Draw a Person Playing Guitar: Posture, Hold, and Hand Placement

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A seated guitarist drawing has a figure height of 15 cm. Using the hypothetical one-third rule, what should the guitar body length be?

Answer: 5 cm.

Reason: The rule states guitar body length is about one-third of figure height. One-third of 15 cm is 5 cm.

Check: Measure the guitar body in your drawing and compare to 5 cm; adjust if it is more than 1 cm off.

Task 2

You draw a guitar neck 12 cm long and the body 6 cm wide. If the neck-to-body ratio should be about 2:1, is your drawing acceptable?

Answer: Yes, because 12 cm to 6 cm is exactly 2:1.

Reason: Divide neck length by body width: 12 ÷ 6 = 2. The ratio matches the hypothetical guide.

Check: Measure both lengths with a ruler and divide; accept if the result is between 1.8 and 2.2.

Task 3

A standing guitarist drawing shows the guitar body hanging from a strap. The figure is 20 cm tall and the guitar body is 8 cm long. Does this meet the hypothetical one-third rule?

Answer: No, because one-third of 20 cm is about 6.7 cm, and 8 cm is too long.

Reason: One-third of 20 is 6.67 cm. The drawn body is 8 cm, which is more than 1 cm over the guide.

Check: Recalculate one-third of the figure height and compare; adjust the guitar body length to within 1 cm of the result.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

In a drawing, the fretting hand has four finger lines spaced 1 cm apart, and the hand width is 4 cm. The strumming hand is drawn 5 cm wide. The viewpoint places both hands at roughly the same distance from the viewer. Using the convention that hands are drawn at the same scale unless depth clearly differs, is this acceptable?

Answer: No, because the hands are at roughly the same distance but are drawn at different widths (4 cm vs 5 cm).

Reason: The convention says to draw both hands at the same scale unless the viewpoint clearly places one farther away. Here the depths are similar, so the 1 cm width difference is inconsistent with the convention.

Check: Measure both hand widths; if the viewpoint places them at similar depth, accept only if the widths differ by 0.5 cm or less. If one hand is clearly farther away, a slightly smaller width for that hand is acceptable.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Guitar body rests on thigh or strap and is not flat against the chest.
- [ ] Neck angle is consistent and the guitar looks supported.
- [ ] Fretting hand has thumb behind the neck and fingertips behind fret lines.
- [ ] Strumming hand is relaxed near the soundhole and does not cover it entirely.
- [ ] Posture shows relaxed shoulders and slight head tilt toward the neck.
- [ ] Proportions follow the one-third guitar-body-to-figure-height check (hypothetical example).
- [ ] Valid alternative hand styles are accepted if finger spacing and placement rules are met, and hand sizes follow the stated convention: equal scale unless the viewpoint clearly places one hand farther away.

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