Charcoal Drawing Pencils

Reference | Comparison chart | LETTER

Use this comparison chart to test the charcoal pencils you actually have. Make the same line and shaded patch with each pencil, then compare edge, tone and blending. Keep the pencil names on your sheet because each product range labels its own grades.

Material or grade	Where to start	What to check
Light charcoal pencil	Start with the lightest trial in the named range	Compare a short line and a small patch under one light.
Medium charcoal pencil	Test an intermediate patch and trial blend	Keep one boundary crisp to check the blend.
Dark charcoal pencil	Try a strong shadow or a narrow accent	Check tone and whether a well-shaped point makes the edge you need.

Read the grade label

Some charcoal pencil ranges use the names Light, Medium and Dark. Those names identify alternatives within that range. Read any distinct hardness label on the barrel before comparing pencils. A tone label does not measure hardness.

Use one set of controlled marks and compare the real results under the same light.

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Reference | Worked test | LETTER

Original prompt

Compare Light, Medium and Dark pencil labels. Try a mark of equal length with each and mark how the three results differ under the same light.

Printed examples illustrate mark types. Make your own samples to compare materials.

Light sample



Medium sample



Dark sample



Answer

The example chart records the three printed labels and illustrates a light, middle and dark mark. A valid personal result labels all three marks and reports the apparent tones in the order you see them.

Reasoning

A fair comparison changes the pencil while keeping paper, length and handling as similar as you can.

Check

Compare the samples on one sheet. Note any labels whose marks look closer together than the example suggests.