# Line Drawing a Leaf: Midrib, Veins, and Serrated Edge

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a leaf 8 cm long with a gently curved midrib, four secondary veins per side at about 40 degrees, and a serrated margin with one tooth per vein end. Describe your construction order.

Answer: A curved midrib 8 cm long with a 0.8 cm petiole stub. Four vein start points per side; secondary veins at about 40 degrees stopping 2 mm before the margin. Tooth tips opposite vein ends, shallow notches, final contour from petiole to tip. Construction order: midrib, petiole, vein starts, secondary veins, tooth marks, contour, darken main lines.

Reason: The curved midrib sets size and direction. Four veins per side keep the pattern readable at 8 cm. Stopping veins before the margin preserves a clean contour. One tooth per vein end gives a repeatable rhythm.

Check: Trace each secondary vein to the midrib; confirm no vein crosses the contour; count four teeth per side; check petiole stub is about one-tenth of midrib length.

Task 2

A learner draws a leaf with six veins on the left and three on the right, and two veins cross the outline. Identify the problems and state two fixes.

Answer: Problem one: uneven vein count makes the pattern read as unbalanced. Problem two: veins crossing the contour break the edge logic. Fix one: add two or three veins on the right at the same working angle. Fix two: shorten the crossing veins so they stop a small gap before the margin.

Reason: Vein counts need not be perfectly equal, but a large difference weakens the network. Veins should support the contour, not pierce it. Adjusting locally is faster than redrawing.

Check: Count veins per side and compare; trace crossing veins back to the midrib and measure the gap to the contour; confirm the margin teeth still align with vein ends.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Draw a leaf 12 cm long with a straight midrib, five secondary veins per side at about 50 degrees, and a margin with two teeth between adjacent vein ends. State one hypothetical numerical value you chose and why.

Answer: A straight midrib 12 cm with a 1.2 cm petiole stub. Five vein starts per side; secondary veins at about 50 degrees stopping 3 mm before the margin. Two shallow teeth between adjacent vein ends, so ten teeth per side. Hypothetical example: tooth depth 2 mm, chosen to keep notches shallow relative to leaf width.

Reason: A longer leaf allows more teeth without crowding. Two teeth per interval creates a finer rhythm. The 2 mm depth is a hypothetical example, not a standard; it keeps the edge readable.

Check: Count five vein starts per side and ten teeth per side; confirm each vein stops before the contour; check tooth depth is small compared with leaf width; trace veins to the midrib.

Task 4

Draw a leaf 9 cm long with a slightly curved midrib, four secondary veins per side at about 45 degrees, and one short tertiary branch from two of the secondary veins. Describe how you keep the tertiary branches from crowding the margin.

Answer: A curved midrib 9 cm with a 0.9 cm petiole stub. Four secondary veins per side at about 45 degrees, stopping 2 mm before the margin. Add one short tertiary branch from two secondary veins, each tertiary branch ending well inside the margin. Keep tertiary lines lighter and shorter than secondary veins. Final contour with one tooth per vein end.

Reason: Tertiary branches add network detail but can clutter the edge. Keeping them short and inside the margin preserves the contour. Lighter line weight keeps hierarchy clear.

Check: Confirm tertiary branches start from secondary veins, not the midrib; check they end inside the margin; count four teeth per side; trace all veins back to the midrib.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Midrib runs continuously from petiole to tip and is clearly the main axis.
- [ ] Secondary veins branch from the midrib at a roughly consistent angle and alternate sides.
- [ ] Vein tips stop short of the margin; no vein crosses the final contour.
- [ ] Margin shows a readable serrated rhythm with shallow notches and similar tooth counts per side.
- [ ] Contour flows from petiole to tip without abrupt breaks.
- [ ] Line weight separates midrib and contour from lighter veins.
- [ ] Any labels are legible; x-height is baseline to midline and letter style may vary.

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