Draw a Duck Couple: Paired Pose, Overlap, and Spacing

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Two ducks face each other. The right duck is in front. The head gap is two bill lengths and the body gap is one full body width. Identify the main composition problem and state one fix.

Answer: The pair is too far apart to read as a couple. Move one slot closer so the head gap is about one bill length and the body gap is about half a body width.

Reason: Spacing controls whether the ducks read as a unit. A two-bill head gap and a full-body body gap exceed the starting guide, so the pair looks unrelated.

Check: Measure the closest head gap against the bill length on the drawing. If it is about two bill lengths, redraw one slot closer and re-measure.

Task 2

Both ducks face left. The left duck is drawn completely. The right duck is drawn completely too, and its outline crosses the left duck's body in three places. State the overlap problem and give a corrected drawing order.

Answer: The overlap is ambiguous because both ducks are fully drawn and cross three times. Choose the left duck as front, draw it completely, then draw the right duck only where visible, stopping at the left duck's outline. Keep one crossing at the bodies.

Reason: Overlap order must be readable. Multiple crossings and two full outlines make it unclear which duck is in front.

Check: Trace each outline with a finger. If you cannot say which duck is in front at every crossing, reduce to one crossing and redraw the back duck partially.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

A duck couple is drawn with both bills pointing away from each other and a head gap of half a bill length. The bodies touch with no gap. Name two problems and one fix for each.

Answer: Problem one: the bills point away, so the pair lacks connection; fix by turning one bill inward. Problem two: the bodies touch with no gap, so they merge; fix by widening the body gap to about half a body width while keeping the head gap close to one bill length.

Reason: Pairing is supported by inward bill direction, and spacing needs a visible body gap to prevent merging.

Check: Cover one duck and check the other still reads as complete. Then measure the body gap; if it is zero, redraw one slot slightly apart.

Task 4

You have two slots 8 cm wide and 5 cm tall as a hypothetical example. The left duck is in front and faces right. The right duck faces left but its head is turned slightly away. Describe how to adjust the pose and spacing to make a clear couple, and state one check.

Answer: Turn the right duck's head slightly toward the left duck so the bills point inward. Keep the left duck in front and draw the right duck only where visible. Set the head gap to about one bill length and the body gap to about half a body width. Check by covering each duck in turn; each should read as a complete duck with a clear partner nearby.

Reason: The pose pairing improves when both bills point inward, and the overlap order stays simple with one front duck. Spacing follows the starting guide.

Check: Measure the head gap against the bill length and confirm one overlap crossing at the bodies. Cover each duck to test completeness.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Pairing: the two poses clearly relate, either facing each other or moving together with a deliberate lead.
- [ ] Overlap: one front duck is identifiable, with a single clear crossing and no ambiguous double overlap.
- [ ] Spacing: the head gap is close to one bill length and the body gap is visible but smaller, as a starting guide.
- [ ] Completeness: each duck reads as a complete duck when the other is covered.
- [ ] Detail control: wing and tail differences support the pair without copying or merging.
- [ ] Valid alternatives: mirrored poses, same-direction poses, and different wing angles are all acceptable if pairing, overlap, and spacing are clear.

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