Realistic Frog Drawing: Body Shape and Leg Construction

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

A student draws a torso oval 4 x-height units wide and 2 units tall, then adds a head oval 3 units wide. Is the frog likely to look compact or stretched? Explain using the lesson’s proportion guide.

Answer: It is likely to look stretched because the torso is twice as wide as it is tall and the head is wider than the shoulder guide. The lesson suggests a torso about 3 units wide and 2 units tall, with head width about equal to shoulder width.

Reason: The proportion guide compares torso width to height and head width to shoulder width. A 4-by-2 torso is very wide, and a 3-unit head is large relative to the suggested 2-unit head.

Check: Measure the drawn torso width and height in x-height units. Divide width by height. If the result is greater than about 1.5, the torso is stretched compared with the guide.

Task 2

A hind leg is drawn with thigh 2 units, shin 1 unit, and foot 1 unit. The knee is lower than the ankle. Identify two problems and state how to fix them.

Answer: Problem one: the thigh is longer than the shin, which can make the fold look unbalanced. Problem two: the knee is lower than the ankle, which reverses the expected fold. Fix by making thigh and shin closer in length and raising the knee above the ankle.

Reason: The lesson’s hypothetical example uses thigh 1.5, shin 1.5, and foot 1. The knee should sit higher than the ankle to create the Z fold.

Check: Compare thigh and shin lengths in x-height units. Then compare the vertical positions of knee and ankle on the drawing; the knee should be higher.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

You are drawing a leaping frog. The front legs extend forward and the hind legs push back. List three checks to confirm the leg construction is still realistic.

Answer: Check that the hind leg still shows hip, knee, ankle, and toe points in order; check that the front legs are shorter than the hind legs; check that the body remains compact and the joints are not reversed.

Reason: Changing the pose should not change the joint order or the relative segment lengths. The frog should still look balanced.

Check: Trace each leg from body to toe and label the joints. Measure front and hind segment lengths in x-height units and compare.

Task 4

A texture practice square uses only evenly spaced dots. Suggest two changes to make the texture more realistic and explain how to check the result.

Answer: Change one: vary the spacing and size of the bumps. Change two: add short curved lines and soft shading that follow the body form. Check by comparing the square to the lesson’s texture band and confirming that highlights remain on top.

Reason: Realistic frog skin is not uniform. Varied bumps and form-following lines suggest natural texture.

Check: Count the different mark types in the square. A realistic practice square should include at least two mark types and shading, with highlights on the upper area.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Body shape is compact and low, with torso wider at the rear than at the shoulders.
- [ ] Head oval overlaps the front of the torso and is about the same width as the shoulders.
- [ ] Eye bumps sit on the top edge of the head, not at the sides.
- [ ] Hind leg shows a clear Z fold with hip, knee, ankle, and toe points.
- [ ] Knee is higher than the ankle and the folded leg stays close to the torso.
- [ ] Front legs are shorter than hind legs and meet the ground line.
- [ ] Skin texture follows the body form and includes varied bumps, lines, and shading.
- [ ] Proportions are checked against the x-height unit; valid alternative proportions are accepted if the frog still looks compact and balanced.

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