Cartoon Horse Drawing: Rounded Masses and Expressive Faces

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a surprised cartoon horse facing right. Use a head circle 4 cm across, a muzzle oval 2.5 cm wide and 1.5 cm tall, a body bean 7 cm long and 4 cm tall, and four leg tubes 1 cm wide and 4 cm long. Make the eyes large and round, the mouth a small oval, and the ears spread wide.

Answer: A rounded horse with a large round eye pair, a small oval mouth on the muzzle, and wide-spread ears. The body bean is tilted slightly back, and all four leg tubes touch the ground line.

Reason: The surprised mood comes from large round eyes, an open small oval mouth, and wide ears. Keeping the four masses at the given sizes preserves the cartoon horse identity.

Check: Measure the head circle (about 4 cm), muzzle oval (about 2.5 cm wide), and body bean (about 7 cm long). Ask someone to guess the mood; if they say surprised, the expression is clear.

Task 2

Draw a sleepy cartoon horse facing left. Use the same four masses and sizes as the worked example. Make the eyes half-closed lines, the mouth a flat line, and the ears tilted back.

Answer: A rounded horse with half-closed eye lines, a flat mouth line on the muzzle, and ears angled backward. The body bean is slightly lowered, and the leg tubes are rounded and touch the ground line.

Reason: Sleepy is shown by half-closed eyes, a flat mouth, and lowered ears. The unchanged muzzle oval and body bean keep the horse recognizable.

Check: Check that the eyes are lines rather than circles, the mouth is flat, and the ears tilt back. Measure the head circle and body bean to confirm the sizes are unchanged.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Redraw the happy horse from the worked example in a walking pose. Keep the head circle 4 cm across, the muzzle oval 2.5 cm wide and 1.5 cm tall, and the body bean 7 cm long and 4 cm tall. Move one front leg tube ahead of the other and tilt the body bean forward.

Answer: A happy horse with the same face as the worked example, but the body bean tilts forward and one front leg tube is ahead of the other. The head and muzzle sizes remain the same, and the expression still reads as happy.

Reason: Changing only the pose while keeping the four masses at the same sizes preserves the horse's identity. The forward tilt and offset leg tubes create a walking look.

Check: Compare the new drawing to the worked example: head circle about 4 cm, muzzle oval about 2.5 cm wide, body bean about 7 cm long. Check that one front leg is clearly ahead of the other.

Task 4

Draw a happy cartoon horse facing forward. Use a head circle 4 cm across, a muzzle oval 2.5 cm wide and 1.5 cm tall, a body bean 7 cm long and 4 cm tall, and four leg tubes 1 cm wide and 4 cm long. Place the eyes symmetrically and curve the mouth upward. Label the head circle, muzzle oval, body bean, and one leg tube with short words and thin leader lines.

Answer: A forward-facing horse with symmetrical eyes, an upward mouth curve, and upright ears. The head circle sits above the body bean, and the four leg tubes are evenly spaced. Four short labels with thin leader lines name the head circle, muzzle oval, body bean, and one leg tube.

Reason: Symmetrical eye placement and a centered muzzle oval support the forward-facing pose, while short labels with thin leader lines make each of the four masses easy to identify.

Check: Measure the head circle (about 4 cm), muzzle oval (about 2.5 cm wide), and body bean (about 7 cm long). Check that the eyes are symmetrical and the mouth curves upward. Confirm that each of the four masses has one clear label with a leader line and that any written measurements use centimeters.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Head circle is about 4 cm across and clearly rounded.
- [ ] Muzzle oval is about 2.5 cm wide and 1.5 cm tall and overlaps the head circle.
- [ ] Body bean is about 7 cm long and 4 cm tall with rounded edges.
- [ ] Four leg tubes are about 1 cm wide and 4 cm long and touch the ground line.
- [ ] Expression is readable as happy, surprised, or sleepy from a short distance.
- [ ] Labels clearly identify the head circle, muzzle oval, body bean, and leg tubes with leader lines, and any measurements use consistent centimeters.

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