Whiskers Drawing: Curved Stroke Placement on a Muzzle

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A muzzle is 8 cm wide and 6 cm tall, so its midline is 3 cm above the baseline and the x-height is 3 cm. You place two roots per side at 2 cm and 5 cm from the centerline. Are the root gaps acceptable under the half-x-height rule?

Answer: Yes. The gap is 3 cm, and half the x-height is 1.5 cm, so 3 cm is greater than 1.5 cm.

Reason: Subtract the root positions to find the gap: 5 minus 2 equals 3 cm. Compare 3 cm to half of 3 cm, which is 1.5 cm. Since 3 is greater than 1.5, the spacing passes.

Check: Re-measure the two root positions and confirm the gap is at least half the x-height.

Task 2

A whisker is 6 cm long and bows 2 cm from a straight root-to-tip line. Does it meet the one-quarter bow convention?

Answer: No. One-quarter of 6 cm is 1.5 cm, and 2 cm exceeds that by 0.5 cm.

Reason: Multiply 6 by 0.25 to get 1.5 cm. Compare the measured bow of 2 cm to 1.5 cm. Since 2 is greater than 1.5, the bow is too large for the convention unless noted as a deliberate alternative.

Check: Measure the whisker length and the maximum distance from the straight root-to-tip line, then compare.

Task 3

On a 10 cm wide, 8 cm tall muzzle, the midline is 4 cm above the baseline and the x-height is 4 cm. Roots on one side sit at 2 cm, 4 cm, and 7 cm from the centerline. Identify any spacing problem using the half-x-height rule.

Answer: The gap between 4 cm and 7 cm is 3 cm, which passes half the x-height of 2 cm. The gap between 2 cm and 4 cm is 2 cm, which equals half the x-height and is acceptable. No spacing problem under this rule.

Reason: Half the x-height is 2 cm. Gaps are 2 cm and 3 cm. Both are at least 2 cm, so the roots pass. Note that even spacing is not required by the rule, only the minimum gap.

Check: List the gaps in order and compare each to half the x-height.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A student draws three whiskers from one root dot, fanning outward. Is this allowed by the lesson convention, and what should they check?

Answer: The convention expects one stroke per root dot. Fanning three strokes from one root is a valid alternative only if the student notes it and checks that strokes do not cross and each tapers. They should also confirm root spacing still meets the half-x-height rule.

Reason: The lesson defines roots as placement dots and strokes as single curves from each root. Multiple strokes from one root change the convention, so it must be labeled as an alternative and checked for crossing and taper.

Check: Count strokes per root, check same-side crossings, and re-measure root gaps.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Roots are marked before strokes and are visible as dots.
- [ ] Three roots per side are spaced evenly outward from the centerline.
- [ ] No two roots on the same side are closer than half the x-height.
- [ ] Each whisker starts at a root and tapers outward.
- [ ] Curves are smooth; bow is no more than one-quarter of whisker length unless noted as a deliberate alternative.
- [ ] Same-side whiskers do not cross.
- [ ] Direction choices are consistent enough to read clearly.
- [ ] Self-check measurements use consistent units and simple arithmetic.

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