Realistic Cake Drawing: Cylinder Perspective, Shading, and Highlights

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

Draw a cake from a slightly elevated viewpoint with light from the upper right. The cake sits on a plate. Show the top ellipse, the curved side, a core shadow, reflected light, a highlight band, and a cast shadow.

Answer: Place the plate line first. Draw a moderately open top ellipse centered above it, then drop two near-vertical side lines from the ellipse's widest points to the plate line. Add a short front arc for the bottom edge. Mark a light arrow at the upper right. Shade the left side of the cylinder with curved strokes, darkening a core shadow band and leaving a narrow lighter strip near the bottom for reflected light. Shade the top with a gentle gradient toward the left. Reserve a vertical highlight band on the right side and a broader soft highlight on the top's right area. Add a cast shadow on the plate extending to the left, away from the light. Check in a mirror that the ellipse, shadow direction, and highlight placement agree.