Tone a Drawing

Original prompt

Task 1: Draw a value-scale strip of five even patches running from lightest to darkest, then check it by squinting.



Five even values from light to dark

Answer

Five equal patches step smoothly from lightest on the left to darkest on the right, with each patch filled evenly and each step clearly different from its neighbours.

Reasoning

Even patches and clearly separated steps make the strip a reliable reference for judging tones later.

Check

Squint at the strip: the patches should read as a smooth progression with no repeated or jumping steps.

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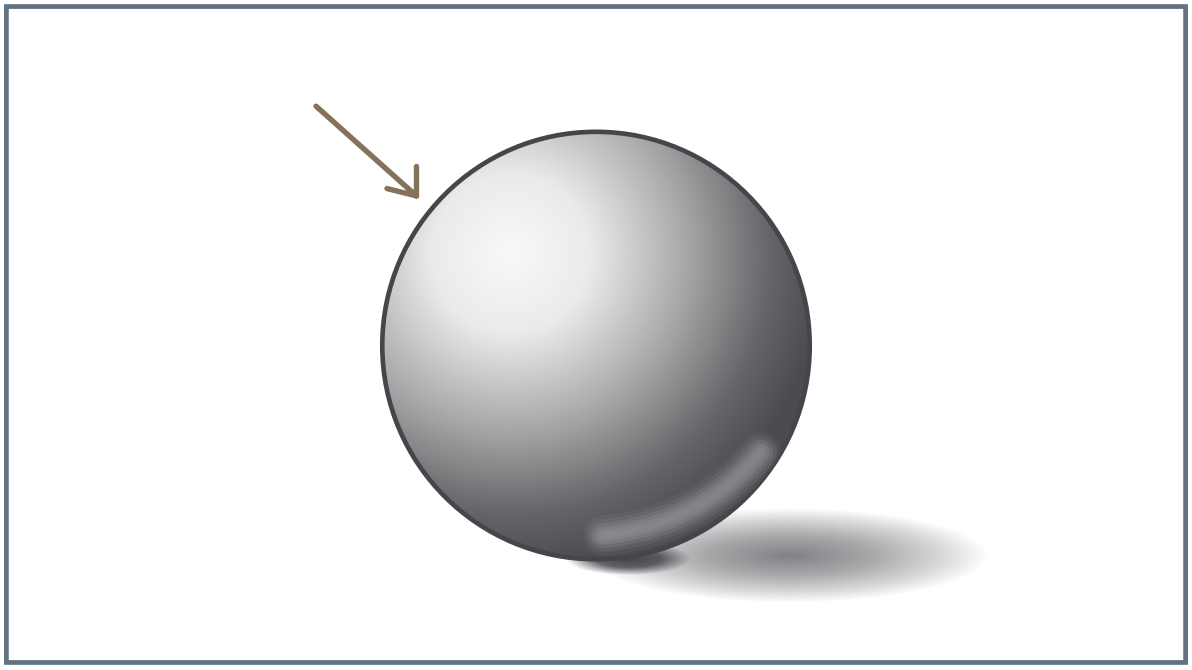
Task 2: Tone a sphere lit from the upper left, using your strip to judge the light, middle and dark values.



Answer

The upper-left surface stays light, the middle is a soft mid value, the lower-right is darkest, and a faint reflected light sits along the lower edge with soft turning edges.

Reasoning

Placing values according to the light direction and comparing them to the strip keeps the shading consistent and the form readable.

Check

Squint at the sphere: it should read as round, and its tones should match the strip's steps.

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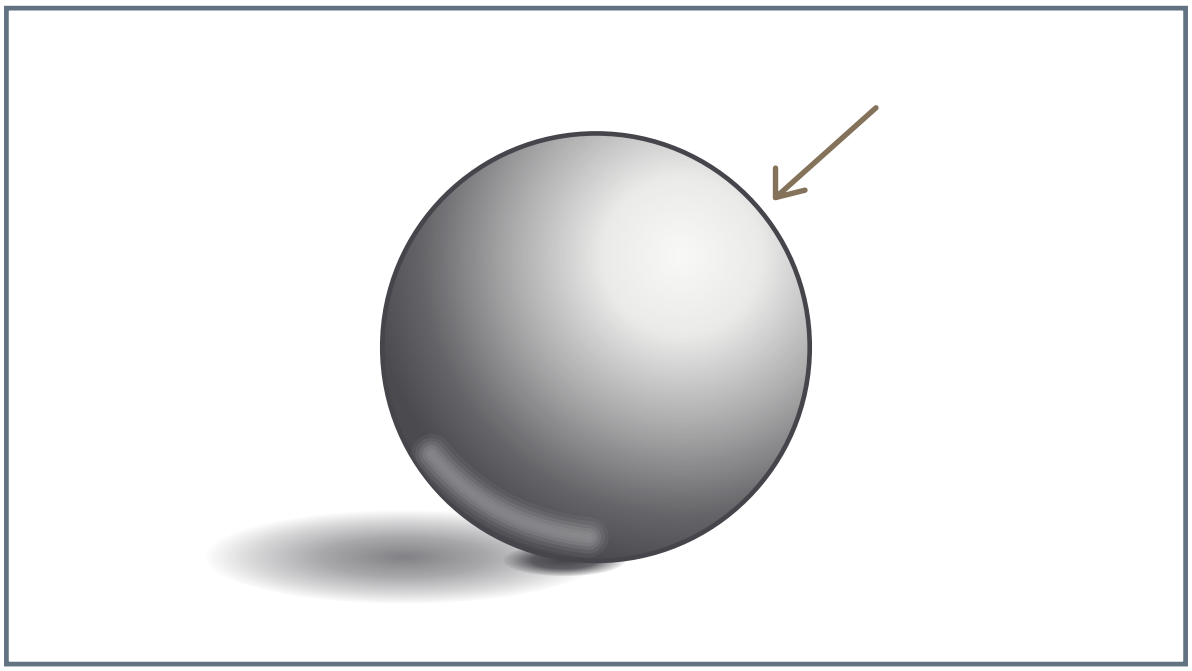
Task 3: Redraw the sphere reference, this time with the light coming from the upper right, and adjust the tones accordingly.



Answer

The upper-right surface is now lightest, the lower-left is darkest, and the reflected light sits along the lower edge on the shadow side, with soft turning edges throughout.

Reasoning

Changing the light direction moves the light and dark sides to the opposite side while the middle value and reflected light follow the new shadow.

Check

Squint at the redrawn sphere: the light side should clearly face the new light direction and the form should still read as round.

Tone a Drawing

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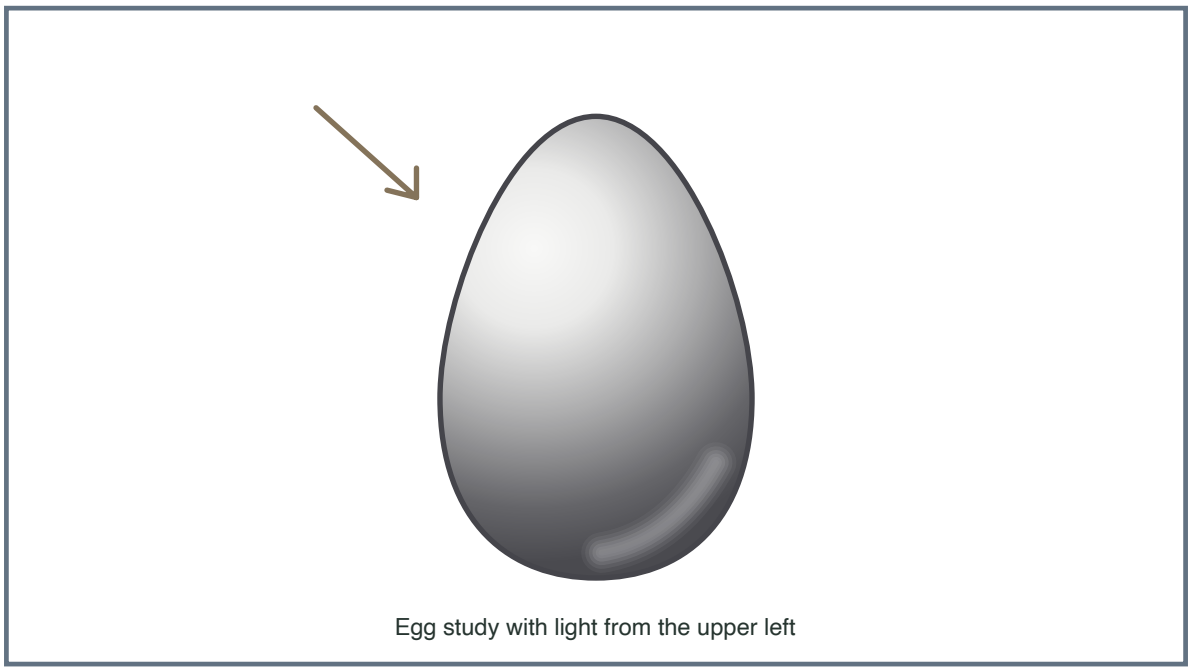
Task 4: Tone a simple rounded form of your choice, such as a cylinder or an egg, using the strip and the same light-and-check method.



Egg study with light from the upper left

Answer

Use the egg in the model answer as one example. The upper left stays light, the middle turns gradually toward a deeper lower-right shadow, and a faint reflected band sits near the lower edge on that side. Keep the value changes soft and use the strip to compare light, middle and dark areas.

Reasoning

The same observation, layering and checking method applies to any rounded form, so the tones describe its curvature consistently.

Check

Compare the egg's bright upper left, middle and darker lower right with your value strip. Squint to check that the egg still reads as a solid form and that the faint reflected band does not compete with the lit side.