Clothes Drawing: Garment Silhouettes and Fold Cues

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a pair of pants laid flat. Use a waist width of 5 cm and an outseam length of 12 cm (waist to hem). Add two compression folds behind each knee and one gravity fold from the waist. Describe your landmark checks.

Answer: A flat pants outline with a 5 cm waist, two leg tubes tapering to about 2 cm at each ankle, a crotch curve about 2 cm deep as a chosen hypothetical example, two short compression folds behind each knee, and one vertical gravity fold from the waist center. Landmarks: waist corners level, ankle widths equal, outseam lengths equal within one finger-width.

Reason: The waist and outseam set the box. The crotch curve separates the legs. Compression folds belong at the knee bend, and the gravity fold hangs from the waist support. Checking paired landmarks catches asymmetry before folds are added.

Check: Measure waist width and both outseam lengths with a ruler. Confirm each knee has two compression folds with hooks pointing toward the bend, and the single waist gravity fold is present with its hook pointing up.

Task 2

Draw a jacket with a 7 cm shoulder width and 10 cm hip length. Add a collar line, two tension folds from the shoulder to the chest, and one gravity fold hanging from the waist toward the front hem. Explain why each fold is placed where it is.

Answer: A jacket outline with a 7 cm shoulder line, slight taper to the waist, and 10 cm length to the hip. A collar line about 2 cm below the neck opening. Two short tension folds radiate from the shoulders toward the chest (one from each shoulder), and one vertical gravity fold hangs from the waist support down toward the front hem center, with its hook pointing up toward the waist support. Tension folds show fabric pulled from the shoulders; the gravity fold shows the lower jacket hanging from the waist support.

Reason: The shoulder width and hip length set the box. Tension folds radiate from the shoulder pull points toward the chest; the gravity fold hangs from the waist support toward the hem. Checking paired landmarks catches asymmetry before folds are added.

Check: Verify shoulder width is 7 cm and length is 10 cm. Check that each tension fold hook points toward the shoulder and the gravity fold hook points up toward the waist (its support).

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Original tasks 3 / complete keys

Task 3

Redraw the shirt from the worked example but change one sleeve to be bent at the elbow. Keep the same 6 cm shoulder width and 9 cm length. Add tension and compression folds for the bent sleeve, and state how you checked the change.

Answer: The shirt silhouette stays 6 cm by 9 cm. The bent sleeve shortens visually by about 1 cm and gains two tension folds radiating from the elbow and one compression fold behind the bend. The straight sleeve keeps its gravity folds. Check: shoulder width and hem length unchanged; bent sleeve folds have hooks pointing toward the elbow; straight sleeve folds point up.

Reason: Changing one sleeve tests whether folds follow behavior rather than copying. A bent elbow creates a pull point and a compression zone, so fold types must change there while the rest of the garment stays consistent.

Check: Compare the redraw to the worked example: measure shoulder width and length, confirm the bent sleeve has both tension and compression folds, and confirm the straight sleeve still has gravity folds.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Create a fold-cue reference panel for three garments: shirt, pants, and jacket. For each, list one pull point, one compression point, and one gravity support, then draw one fold for each cause. Use the single-line-with-hook convention.

Answer: Panel with three rows. Shirt: pull point at the shoulder seam, compression point at the elbow bend, gravity support at the shoulder seam. Draw one tension fold radiating from the shoulder toward the chest with its hook pointing toward the shoulder; one compression fold behind the elbow with its hook pointing toward the bend; one vertical gravity fold from the shoulder seam downward with its hook pointing up toward the shoulder. Pants: pull point at the waist center, compression point behind the knee, gravity support at the waist. Draw one tension fold from the waist center toward the hip with its hook pointing toward the waist; one compression fold behind the knee with its hook pointing toward the bend; one vertical gravity fold from the waist downward with its hook pointing up toward the waist. Jacket: pull point at the shoulder seam, compression point at the elbow bend, gravity support at the waist. Draw one tension fold from the shoulder toward the chest with its hook pointing toward the shoulder; one compression fold behind the elbow with its hook pointing toward the bend; one vertical gravity fold from the waist toward the hem with its hook pointing up toward the waist. As a practice convention, each fold is drawn shorter than the garment section it crosses.

Reason: A reference panel organizes fold causes by garment, making it easier to choose folds during drawing. Naming the cause before drawing prevents decorative or random folds.

Check: For each garment, confirm three folds are present, each hook points toward the named cause, and each fold's placement matches the stated fabric behavior; fold length is a stylistic choice, not a requirement.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Silhouette is closed and readable as the intended garment type.
- [ ] Key landmarks (shoulders, waist, hem, openings) are placed and paired within one finger-width.
- [ ] At least three fold cues are present, each with a clear cause: pull, compression, or gravity.
- [ ] Fold lines use the single-line-with-hook convention or a valid alternative with clear direction.
- [ ] Final drawing is free of unnecessary construction lines and has a consistent outer line weight.

Reflection: What did you check, what did you change, and what will you try next?