Caricature Drawing: Exaggerate Facial Features with Measured Ratios

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A neutral mouth width is 3 grid squares. Exaggerate it to a ratio of 2.0. What is the new width, and how do you check it?

Answer: New width = 3 × 2.0 = 6 grid squares. Check by measuring the drawn mouth width and dividing by 3; the result should be 2.0 within one square.

Reason: The ratio is new size divided by neutral size, so multiply the neutral width by the chosen ratio.

Check: Measure the drawn mouth in grid squares, divide by 3, and confirm the quotient is 2.0 within one square.

Task 2

A neutral eye height is 1 grid square. You draw an exaggerated eye height of 2.5 squares. What ratio did you use, and is it consistent with a stated target of 2.5?

Answer: Ratio = 2.5 ÷ 1 = 2.5. Yes, it matches the stated target of 2.5.

Reason: Divide the new measurement by the neutral measurement to find the achieved ratio.

Check: Re-measure the eye height and neutral eye height on the same grid; confirm the division gives 2.5.

Task 3

A neutral nose length is 4 grid squares. You want a ratio of 1.25. What new length should you draw, and what is one valid alternative exaggeration?

Answer: New length = 4 × 1.25 = 5 grid squares. A valid alternative is to exaggerate nose width instead, stating its neutral width and chosen ratio.

Reason: Multiply neutral length by the ratio. Alternatives are valid when they use a stated ratio and consistent measurement.

Check: Measure the drawn nose length from midline to tip; it should be 5 squares within one square. For the alternative, check the width ratio the same way.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

On identical grids, a neutral ear top is 2 squares above the midline. The caricature ear top is 3 squares above the midline. What is the ratio, and does aligning baseline and midline matter for this check?

Answer: Ratio = 3 ÷ 2 = 1.5. Yes, aligning baseline and midline matters because vertical positions are measured from the same x-height reference.

Reason: The ratio compares new to neutral position using the same reference line.

Check: Confirm both grids share baseline and midline, then measure each ear top from the midline and divide.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Neutral face includes labeled baseline, midline, and x-height reference.
- [ ] One feature is exaggerated with a stated ratio and consistent units.
- [ ] Before and after faces share identical grids and aligned baseline/midline.
- [ ] Measurements are checkable by grid count or ruler within one unit.
- [ ] Labels follow the baseline-to-midline x-height convention and remain legible.
- [ ] Valid alternatives such as width exaggeration or shifted features are accepted when clearly measured.

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