# Realistic Lips Drawing: Tonal Shading, Highlights, and Crease Lines

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw lips with light from the upper right. Shade the upper lip darker than the lower lip, place a highlight on the lower lip toward the upper right, and add a dark central crease. Measure lip width and lower lip height in millimetres and state the ratio.

Answer: A drawing with upper lip midtone to dark, lower lip lighter, highlight on the lower lip upper right, and a dark central crease. Hypothetical measurements: width 50 mm, lower lip height 15 mm, ratio 1:3.33 (or 15:50).

Reason: The light direction determines highlight placement; the upper lip is darker because it faces away from the light. The ratio is calculated by dividing lower lip height by lip width.

Check: Squint to confirm the highlight is lightest and the crease darkest. Recalculate the ratio from the recorded millimetre values.

Task 2

Draw lips with light from directly above. Place the highlight on the upper lip near the center and keep the lower lip in midtone. Add two short crease lines on the lower lip. Write a small label 'lip' and measure the x-height in millimetres, from the baseline to the top of the lowercase letters without ascenders; record it.

Answer: A drawing with a central highlight on the upper lip, lower lip midtone, and two short curved crease lines. Hypothetical x-height: 4 mm, measured from the baseline to the top of the lowercase letters without ascenders.

Reason: Overhead light puts the highlight on the upper lip; the lower lip receives less direct light. The x-height convention ensures consistent label size regardless of letter style.

Check: Verify the highlight is centered and the crease lines follow the lip curve. Measure the x-height again from the baseline to the top of the lowercase letters without ascenders to confirm consistency.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Draw lips with light from the lower left. Make the lower lip lighter than the upper lip and place the highlight on the lower lip toward the lower left. Add a dark central crease and one corner shadow. Measure lip width and lower lip height in millimetres; if the ratio is not between 1:2 and 1:4, adjust the drawing and re-measure.

Answer: A drawing with lower lip lighter, highlight toward lower left, dark central crease, and one corner shadow. Hypothetical measurements after adjustment: width 55 mm, lower lip height 18 mm, ratio about 1:3.06.

Reason: The light direction dictates the highlight and relative values. The ratio check provides a simple arithmetic way to verify proportion.

Check: Calculate the ratio from measurements; confirm it falls between 1:2 and 1:4. Check tonal order from lightest to darkest.

Task 4

Draw lips with light from the upper left. Use a midtone for both lip bodies, then darken the upper lip slightly. Place a soft highlight on the lower lip upper left and add three short crease lines. Write a lowercase label 'h' for highlight using the x-height convention and measure its x-height in millimetres, from the baseline to the top of the letter's body (not the ascender).

Answer: A drawing with midtone lip bodies, slightly darker upper lip, soft highlight upper left on the lower lip, and three short crease lines. Hypothetical x-height for the lowercase 'h': 5 mm from the baseline to the top of the letter's body, excluding the ascender.

Reason: The method allows relative values to be adjusted while keeping the highlight consistent with light direction. The label convention makes the annotation checkable.

Check: Confirm the highlight is the lightest area and the crease lines are short and curved. Measure the x-height from the baseline to the top of the letter's body and compare with any other labels.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Lip outline is clear and includes a central lip line.
- [ ] Four tonal zones are distinguishable: upper body, lower body, crease, corners.
- [ ] Highlight is the lightest area and is placed consistently with the chosen light direction.
- [ ] Central crease is darker than surrounding midtones and is not outlined with a hard border.
- [ ] Crease lines are short, curved, and unevenly spaced.
- [ ] Measurements are recorded in millimetres and the ratio is calculated correctly.
- [ ] Labels, if used, follow the x-height convention measured from the baseline to the top of lowercase letters without ascenders; letter shapes may vary.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted: different light directions, different lip shapes, and different letter styles with consistent x-height.

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