Realistic Cat Drawing: Fur Direction, Eye Shading, and Body Proportion

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A head oval is 10 x-heights tall. Mark the eye line halfway and the nose line one-third up from the chin. State both distances from the chin.

Answer: Eye line: 5 x-heights from the chin. Nose line: 3.33 x-heights from the chin (one-third of 10).

Reason: Half of 10 is 5. One-third of 10 is 3.33 when rounded to two decimal places. Both are measured upward from the chin baseline.

Check: Add the eye-line distance to the top distance: 5 + 5 = 10 x-heights. Multiply the nose distance by 3: 3.33 x 3 = 9.99, which rounds to 10.

Task 2

A full-body study uses a head height of 8 x-heights. Legs are drawn 16 x-heights long. Does the leg length match the two-head-height guide? Show the arithmetic.

Answer: Yes. Two head heights equal 2 x 8 = 16 x-heights, which matches the drawn leg length.

Reason: The guide sets leg length at about two head heights. Multiply head height by two and compare to the drawn length.

Check: Divide leg length by head height: 16 divided by 8 equals 2, confirming two head heights.

Task 3

On a head study, you draw fur arrows from the ears toward the nose bridge. Is this a direction error? Explain and give a corrected arrow direction.

Answer: Yes, it is a direction error. Fur on the head should flow away from the face, so a corrected arrow runs from the nose bridge toward the ears.

Reason: Fur direction follows anatomy and typically moves away from the face. Arrows pointing toward the face contradict that flow.

Check: Scan every arrow and ask whether it points away from the face or down the body. Any arrow pointing toward the face is reversed.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

An eye study has a lid crescent, an iris gradient, and a pupil, but no highlight. Name the missing layer and describe where to place it.

Answer: The missing layer is the highlight. Place one small, sharp highlight near the top of the iris, and optionally a faint reflected light at the bottom edge.

Reason: The four-layer eye convention requires lid shadow, iris gradient, pupil, and highlight. Without a highlight the eye looks flat.

Check: Count the layers: lid crescent, iris gradient, pupil, highlight. If any layer is absent, add it before finishing.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Construction lines are faint and proportion checks are visible or noted.
- [ ] Eye line sits halfway between head top and chin; nose line sits one-third up from chin.
- [ ] Fur direction arrows point away from the face and down the body; strokes taper and vary by region.
- [ ] Eye shows lid shadow, iris gradient, pupil, and at least one highlight.
- [ ] Full-body masses keep chest and hindquarter widths close to head width.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted: pupil may be slit or round, fur stroke length may vary, and letter style may differ as long as one x-height unit is used consistently.

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