Realistic Ear Drawing: Cartilage Folds and Tonal Shading

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

A learner draws an ear outline 60 mm tall and 40 mm wide, then shades the helix at step 2, the scapha at step 3, and the concha at step 4. Check the width-to-height ratio and explain whether the tonal steps follow the fold logic.

Answer: The width-to-height ratio is 40 divided by 60, which equals 0.67, or about two-thirds. This is a hypothetical example ratio; the learner should compare it to their own reference. The tonal steps follow the fold logic because the raised helix is lightest at step 2, the scapha groove is darker at step 3, and the deep concha is darkest at step 4. The progression from raised rim to groove to bowl is consistent with the form.

Reason: Dividing width by height gives a simple checkable ratio. Assigning lighter tones to raised forms and darker tones to grooves and the bowl confirms that shading supports the cartilage structure rather than flattening it.

Check: Re-measure height and width with a ruler, divide width by height, and compare to the reference. Compare each shaded area to the tonal strip to confirm the step labels match the intended fold.