Mermaid Drawing Base: Torso and Tail Guides

Topic reference / ordinary illustration



Ordinary topic reference. Hypothetical dimensions in the four tasks are supplied in their own text; this illustration is not their measured answer.

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Worked example / complete source key

Construct a mermaid base on paper 20 cm tall. Use an x-height of 6 cm, a hip line one part below the waist, and a tail length of 2.5 times the x-height. Describe the guide lines and the transition.

Answer: Mark a shoulder line and a waist line 6 cm apart. Divide the x-height into three 2 cm parts: shoulder at the top, chest 2 cm down, waist at the bottom. Mark the hip line 2 cm below the waist. Draw a torso oval between shoulder and waist. At the hip line, draw short tangent lines from each side of the torso and extend them into gentle curves that turn toward the tail. Mark the fin point 15 cm from the hip line along the tail direction. Draw a light center curve and parallel tail edges. Check: shoulder-to-waist is 6 cm, hip line is 2 cm below waist, tail length is 15 cm, and left-right offsets at the hip line match.