Draw a Jack Russell Terrier: Proportions, Ears, and Face

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Using x-height 10 units, calculate the expected chest depth and leg length for a Jack Russell terrier side view. Then state one check you would perform on the drawing.

Answer: Chest depth is about 5 units and elbow-to-ground leg length is about 5 units. Check that the elbow sits about half x-height above the baseline and the ground contact is at the baseline.

Reason: The chest depth and leg length are each about half the x-height, so 10 divided by 2 equals 5. The check confirms the vertical relationships.

Check: Measure the drawn chest depth and the elbow-to-ground distance against the marked x-height strip; both should be close to half x-height.

Task 2

A drawing shows a terrier with a body length of 14 units and an x-height of 10 units. Is the build square? Explain and give a correction.

Answer: No—14 exceeds 10 by 4 units, beyond the one-quarter x-height tolerance of about 2.5 units. Reduce chest-to-rump to roughly 10 units (within about 2.5 units) to restore the square build.

Reason: Square build means body length is roughly equal to x-height. 14 is greater than 10 by 4 units, so the dog looks long.

Check: Compare the horizontal chest-to-rump distance to the vertical x-height; they should be within about one-quarter x-height.

Task 3

Describe how to place the ears and eyes on a head circle with a vertical center line and a stop halfway down. Include one valid alternative.

Answer: Place the eyes level with the stop and the nose at the front of the muzzle. Draw each ear as a small V from the top of the head, folding the tip forward toward the eye. A valid alternative is a slightly softer fold angle, as long as the ear remains small and points forward.

Reason: The stop and center line anchor the face; the ear fold direction is the key breed feature. Alternatives are allowed if the fold remains forward.

Check: Check that both ear tips point toward the eyes and that the eyes are level with the stop.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

List two differences between a Jack Russell terrier outline and a generic dog base, and explain how you would verify each in your drawing.

Answer: The Jack Russell has a shorter, squarer body and smaller folded ears. Verify the body by comparing chest-to-rump distance to x-height; verify the ears by checking that the tips fold forward and the ears are small.

Reason: These two features distinguish the breed from a generic base. Verification uses the same proportion and shape checks as the rubric.

Check: Use the x-height strip for the body and a visual check of the ear fold direction against the eye position.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Square build: chest-to-rump distance is within about one-quarter x-height of the body height.
- [ ] Ear shape: small V-shaped ears with tips folded forward and a visible crease.
- [ ] Face: eyes level with the stop; muzzle length roughly equals skull height above the stop.
- [ ] Coat and tail: smooth short coat outline; tail short and straight or natural, not curled over the back.
- [ ] Line quality: construction lines removed or faint; final outline clear and consistent.

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