Draw a Dalmatian: Spotted Coat, Head Shape, and Stance

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a side-view Dalmatian standing on a ground line. Use the construction steps to show a level back, deep chest, and long legs. Add spots using the three-zone rule. Describe your spot placement in one sentence.

Answer: A completed drawing with a level back, deep chest, long legs, paws on the ground line, and spots in all major zones. Example description: three medium spots on the torso, three small spots on the head, three small spots on each leg, and two on the tail.

Reason: The construction steps ensure breed-readable proportions, and the three-zone rule ensures a balanced spotted coat rather than a generic pattern.

Check: Check that the back line is level, paws sit on the ground line, and every major zone has at least three spots. Confirm spots are inside the outline and spaced apart.

Task 2

A drawing has a broad head, short legs, and spots arranged in two neat rows on the torso. Identify two mistakes and state one fix for each.

Answer: Mistake 1: broad head and short legs make it look like a generic dog. Fix: use the moderate head shape and lengthen the legs. Mistake 2: spots in neat rows look artificial. Fix: vary spot size and spacing irregularly using the three-zone rule.

Reason: The breed-readable silhouette depends on moderate head proportions and long legs, while natural spots are irregular and distributed, not rowed.

Check: Check that spot size and spacing vary and that spots are not aligned in continuous rows; confirm the head is moderate and the legs are lengthened relative to the body.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Draw only the Dalmatian head in side view: flat skull, slight stop, strong muzzle about half the skull length, eye line halfway down the skull, and medium ears set high and hanging close to the cheeks. Describe how you checked the stop and ear placement.

Answer: A head drawing with a flat skull, a slight dip (stop) where the skull meets the muzzle, a muzzle about half the skull length, eyes on the halfway line, and ears set high and hanging close to the cheeks with rounded tips. Check description example: I measured the muzzle against the skull, confirmed the eye line was halfway between skull top and nose, and confirmed each ear touched the cheek line without standing away from the head.

Reason: The head steps define a moderate Dalmatian head that is neither too broad nor too narrow, and the ear placement keeps the silhouette breed-readable rather than generic.

Check: Compare muzzle length to skull length (about half), confirm the eye line is halfway between skull top and nose, and check that the ears are set high and hang close to the cheeks rather than standing erect or hanging long.

Task 4

Draw a Dalmatian with spots only on the torso and head. Apply the three-zone rule to add spots to the remaining zones. State how many spots you added and where.

Answer: Add at least three small spots to each front leg, each rear leg, and the tail. Example: three spots per leg zone and three on the tail, all inside the outline and spaced apart.

Reason: The three-zone rule requires at least three spots per major zone, so empty leg and tail zones must be filled to balance the pattern.

Check: Count spots per zone and confirm each major zone has at least three. Check that added spots are inside the outline and do not touch each other.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Body silhouette reads as a Dalmatian: level back, deep chest, long legs, stable stance.
- [ ] Head shape is moderate: flat skull, slight stop, strong muzzle, high-set hanging ears.
- [ ] Spots are irregular, rounded, and distributed across all major zones using the three-zone rule.
- [ ] Spots stay inside the outline and do not touch each other or the outline.
- [ ] Construction lines are erased and the final drawing is clean and readable.
- [ ] Spots vary in size by zone: smaller on legs and face, medium on the torso, with no zone left empty or overcrowded.

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