Dragon Poses: Coiled, Rearing, and Perched Stances

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Plan a coiled dragon on a 15 cm by 15 cm area. Use a head length of 2 cm. Draw the spine as a loose spiral, place the hips and chest close, and tuck the limbs. Check that the coil width is about two head lengths across.

Answer: A loose spiral spine with chest and hips about 4 cm apart; coil width about 4 cm; far limbs drawn first, near limbs on top; head resting on or just above the coil.

Reason: The coil width of two head lengths keeps the pose open enough to see the head and chest while still reading as coiled. Tucking the limbs avoids straight lines that would break the coil.

Check: Trace the spine with your finger; it should be one continuous curve without sharp kinks. Measure the coil width; it should be about 4 cm.

Task 2

Plan a rearing dragon on a 20 cm by 28 cm sheet. Use a head length of 3 cm. Place the hip oval low, the spine rising about 9 cm, and the chest near the top. Draw hindlimbs bearing weight and forelimbs reaching up. Check balance with a vertical line from the chest.

Answer: Hip oval at 6 cm from the bottom; spine rises 9 cm; chest at 15 cm; head above chest; hindlimbs bent; forelimbs reaching up; tail curved back. Vertical line from chest falls between hind feet.

Reason: A rise of three head lengths gives a clear rearing silhouette. Bent hindlimbs show weight. The tail acts as a counterweight. The balance check confirms the pose is not falling forward.

Check: Drop a vertical line from the chest; it should fall near the hips or between the hind feet. Measure the rise; it should be about 9 cm.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Plan a perched dragon on a support line 10 cm long. Use a head length of 2.5 cm. Place the hip oval on the support, keep the spine mostly horizontal, and draw hindlimbs gripping. Check that at least two limbs contact the support.

Answer: Support line 10 cm long; hip oval on the support; spine mostly horizontal; hindlimbs gripping; forelimbs resting or gripping; head looking down or forward; tail hanging or curling. At least two limbs contact the support.

Reason: Drawing the support first gives the feet something to hold. A horizontal spine reads as perched. The contact check ensures the pose looks stable.

Check: Count the limbs touching the support line; at least two should contact it. Check that the support is wide enough for both hind feet.

Task 4

Compare your three poses. For each, write one sentence describing the balance check and one sentence describing the proportion check. Use head length as the unit.

Answer: Coiled: balance check shows chest between support points; proportion check shows coil width about two head lengths. Rearing: balance check shows vertical line from chest between hind feet; proportion check shows rise about three head lengths. Perched: balance check shows at least two limbs on support; proportion check shows body about three head lengths.

Reason: Writing the checks makes the planning visible and helps you compare stances. Using head length as the unit keeps proportions consistent across poses.

Check: Read each sentence and confirm it names a measurable check. Verify that the units are consistent and that the numbers match your drawings.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Skeleton is visible and includes spine, head, chest, hips, and four limb lines with joint dots.
- [ ] Stance is clearly identifiable as coiled, rearing, or perched.
- [ ] Balance check is shown or described: vertical line from chest falls between support points.
- [ ] Proportion guide is applied consistently using head length as the unit.
- [ ] Near/far convention is used consistently, or an alternative convention is clearly defined.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted if the stance, balance, and proportion checks pass.

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