Ear Drawing Easy: Outline, Inner Folds, and Lobe Construction

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw only the outer outline of an ear on a 10 cm by 10 cm area. Use a tilted oval, mark the baseline and midline, and replace the oval with three arcs. Leave the lobe area open. Do not add folds.

Answer: A tilted oval outline with a marked baseline and midline, refined into top, back, and front arcs. The lobe area remains open. The outline is taller than wide and leans back at the top.

Reason: This isolates the contour decision. A tilted oval prevents a flat circle, and the three arcs create a natural ear shape before folds are added.

Check: Measure the height and width of your outline. The height should be greater than the width. Confirm the top leans back and the front curve dips inward near the open lobe area.

Task 2

Inside a finished outline, draw the helix band and the antihelix split. The helix should follow the top and back and stop before the lobe. The antihelix should start in the top third and split into two branches. Check that the gap between helix and antihelix is roughly even along the top.

Answer: A helix band with a narrow top and slightly wider back, plus an antihelix split near the top third. The front branch fades before the lobe, and the back branch stops above the lobe. The gap is even along the top.

Reason: The helix and antihelix are the main inner folds. Placing the split in the top third keeps the folds readable and prevents the antihelix from crowding the lobe.

Check: Compare the gap at three points along the top: front, middle, and back. The gaps should be similar. Confirm the split is above the midline and the front branch does not reach the lobe.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Draw three lobe shapes below the same back antihelix branch: one shallow U, one rounded triangle, and one too-wide oval. Label which two are valid and which one needs correction. Use the baseline-to-midline convention to judge the lobe height.

Answer: The shallow U and rounded triangle are valid. The too-wide oval needs correction because it spreads beyond the front contour and loses the lobe shape. The valid lobes sit in the lower third and connect smoothly to the front and back edges.

Reason: The lobe is a soft shape, not a circle. Two valid alternatives show that the rubric accepts variation, while the too-wide oval demonstrates a proportion error.

Check: Check that each valid lobe stays within the lower third of the ear height and connects to both the front contour and the helix band. The invalid oval should be visibly wider than the back branch and should not meet the front contour smoothly.

Task 4

Draw a complete ear with outline, helix, antihelix, and lobe. Add one soft shadow under the helix and one inside the antihelix split. Then write a two-sentence check describing how you confirmed the proportions and fold placement.

Answer: A complete ear with a tilted outline, even helix gap, top-third antihelix split, and rounded lobe. One soft shadow sits under the helix and one inside the split. The check notes that the lobe is in the lower third and the helix gap is even along the top.

Reason: This combines all three decisions and adds simple shading. The written check makes the self-assessment explicit and uses the same criteria as the rubric.

Check: Verify four points: the outline is taller than wide, the helix gap is even, the antihelix split is in the top third, and the lobe is rounded and in the lower third. Confirm the shadows do not hide the outline.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Outline is tilted and built from three arcs, not a flat circle.
- [ ] Helix reads as a band with an even gap along the top.
- [ ] Antihelix split starts in the top third and has two branches.
- [ ] Front antihelix branch fades before the lobe.
- [ ] Lobe is rounded, sits in the lower third, and connects smoothly.
- [ ] Shadows are simple and support the folds without hiding the outline.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted: single-line or double-line folds, shallow U or rounded-triangle lobe, and any consistent size.

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