Fruit Drawing Reference: Mass Shapes and Shading Steps

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw an apple using a flattened sphere as the mass shape. Use upper-left light. Describe where you place the highlight, terminator, and reflected light.

Answer: Highlight on the upper left of the flattened sphere. Terminator curves around the lower right. Reflected light is a faint lighter band near the bottom edge inside the shadow. A small dimple and stem are added at the top.

Reason: The flattened sphere captures the apple's overall volume. Upper-left light places the shadow on the lower right, and the terminator follows the form's curvature. Reflected light stays subtle so the shadow reads correctly.

Check: Squint at the drawing. The apple should read as a rounded form with a clear light side and shadow side. The darkest area should be near the terminator, not at the outer edge.

Task 2

Draw a banana as a curved cylinder. Use upper-left light. Explain how the ridge lines should follow the form and where the shadow falls.

Answer: The banana is a curved cylinder. Ridge lines run along the length and curve with the cylinder. The upper-left side is lighter; the lower-right side is in shadow. The terminator runs along the lower right, and reflected light is faint near the bottom edge.

Reason: A curved cylinder describes the banana's volume. Ridge lines must follow the curvature to avoid a flat pattern. Consistent upper-left light places the shadow on the lower right.

Check: Check that ridge lines curve with the banana rather than running straight across. Squint to confirm the shadow reads on the lower right and the form still looks cylindrical.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Draw an orange as a sphere with peel texture. Use upper-left light. Describe how the texture should change between the highlight and shadow areas.

Answer: The orange is a sphere. Peel texture is suggested with small marks that wrap around the sphere. Texture is lighter in the upper-left highlight and slightly stronger in the lower-right shadow. The terminator curves around the lower right, and reflected light is faint near the bottom.

Reason: Texture must follow the sphere's curvature to support the form. Varying texture strength with the light keeps the highlight and shadow readable.

Check: Squint to confirm the sphere still reads clearly. Check that texture marks curve with the form and that the shadow side is visibly darker than the highlight side.

Task 4

Draw a bunch of grapes as one mass shape, then add individual grape forms. Use upper-left light. Explain how you keep the bunch readable as a single form.

Answer: Start with an overall rounded mass shape for the bunch. Add individual grape forms inside it, keeping the upper-left lighter and the lower-right darker. The terminator for the whole bunch curves around the lower right, and individual grapes near the shadow side are darker. Reflected light is faint near the bottom edge.

Reason: Treating the bunch as one mass first prevents a scattered look. Individual grapes then support the overall form. Consistent light direction keeps the bunch readable as a single volume.

Check: Squint at the drawing. The bunch should read as one rounded form with a clear light side and shadow side. Check that individual grapes do not break the overall shadow logic.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Mass shape is simple and proportionally believable for the chosen fruit.
- [ ] Light direction is consistently upper left across the drawing.
- [ ] Shadow edge (terminator) is placed on the lower right and curves with the form.
- [ ] Reflected light is present but faint and inside the shadow.
- [ ] Surface cues follow the curvature of the mass shape.
- [ ] Labels or notes are legible and consistent; any letter style is acceptable.
- [ ] Self-check is documented with one specific improvement noted.

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