Realistic Ear Drawing: Cartilage Folds and Tonal Shading

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

An ear drawing is 50 mm tall and 30 mm wide. Calculate the width-to-height ratio and state whether it is greater or less than 0.6.

Answer: 30 divided by 50 equals 0.6, so the ratio is equal to 0.6, not greater or less.

Reason: Width divided by height gives the ratio. Thirty divided by fifty is exactly 0.6.

Check: Re-measure both dimensions and divide width by height again; confirm the result is 0.6.

Task 2

A learner shades the helix at step 1, the scapha at step 2, and the concha at step 5, skipping steps 3 and 4. Describe one adjustment that would make the shading more gradual.

Answer: Add step 3 in the scapha and step 4 in the upper concha so the progression from helix to concha passes through intermediate tones.

Reason: Skipping from step 2 to step 5 creates an abrupt jump. Inserting steps 3 and 4 between them makes the transition gradual and keeps the bowl readable.

Check: Compare the shaded areas to the tonal strip and confirm that adjacent areas differ by only one step.

Task 3

A drawing shows the antihelix as a single ridge with no branch near the top, and the scapha is missing. Describe how to correct the fold structure using the named folds.

Answer: Split the antihelix into two branches near the top and draw the scapha as a groove between the helix and the antihelix, then shade the groove one step darker than the helix.

Reason: The antihelix branches near the top, and the scapha is the groove between helix and antihelix. Adding the branch and the groove restores the logical fold structure.

Check: Trace the antihelix to confirm two branches near the top and confirm a visible groove runs between helix and antihelix.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

An ear is drawn 45 mm tall. Using the hypothetical example that width is two-thirds of height, calculate the expected width and state the unit.

Answer: Two-thirds of 45 mm is 30 mm, so the expected width is 30 mm.

Reason: Multiply height by two-thirds: 45 times 2 divided by 3 equals 30. The unit is millimeters because the height was given in millimeters.

Check: Multiply the calculated width by 1.5 and confirm it returns 45 mm; check that the unit is stated as mm.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Ear outline is a tilted teardrop with measurable height and width recorded.
- [ ] Helix, antihelix, scapha, concha, tragus, and antitragus are drawn as connected ridges and valleys.
- [ ] Antihelix branches near the top and the scapha groove is visible between helix and antihelix.
- [ ] Tonal strip has five labeled steps from lightest to darkest using the learner's own pencil.
- [ ] Shading assigns lighter steps to raised forms and darker steps to grooves and the concha.
- [ ] Transitions between tonal steps are gradual, with no hard outlines replacing shading.
- [ ] Proportions are checked against the learner's reference and any chosen numerical values are labeled as hypothetical examples.
- [ ] Valid alternative ear shapes are accepted if fold logic and tonal consistency are maintained.

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