# Realistic Elephant Drawing: Skin Texture, Shading and Mass

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

On scrap paper, draw a five-step tonal strip and label each step. Then draw three forehead wrinkle arcs that follow the stated long axis and assign each a tone from your strip.

Answer: A labeled five-step strip and three arcs whose long axes run across the forehead in gentle curves, each marked with a tone number from the strip.

Reason: The strip establishes the convention; the arcs test whether you can apply the wrinkle-direction rule and tonal labeling together.

Check: Compare each arc to the stated axis and each tone label to the strip. If an arc crosses the forehead vertically, redraw it as a gentle horizontal arc.

Task 2

Draw an ear fan and a trunk with two converging guide lines. Shade the ear edge from tone 2 to tone 4 and the trunk shadow at tone 3. Check that the ear and trunk do not merge.

Answer: An ear fan with a visible gradient from tone 2 at the rim to tone 4 at the fold, and a trunk with a tone 3 shadow side and a visibly narrower tip. The ear and trunk read as separate forms.

Reason: Separating the ear edge and trunk shadow by tone prevents merging and tests the shading convention.

Check: Hold the drawing at arm's length. If the ear edge and trunk shadow look like one dark shape, adjust one area to a different tone from the strip.

Task 3

Block a body oval behind a head. Add five wide wrinkles on the body and ten tight ring wrinkles on the trunk. Add a ground shadow at tone 3. Check that the body reads heavier than the trunk.

Answer: A body oval with five wide, sparse wrinkles, a trunk with ten tight rings, and a tone 3 ground shadow. The body's large smooth areas make it read as heavier than the trunk.

Reason: Wrinkle density signals mass: sparse wide wrinkles on large forms, tight rings on smaller forms.

Check: Count the wrinkles in each area. If the body has more wrinkles than the trunk, remove some body wrinkles and recheck the mass impression.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Draw a complete elephant head, ear, trunk and body using the conventions. Then write a three-line self-check: one line for wrinkle direction, one for ear and trunk shading separation, one for body mass.

Answer: A complete drawing that follows the wrinkle axes, uses distinct tones for ear edge and trunk shadow, and shows body mass through sparse wrinkles and a ground shadow. The self-check lines name the specific evidence for each criterion.

Reason: The complete drawing integrates all conventions, and the self-check makes the rubric criteria explicit and checkable.

Check: Use the rubric: verify each self-check line points to visible evidence in the drawing. If a line cannot be verified, revise the drawing or the line.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Wrinkle strokes follow the stated long axes: forehead arcs, cheek creases, trunk rings.
- [ ] Ear edge shading uses a gradient with at least two distinct tones from the labeled strip.
- [ ] Trunk taper is visible: tip narrower than base by a clear margin.
- [ ] Body mass reads through sparse wide wrinkles and a simple ground shadow.
- [ ] Tonal choices are consistent with the five-step strip.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted if the conventions are followed and the checks pass.

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