Drawing Facial Hair: Beard and Moustache Shape Construction

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Your x-height unit is 4 mm. A moustache is drawn 12 mm wide and 8 mm deep. Convert both to units and give the depth-to-width ratio.

Answer: Width is 3 units; depth is 2 units; ratio is 2 to 3.

Reason: Divide each measurement by 4 mm: 12 divided by 4 equals 3, and 8 divided by 4 equals 2. The ratio compares depth to width, so it is 2 to 3.

Check: Re-multiply: 3 units times 4 mm equals 12 mm, and 2 units times 4 mm equals 8 mm. Confirm the ratio by dividing 2 by 3.

Task 2

Two beard variants share an outer width of 5 units. Variant A has an inner gap of 1 unit; Variant B has an inner gap of 2 units. Describe the visual difference and state which has more skin visible inside the silhouette.

Answer: Variant B has more skin visible inside the silhouette because its inner gap is larger; the outer width is unchanged.

Reason: The outer silhouette is identical, so the difference lies in the inner boundary. A larger inner gap means more skin area inside the same outer width.

Check: Draw both variants on the same center line and measure the inner gap from the boundary to the center. Confirm B is wider by 1 unit.

Task 3

A learner draws stroke arrows on a moustache pointing inward from the tips to the center, then draws strokes pointing outward. Identify the inconsistency and state one fix.

Answer: The arrows and strokes conflict in direction. Fix by choosing one direction, such as outward from center to tips, and redrawing the arrows to match the strokes.

Reason: Direction guides must agree with the strokes so the form reads consistently. A conflict makes the texture ambiguous.

Check: Compare each arrow with the nearest strokes; if any arrow points opposite to the strokes, mark it and redraw.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Your unit is 6 mm. A beard is 30 mm wide at the jaw and 18 mm deep. A moustache is 18 mm wide and 6 mm deep. Convert all values to units and state which shape has the larger depth-to-width ratio.

Answer: Beard: width 5 units, depth 3 units, ratio 3 to 5 or 0.6. Moustache: width 3 units, depth 1 unit, ratio 1 to 3 or about 0.33. The beard has the larger ratio.

Reason: Divide each measurement by 6 mm. Compare depth divided by width: 3 divided by 5 equals 0.6, and 1 divided by 3 is about 0.33.

Check: Re-multiply each unit value by 6 mm to recover the original measurements, then recompute both ratios.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Outer silhouette is a closed shape with no gaps.
- [ ] Inner boundary against skin is drawn as a separate continuous line.
- [ ] All measurements are converted to one recorded x-height unit.
- [ ] Stroke direction arrows are present and consistent within each region.
- [ ] Left and right widths are checked from a center line or by folding.
- [ ] At least one valid stylistic alternative is accepted when the checks pass.

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