Banana Cat Drawing: A Step-by-Step Hybrid Guide

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a banana cat with a body 10 cm long and 3 cm wide. Place the head circle one-third of the body length from the top end. Use a head diameter of 3 cm and four legs each 2.5 cm long. Check all proportions.

Answer: The head diameter is 3 cm, whereas one-third of the 10 cm body is exactly 10/3 cm (about 3.3 cm). Its shortfall is exactly 1/3 cm, within this worksheet's 0.5 cm tolerance, so the given head diameter is acceptable but is not exactly one-third. The 2.5 cm legs are exactly one-quarter of 10 cm. Place the head center one-third of the body length from the top along the upper front curve, about 3.3 cm. The head must overlap the body and all four paws must share the ground line.

Reason: The convention uses body length as one unit. One-third of 10 cm is about 3.3 cm for head placement and head diameter; one-quarter of 10 cm is 2.5 cm for limb length. These fractions keep the hybrid balanced.

Check: Measure the drawn body length, head diameter, head-center distance from the top end along the upper front curve, and limb length with a ruler. Confirm each matches the stated fraction within 0.5 cm. Check that the head circle overlaps the body and all four paws touch a horizontal line.

Task 2

A banana cat drawing has a body 14 cm long, a head circle 5 cm across placed 5 cm from the top end, and four legs each 3 cm long. Identify any proportion errors and state the corrected values using the convention.

Answer: Using the convention, the targets are: head diameter about 4.7 cm (one-third of 14 cm), head-center placement about 4.7 cm from the top end along the upper front curve, and leg length about 3.5 cm (one-quarter of 14 cm). The drawn head diameter of 5 cm differs from 4.7 cm by 0.3 cm, within the 0.5 cm tolerance, so it is acceptable. The head-center placement of 5 cm also differs by 0.3 cm, so it is acceptable. The leg length of 3 cm differs from 3.5 cm by 0.5 cm, exactly at the tolerance boundary, so it is acceptable but at the limit. No definite proportion errors are present; the convention targets are 4.7 cm, 4.7 cm, and 3.5 cm.

Reason: One-third of 14 cm is exactly 14/3 cm, about 4.67 cm or about 4.7 cm to one decimal place. One-quarter of 14 cm is exactly 3.5 cm. The 5 cm head diameter and placement each differ from the exact target by 1/3 cm; the 3 cm legs differ by 0.5 cm. These are within the worksheet tolerance. The rounded 4.7 cm head targets approximate the convention; they are not exact one-third values.

Check: Calculate one-third and one-quarter of the body length. Measure the head-center distance from the top end along the upper front curve and compare it to one-third of the body length. Compare the drawn head diameter and limb length to their calculated values. Accept differences up to 0.5 cm as valid alternatives; note larger differences as proportion errors.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Draw a banana cat in a sitting pose. The banana body is 12 cm long and curves upward at the bottom end. Place the cat face on the upper front curve and attach two front legs and two back legs so all paws rest on a ground line. Describe how you check the hybrid reading.

Answer: A valid drawing shows a crescent banana body 12 cm long, a head circle about 4 cm across overlapping the upper front curve, and four limbs about 3 cm long attached to the body edge. In a sitting pose, the bottom end of the banana curves up, and the back legs fold so paws align on a ground line. Check hybrid reading by asking a viewer to point to the banana body and the cat face without prompting.

Reason: The sitting pose changes limb angles but not the proportion convention. The banana body remains the main shape, and the cat face and limbs must attach to it. Ground-line alignment keeps the pose stable.

Check: Measure body length, head diameter, and limb length against the fractions. Check that the head overlaps the body and that all four paws touch a single horizontal line. Ask a viewer to identify the banana body and cat features.

Task 4

A student draws a banana cat but the cat face looks like a sticker floating above the banana body, and the limbs look detached. Describe two specific fixes using overlap and attachment points, then state how to check the fixes.

Answer: Fix one: move the head circle down so it overlaps the upper front curve by about one-quarter of the head diameter. Fix two: redraw each limb starting from inside the banana body edge, not from outside the body. Check by confirming the head circle intersects the banana outline and each limb line begins inside the body shape.

Reason: Overlap creates attachment visually. Starting limbs inside the body edge makes them read as growing from the body rather than glued on. Both fixes preserve the hybrid reading without changing proportions.

Check: Trace the head circle and confirm it crosses the banana body outline. Trace each limb and confirm its starting point is inside the banana body shape. If either condition fails, adjust overlap or attachment point and recheck.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Banana body is a smooth crescent with rounded ends and a clear convex lower edge.
- [ ] Cat face is centered on a head circle that overlaps the upper front curve of the banana body.
- [ ] Four cat limbs attach to the banana body edge, not the face, and all paws align on a ground line.
- [ ] Proportions follow the convention: head diameter about one-third of body length, limb length about one-quarter of body length.
- [ ] Hybrid reading is clear: a viewer identifies both banana body and cat features without explanation.
- [ ] Line quality is consistent and construction lines are erased or light.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted: ear shape, tail curve, whisker length, and banana ridge lines may vary as long as hybrid reading and proportions remain clear.

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