The rules when writing characters (with examples) are as follows:

1. Write from top to bottom, and left to right (三)
2. Horizontal before vertical (一 in 十)
3. Character-spanning strokes last (丶 in 聿)
4. Diagonals right-to-left before diagonals left-to-right (丿 in 文)
5. Center before outside in vertically symmetrical characters (亅 in 水)
6. Enclosures before contents (put people inside first, then close the door) (口 in 回)
7. Left vertical stroke before enclosing stroke (丶 in 钩)
8. Bottom enclosures last (丶 in 道)
9. Dots and minor strokes last (丶 in 玉)