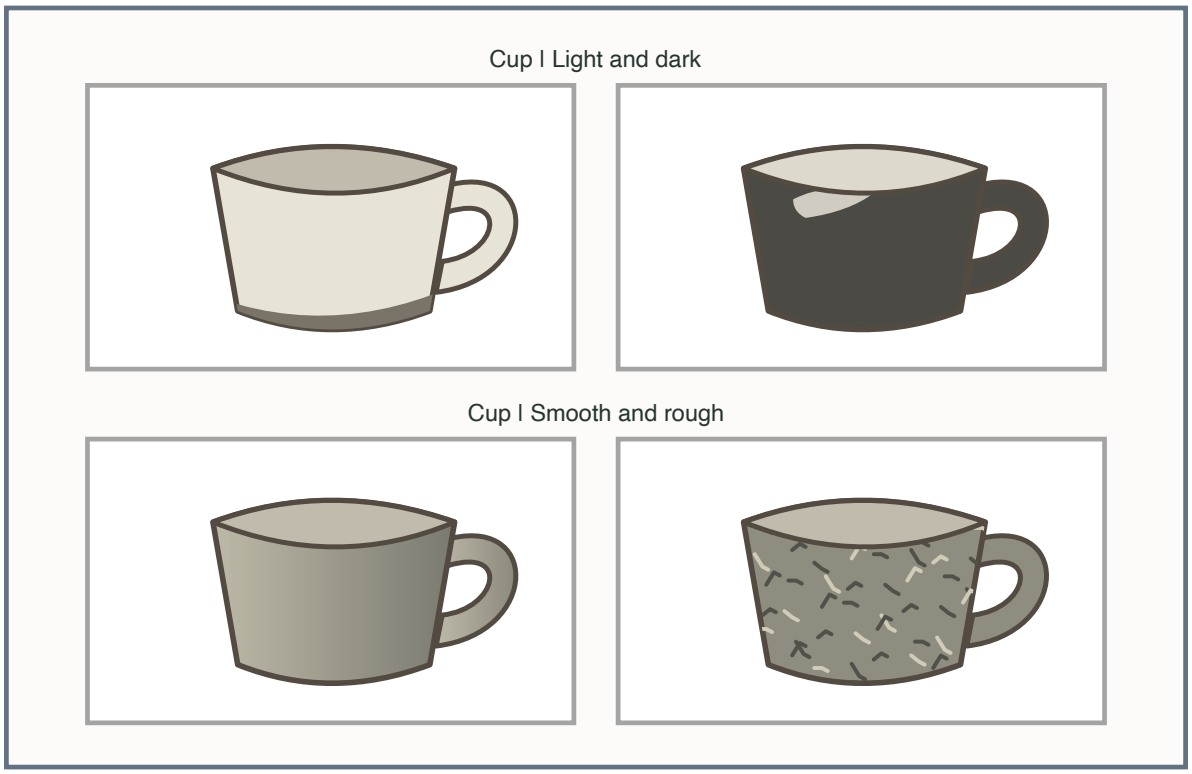
Draw Contrast

Reference | Worked example | LETTER

Original prompt

Worked example: a light-dark pair and a texture pair for a simple cup.



Answer

Light-dark pair: draw the same cup twice. In the left box, draw the cup with a light body and only a thin dark shadow at the base. In the right box, draw the same cup with a dark body and a light rim. The two boxes should look clearly different in value. Texture pair: draw the same cup twice again. In the left box, draw the cup with smooth, even shading and clean edges. In the right box, draw the same cup with rough, broken marks and an uneven surface. The two boxes should look clearly different in texture.

Reasoning

The subject stays the same so the viewer compares value or texture, not shape. The light-dark pair uses one mostly light version and one mostly dark version. The texture pair uses one smooth version and one rough version. A useful check is to step back: if the two boxes in a pair look almost the same, the contrast is too weak and should be strengthened.

Check

Squint at the plate or step back a few paces. In each pair, the two boxes should still look clearly different. If they blend together, increase the difference in value or texture.