Walking Figure Drawing: Stride, Arm Swing, and Weight Shift

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a walking figure with a stride of one and a half head heights, left leg forward, and a weight shift over the left foot. State your proportion convention.

Answer: A figure with the left foot forward by one and a half head heights, the right arm forward, the left arm back, and the pelvis shifted toward the left-foot vertical line by a small chosen amount.

Reason: The stride is shorter than the worked example, so the back knee bends more. Arm opposition pairs the left leg with the right arm. Weight shift follows the supporting left foot, which is the forward foot in this stride phase.

Check: Measure the stride horizontally; confirm the right arm is forward; draw a vertical line above the left foot and check the head is near it.

Task 2

Draw a walking figure with a stride of two head heights but no arm swing. Then add arm swing and explain the change.

Answer: The first figure has legs in stride but arms hanging. The second adds right arm back and left arm forward if the right leg is forward.

Reason: Without arm swing the pose reads as static or unnatural. Adding opposition restores walking rhythm.

Check: Compare the two drawings: the second should show the forward leg paired with the opposite back arm.

Task 3

Draw a walking figure where the weight shift is too large, then correct it. Use a hypothetical offset of one head height for the error and half a head height for the fix.

Answer: The error figure leans far past the supporting foot; the corrected figure shifts the pelvis only half a head height toward the supporting-foot line.

Reason: A large offset looks like falling. A small offset keeps the head near the supporting foot.

Check: Draw vertical lines above the supporting foot in both drawings and compare head positions.

Walking Figure Drawing: Stride, Arm Swing, and Weight Shift

Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Draw a walking figure with a stride of two head heights and a shoulder tilt opposite the pelvis tilt. Label all chosen values as hypothetical examples.

Answer: A figure with right leg forward, left arm forward, pelvis tilted slightly up on the swinging side, and shoulder line tilted slightly down on the supporting side.

Reason: Opposite tilts create a natural counter-rotation. Labeling values keeps the drawing checkable and honest.

Check: Check that the shoulder tilt and pelvis tilt are opposite and small; confirm labels are present.

Walking Figure Drawing: Stride, Arm Swing, and Weight Shift

Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Stride is measurable and consistent with the stated convention.
- [ ] Arms oppose the legs on the same side.
- [ ] Weight shift places the head near the supporting-foot line.
- [ ] Shoulder and pelvis tilts are small and readable.
- [ ] Construction lines are removed or clearly subordinate.
- [ ] Any chosen numerical values are labeled as hypothetical examples.

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