Draw Six Emotions by Changing Brows, Eyes, and Mouth

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a happy face on the fixed outline. Before drawing, write the brow angle, eye shape, and mouth curve you will use.

Answer: Example: brows level, eyes open with a slight lower-lid lift, mouth corners upward. Other valid answers are allowed if the three cues read as happy.

Reason: Happy faces usually combine a level or slightly raised brow with open eyes and an upward mouth. The three cues reinforce one another.

Check: Cover the label and ask a viewer to name the emotion. If they say happy or a close alternative such as pleased, the drawing passes.

Task 2

Draw an angry face and a tired face side by side on the fixed outline. Use different brow angles for each.

Answer: Example: angry uses inner brow ends lowered and eyes narrowed with a downward pressed mouth; tired uses level or outer-end-drooped brows, lowered upper lids, and a level or slightly downward mouth.

Reason: Both emotions can narrow the eyes, so the brow direction and mouth curve must separate them. Angry lowers the inner ends; tired lowers the outer ends or keeps them level.

Check: Ask a viewer to point to the angry face and the tired face without labels. If both are identified correctly, the cues are distinct enough.

Task 3

Draw a scared face. Then change only the mouth to a pressed downward line and describe how the emotion reads differently.

Answer: Example: scared uses raised inner brows pulled together, wide eyes, and an open stretched mouth. Changing only the mouth to a pressed downward line makes the face read more angry or tense than scared.

Reason: The open stretched mouth is a key scared cue. Removing it while keeping the brows and eyes creates a mixed signal, which shows how much the mouth contributes.

Check: Compare the two drawings with a partner. Ask which one reads as scared and which reads as tense or angry. The difference should be traceable to the mouth change alone.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Draw a sad face and a surprised face. Write one sentence explaining which feature most clearly separates them.

Answer: Example: sad uses raised inner brow ends, drooped upper lids, and a downward mouth; surprised uses brows raised overall, round open eyes, and a small open oval mouth. The eye shape most clearly separates them.

Reason: Sad and surprised can both raise the inner brow ends, but sad droops the lids while surprised opens the eyes round. The mouth also differs: downward versus open oval.

Check: Ask a viewer to name both emotions without labels. If either is confused, check whether the eye shape matches the intended emotion.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] The same neutral outline is used for every face, with no change in size or orientation.
- [ ] Brow angle, eye shape, and mouth curve are each changed from neutral for every emotion.
- [ ] The three cues for each face are consistent with one another and with the intended emotion.
- [ ] A viewer can name the emotion or a close valid alternative without seeing a label.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted when the three cues still communicate the emotion clearly.

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