Maneki-Neko Drawing: Paw, Collar, and Coin

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

On a blank sheet, draw only the body proportion guide for a maneki-neko: a vertical center line, a head oval, a seated body trapezoid, and three horizontal guides. Do not add the paw, collar, or coin yet.

Answer: A construction drawing with a vertical center line, a head oval centered on it, a rounded trapezoid body wider at the base, and three horizontal guides marking top of head, head midline, and body base.

Reason: The guide sets placement before detail. A centered head and wider base make the seated figure readable. The three guides give consistent reference points for later features.

Check: Check that the head oval is centered on the vertical line, the body base is wider than the top of the body, and all three horizontal guides are present and roughly level.

Task 2

Draw a maneki-neko with the raised paw on the left side. Include the collar band and coin ellipse. Keep the paw beside the head and the coin below the collar.

Answer: A seated cat figure with a left raised paw attached at the left shoulder, a two-line collar band across the neck, and an ellipse coin below the collar with one simple inner mark.

Reason: Choosing the left side tests consistency. The paw must attach at the shoulder and stay beside the head. The collar and coin must be placed in the correct order from top to bottom.

Check: Check that the raised paw is on the left, does not overlap the face, the collar band has two lines, and the coin is an ellipse below the collar and smaller than the head.

Task 3

Draw a maneki-neko where the coin is a flattened ellipse with a short vertical inner line. The collar band should be wider than in the worked example. Use either side for the raised paw.

Answer: A maneki-neko drawing with a clearly flattened coin ellipse, a short vertical inner line, a wider two-line collar band, and a raised paw on either side that stays beside the head.

Reason: A flattened ellipse reads as a coin rather than a circle. A wider collar band is a valid style choice if it remains a band with two lines. The inner line is a simple checkable detail.

Check: Check that the coin width is greater than its height, the inner line is short and vertical, the collar band has two lines and is visibly wider, and the raised paw is separate from the body.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Draw a maneki-neko and then self-check it against the rubric. If any feature is unclear, redraw that feature once. Write one sentence saying which feature you redrew and why.

Answer: A completed drawing that meets the rubric, plus a sentence such as: I redrew the collar band because it was a single line, so I added a second line and connected the ends.

Reason: Self-checking connects the drawing to clear criteria. Redrawing one feature practices correction without starting over. The sentence makes the check explicit.

Check: Check that the final drawing has a raised paw, a two-line collar band, and an ellipse coin below the collar. Check that the sentence names one feature and gives a reason tied to the rubric.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] The figure reads as a seated cat with a head oval and a wider body base.
- [ ] One paw is clearly raised and attached at the shoulder; it does not overlap the face.
- [ ] The collar band is drawn with two lines and is visible on both sides of the neck.
- [ ] The coin is an ellipse placed below the collar and is smaller than the head oval.
- [ ] Construction lines are lightly erased and final features are readable without labels.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted: either side for the raised paw, varied collar width, and different simple coin marks.

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