Side-On Face Drawing: Profile Contour and Feature Alignment

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

A side-face drawing has head height 20 units, eye midline 13 units above the chin baseline, nose base 11 units above the baseline, and mouth line 9 units above the baseline. Where should the ear top and bottom align, and is the mouth placement valid?

Answer: Ear top aligns with the eye midline at 13 units; ear bottom aligns with the nose base at 11 units, so the ear spans 2 units. The mouth at 9 units is between nose base (11) and chin (0), closer to the nose base, so it is valid under the convention.

Reason: The convention ties ear top to eye midline and ear bottom to nose base. The mouth must fall between nose base and chin; 9 is between 11 and 0 and closer to 11, which matches the stated tendency.

Check: Subtract heights: 13 minus 11 equals 2 units for ear height; 11 minus 9 equals 2 units from nose base to mouth; 9 minus 0 equals 9 units from mouth to chin. Confirm all values are in the same units.

Task 2

A profile contour is drawn with the nose tip 3 units forward of the brow line and the eye placed on a midline 14 units above the chin baseline. Head height is 21 units. Check whether the eye midline is plausible and state one adjustment if the nose tip is too far forward.

Answer: The eye midline at 14 units is two-thirds of 21, which is a plausible hypothetical choice. If the nose tip is too far forward, reduce its forward projection by 1 unit and keep the eye midline unchanged, then recheck that the nose base and mouth line still align.

Reason: Two-thirds of head height is a common starting proportion, but it is not universal. The nose projection is a style choice; adjusting it should not disturb the horizontal feature alignments.

Check: Compute 21 divided by 3 equals 7; 7 times 2 equals 14. Confirm the nose tip change is measured in the same units and that eye, nose base, mouth, and ear lines remain horizontal.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

In a side-face study, the ear top is at 15 units and the ear bottom is at 12 units above the baseline. The eye midline is at 15 units and the nose base is at 12 units. The mouth line is at 10 units. State whether the ear alignment is correct and whether the mouth is valid.

Answer: The ear alignment is correct: top matches eye midline at 15 and bottom matches nose base at 12. The mouth at 10 is between nose base (12) and chin (0), closer to the nose base, so it is valid.

Reason: The ear spans exactly from eye midline to nose base, which satisfies the alignment rule. The mouth line falls in the required interval and is closer to the nose base.

Check: Verify 15 minus 12 equals 3 units for ear height; 12 minus 10 equals 2 units from nose base to mouth; 10 minus 0 equals 10 units from mouth to chin. All units are consistent.

Task 4

A drawing uses head height 16 units and eye midline 10 units above the baseline. The nose base is 8 units above the baseline and the mouth line is 6 units. Describe the ear placement and check whether the eye is above or below the halfway point of head height.

Answer: Ear top aligns with eye midline at 10 units; ear bottom aligns with nose base at 8 units, so the ear spans 2 units. Half of head height is 8 units; the eye midline at 10 is above the halfway point by 2 units, which is a valid stylistic choice if recorded and kept consistent.

Reason: Ear placement follows the same alignment rule. The eye midline can vary; the check is arithmetic and consistency, not a single universal value.

Check: Compute 16 divided by 2 equals 8; 10 minus 8 equals 2 units above halfway. Confirm ear height 10 minus 8 equals 2 units and mouth 6 is between 8 and 0.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Profile contour is continuous from forehead to chin and shows a forward nose and receding eye socket.
- [ ] Eye sits on a drawn horizontal midline and its front corner is near the profile at the brow.
- [ ] Nose base and mouth line are marked; mouth sits between nose base and chin.
- [ ] Ear sits behind the eye line with top near eye midline and bottom near nose base.
- [ ] Proportions are recorded in consistent units and checked with simple arithmetic.
- [ ] Valid stylistic alternatives are allowed if alignment and recorded proportions remain consistent.

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