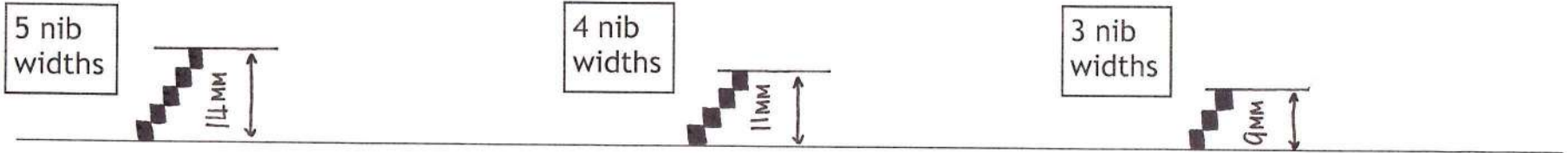


X-Height

This is an old printing term which refers to the height of the letters you are writing. Each script has its own x-height & this along with the pen angle gives the script its distinctive character.



Calligraphers measure x-height by keeping the flat edge of the nib horizontal to the writing line and marking 'steps' or 'nib widths' as shown here. The measurement between the bottom writing line & the top nib mark will be how high your writing lines need to be. Have a go at making your own steps next to mine

You will need to measure your x-height for each different size nib that you use, this will ensure that your letters are in the correct proportion. The example shows the Italic script (x-height is 5 nib widths) this has been done in a No1 nib and a No2 nib to show you the difference in size

isabelle

5 nib widths—No1 Nib

isabelle

5 nib widths—No2 Nib

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