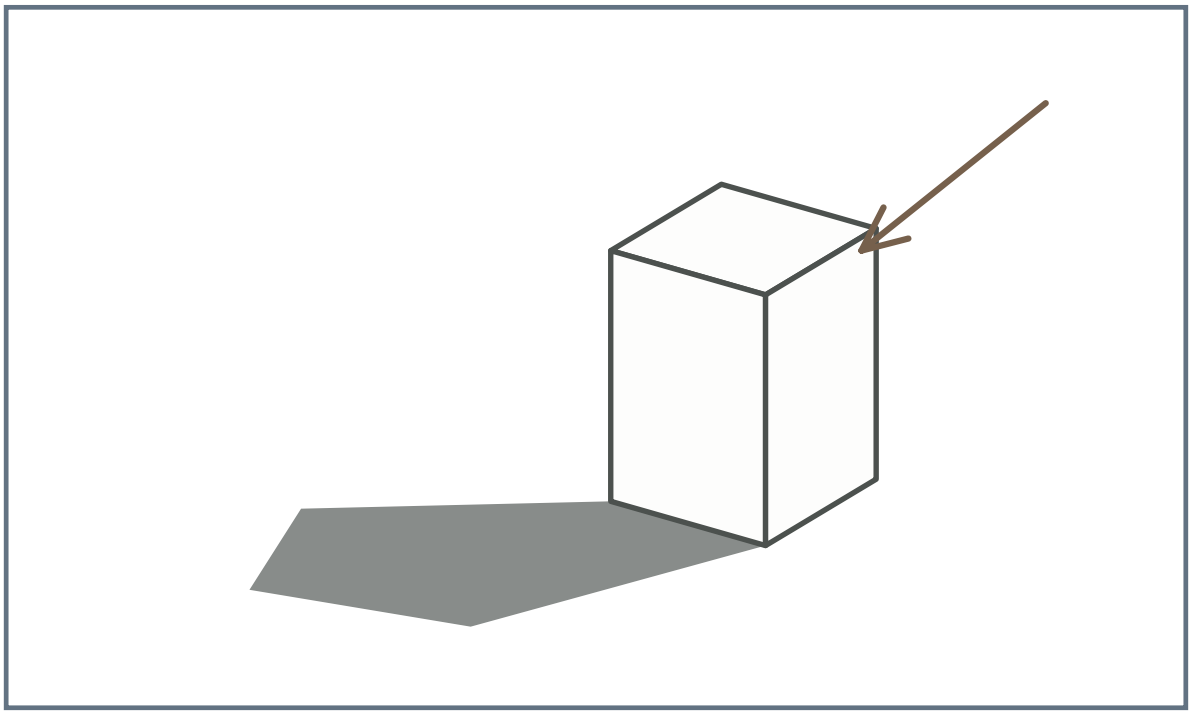
Draw Cast Shadows

Original prompt

Task 1 — Light direction. Draw a simple block on a surface lit from the upper right. Add only its cast shadow, pointing correctly away from the light.



Answer

The cast shadow lies to the lower left of the block, opposite the upper-right light, with its long axis pointing away from the light.

Reasoning

The shadow must fall on the side away from the light; upper-right light therefore throws a lower-left shadow.

Check

Check that the shadow is on the opposite side from the light and that its long axis points away from the light source.

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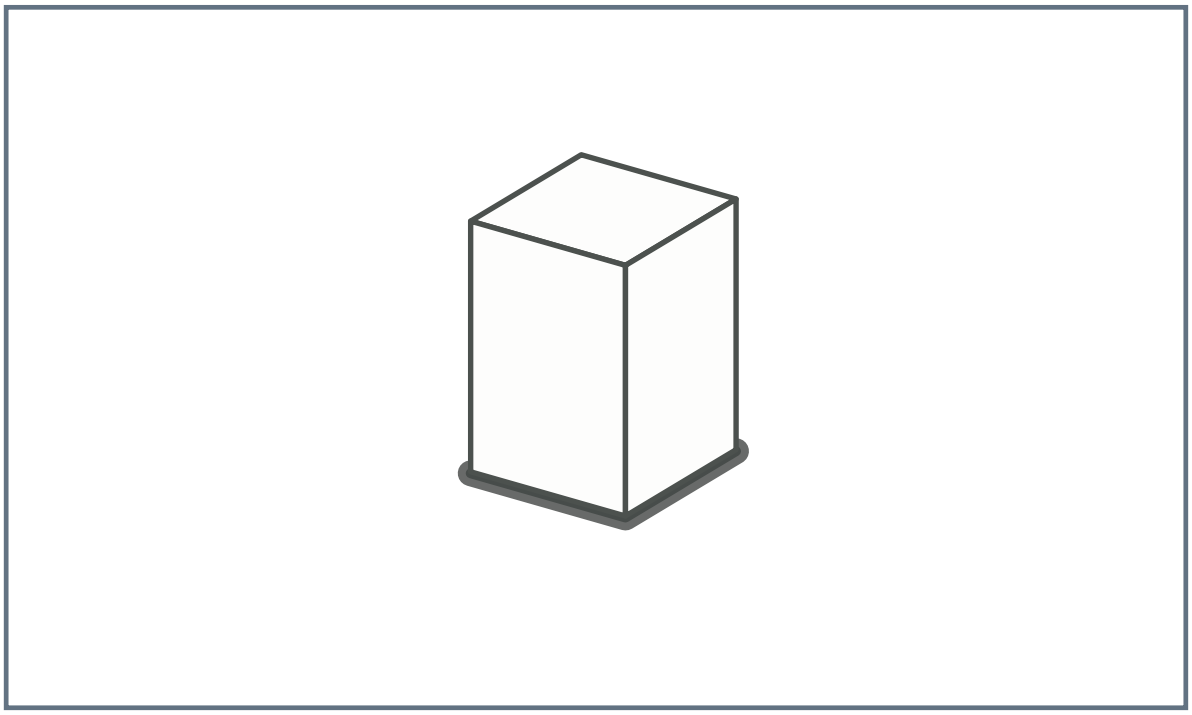
Answer I Task 2 of 4 I A4

Original prompt

Task 2 — Contact shadow. Draw a small box resting on a table and add a tight, dark contact shadow where it meets the surface, without extending a long cast shadow yet.



Answer

A narrow, dark band hugs the base of the box, sharpest where the box meets the table, making the box look seated rather than floating.

Reasoning

The narrow dark strip shows exactly where the box meets the table. Keeping it tight to the base isolates the contact cue for this task.

Check

Check that the band is narrow, dark and sharp at the base and that the box no longer looks like it is floating.

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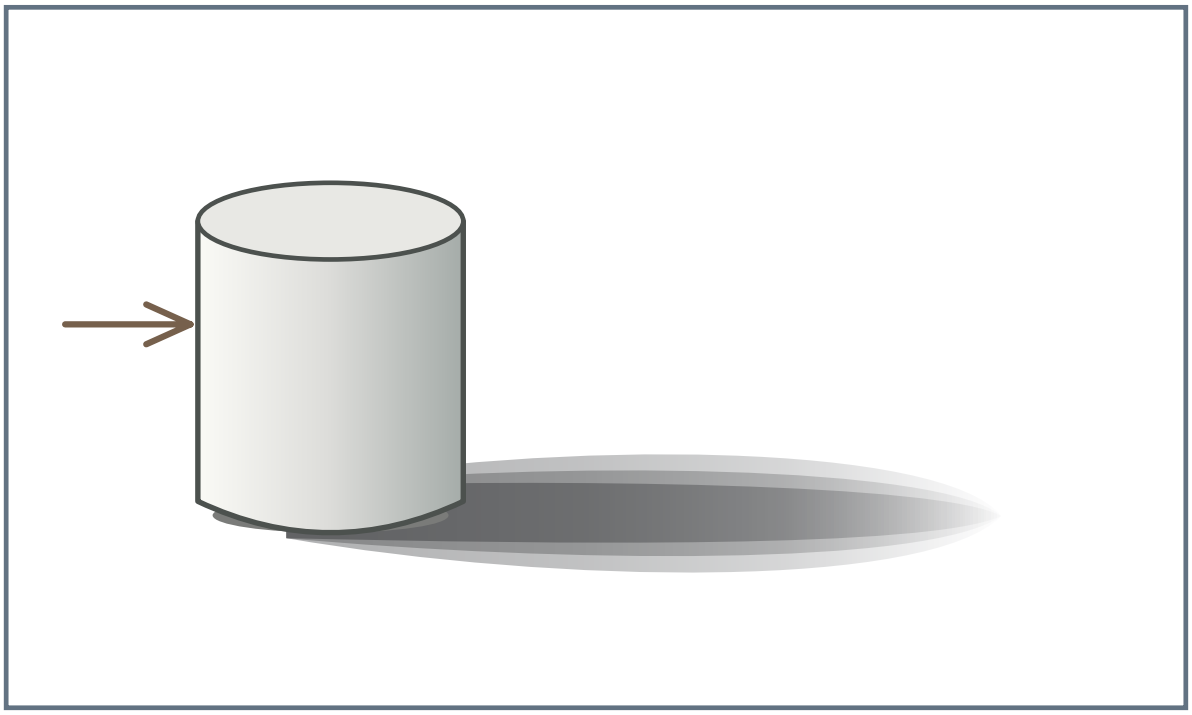
Task 3 — Falloff. Draw a cylinder lit from the left and give it a full cast shadow that is dark and sharp near the base and lighter and softer toward its far end.



Answer

The cast shadow extends to the right of the cylinder, dark and sharp-edged at the contact and gradually lighter and softer toward the far tip.

Reasoning

The grading makes the shadow's distance from the base visible. The near shadow meets the object, and the lighter, softer far portion models a broad light.

Check

Check that the darkest, sharpest part touches the object and that the far end is visibly lighter and softer.

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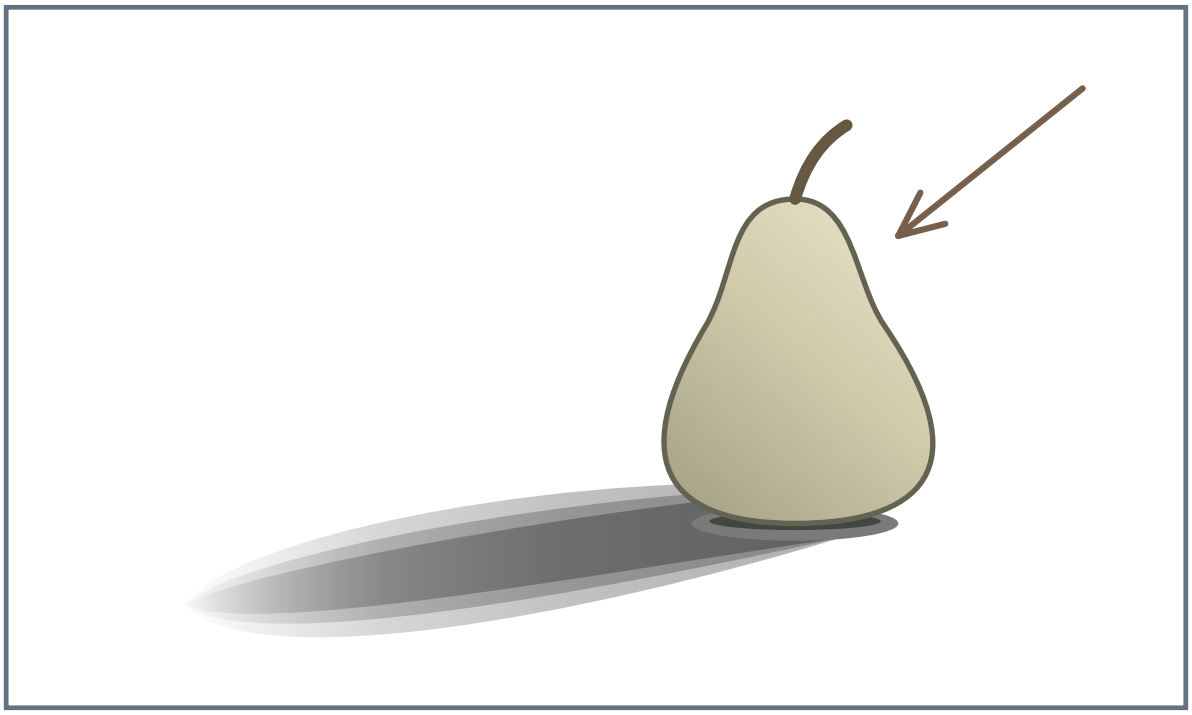
Task 4 — Combine. Draw a small object of your choice on a surface, choose one light direction, and show both the contact shadow and a graded cast shadow with correct falloff.



Answer

The chosen object is a pear lit from the upper right. A narrow dark contact touches the bottom of the pear, and the cast shadow extends to the lower left. The shadow is darker and sharper near the pear and becomes lighter and softer toward its tip.

Reasoning

A convincing shadow combines all three lessons: correct light direction, an anchoring contact shadow, and graded falloff.

Check

Check all three: shadow points away from the light, darkest sharp edge touches the object, and the far end is lighter and softer.