Draw a Silverback Gorilla: Head, Chest and Knuckle-Walk Pose

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

On a sheet where you set the shoulder line 15 cm above the ground line, use the convention that head length is about one-fifth of shoulder height. Calculate the target head length and state one landmark you will mark first.

Answer: Target head length is about 3 cm. Mark the crown first, then the eye line near the midpoint of the head length.

Reason: One-fifth of 15 cm is 3 cm. The crown is the highest point and anchors the head proportion check.

Check: Measure the drawn head from crown to chin and compare with 3 cm; adjust before adding detail.

Task 2

A drawing has the shoulder line 4 cm above the hip line and head length 3 cm. Using the convention that shoulder-to-hip difference is about one head length, is the pose acceptable? Explain.

Answer: The shoulder-to-hip difference is 4 cm versus a target of about 3 cm, so the difference is about 1 cm too large; lower the shoulder mass or raise the hips to reduce the difference toward 3 cm.

Reason: The convention compares the vertical difference with head length; a 1 cm mismatch is large enough to change the silhouette.

Check: Measure the vertical distance between shoulder and hip lines and compare it with the measured head length.

Task 3

Describe where to place the knuckle contact points and foot contact points for a knuckle-walk pose, and state one check that confirms the limb placement.

Answer: Place two knuckle points and two foot points on the same ground line, with the wrists bent so knuckles touch and the feet flat. Check that all four points meet that line and that the elbows sit near the chest bottom.

Reason: A shared ground line makes the pose readable and prevents floating limbs; bent wrists distinguish knuckle-walking from standing.

Check: Draw a single horizontal ground line and confirm each contact point touches it.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A learner's chest width is 5 cm and head width is 4 cm. Using the convention that chest width is about one and a half head widths, calculate the target chest width and state whether the drawn chest is too wide or too narrow.

Answer: Target chest width is about 6 cm, so the drawn chest at 5 cm is too narrow by about 1 cm.

Reason: One and a half times 4 cm is 6 cm; comparing the drawn value with the target shows the direction of correction.

Check: Measure chest width across the widest part and compare with 1.5 times the measured head width.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Head landmarks are present: crown, eye line near midpoint, low brow ridge, broad short muzzle.
- [ ] Head length is checked against shoulder height (shoulder line to ground line in the drawn pose) using the stated convention, with any numerical values labeled as hypothetical.
- [ ] Chest and shoulder mass are distinct, with the shoulder line higher than the hip line.
- [ ] Front limbs show a bent wrist with knuckles on the ground line; hind limbs show bent knees and flat feet.
- [ ] All four contact points meet the same ground line.
- [ ] The saddle band is simple and does not obscure the body structure.
- [ ] Labels, if used, follow the x-height convention from baseline to midline and are legible in any letter style.

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