Drawing Human Ears: Shape and Fold Construction

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a side-view ear with a unit U of 25 mm (hypothetical example). Place the top landmark at 1.2 units and the lobe bottom at 0.2 units above the baseline. List the fold order.

Answer: Top landmark at 30 mm, lobe bottom at 5 mm above the baseline. Fold order: outer contour, helix, antihelix, concha, tragus.

Reason: The unit defines the height; multiplying 25 mm by 1.2 and 0.2 gives the landmark positions. The fold order moves from outer rim inward.

Check: Measure the distance between landmarks (30 − 5 = 25 mm, one unit) and confirm the helix and antihelix do not merge.

Task 2

Draw a front-view ear using the same 25 mm unit but reduce the visible width by one third. Describe where the concha sits.

Answer: Keep the height at 25 mm and reduce the width to about two thirds. The concha sits between the antihelix and the front attachment, partly hidden.

Reason: Front view compresses the back rim, so the width shrinks while the height stays. The concha remains a depression near the front.

Check: Compare the front and side drawings side by side; the front ear should look narrower but the same height.

Task 3

A student draws an ear with the top landmark at 18 mm and the lobe bottom at 2 mm above a baseline, using a 20 mm unit U. Is the ear height consistent with one unit? Explain.

Answer: The ear height is 16 mm, which is 0.8 units, not one full unit. Adjust either the landmarks or the unit to match the intended height.

Reason: Subtract 2 mm from 18 mm to get 16 mm; divide by 20 mm to get 0.8. The planned height was one unit, so the drawing is short.

Check: Re-measure the landmark distances and confirm the arithmetic: 18 minus 2 equals 16; 16 divided by 20 equals 0.8.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Draw a side-view ear and then redraw it with the antihelix removed. Describe how the readability changes and what fix restores it.

Answer: Without the antihelix, the inner structure collapses into a single bowl and the ear reads flat. Restore readability by adding a shorter forked curve between the helix and concha.

Reason: The antihelix separates the helix from the concha; removing it merges the folds. A forked curve restores the nested structure.

Check: Squint at both drawings; the restored version should show two distinct inner ridges.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Outer contour is continuous and reads clearly at small size.
- [ ] Helix, antihelix, concha, and tragus are distinguishable.
- [ ] Front and side views use consistent landmark order.
- [ ] Proportions are checked with a stated unit and simple arithmetic.
- [ ] Valid alternative ear shapes are accepted if the fold structure remains readable.

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