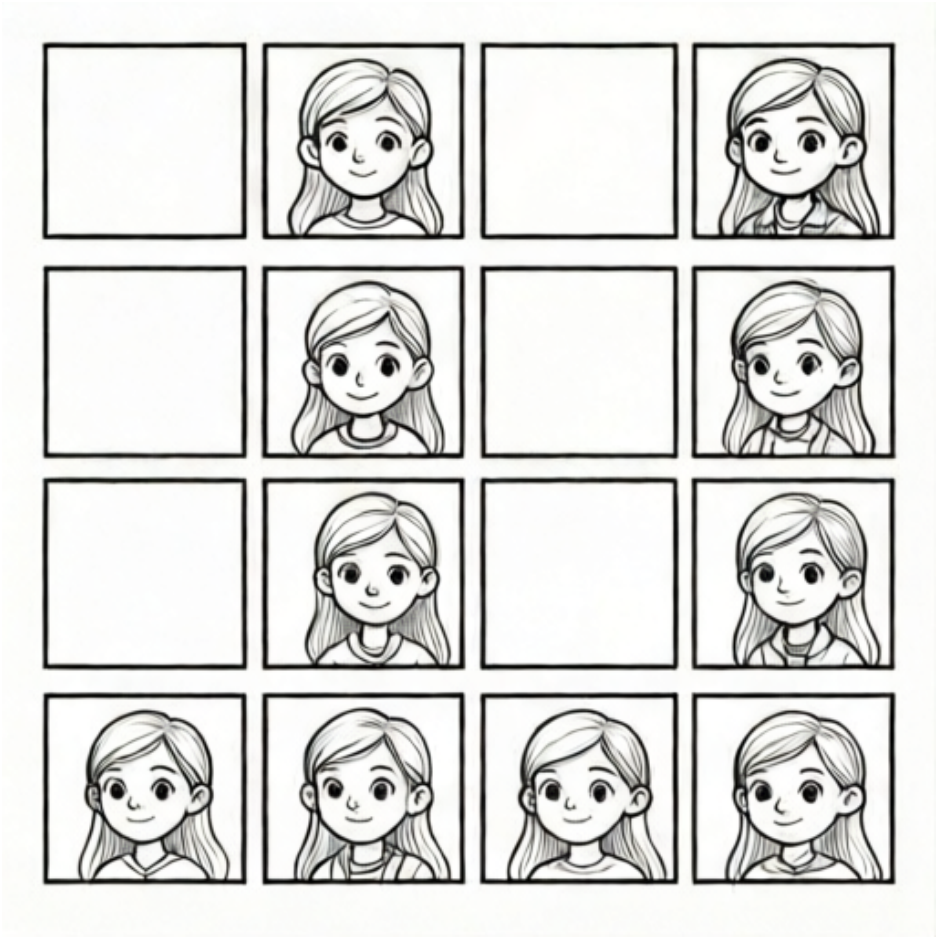
Thumbnail Sketching for Cartoon Ideas: A Prompt-Based Practice Guide

Ordinary topic reference / separately checked pixels



Thumbnail Sketching for Cartoon Ideas: A Prompt-Based Practice Guide

Original worked example / unchanged complete key

Prompt: Base idea: a round character holding a balloon. Create two thumbnails by changing expression and one other checklist item (pose, prop, or setting).

Answer: Thumbnail 1: surprised face (wide eyes on midline), holding a balloon, standing with arms up; change notes: expression surprised, pose arms up. Thumbnail 2: sleepy face (half-closed eyes), holding a tiny flag, sitting on a low stool; change notes: expression sleepy, prop flag. Both use the stick-figure convention with circle head, midline eyes, baseline feet. Score each thumbnail on all four criteria: distinctness 2, action clarity 2, variation count 2 (two checklist changes each), convention use 2 = 8 out of 8.