Cartoon Potted Plant Drawing: Pot, Stem, and Leaf Placement

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A student draws a pot with a top ellipse centered at 40 mm from the left edge and a base ellipse centered at 50 mm from the left edge. The pot height is 30 mm. Describe the main problem and the correction.

Answer: The ellipses do not share a center line, so the pot looks twisted. Redraw both ellipses on one vertical center line, for example at 45 mm from the left edge.

Reason: A cylinder-like pot needs aligned ellipse centers. The 10 mm offset is the error; aligning both at one value fixes it.

Check: Measure the distance from the left edge to each ellipse center. The two values should match.

Task 2

Using a hypothetical x-height of 8 mm, a pot rim is at 24 mm above the baseline. A lowest leaf box starts 8 mm above the rim. How far above the baseline is the leaf box start?

Answer: 32 mm above the baseline.

Reason: Rim height 24 mm plus one x-height 8 mm equals 32 mm. This keeps the leaf box clear of the rim.

Check: Add 24 and 8. Confirm the result is greater than the rim height by exactly one x-height.

Task 3

A cartoon plant has five leaf boxes. The pattern is left, left, right, left, right. State the placement mistake and give a corrected alternating pattern.

Answer: The first two boxes are both left, so the pattern is not alternating. A corrected pattern is left, right, left, right, left.

Reason: Alternating placement balances visual weight. Two adjacent left boxes make the left side heavy near the bottom.

Check: Read the sequence and confirm no two adjacent boxes are on the same side.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A pot is 36 mm tall and the stem is planned to be 1.5 times the pot height. The stem starts at the top ellipse center, which is 36 mm above the baseline. How high above the baseline is the stem top?

Answer: 90 mm above the baseline.

Reason: Stem length is 1.5 times 36 mm, which is 54 mm. Add the start height 36 mm to get 90 mm.

Check: Multiply 36 by 1.5 to get 54, then add 36. Confirm the total is greater than the pot height.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Pot has a top ellipse and base ellipse sharing one vertical center line.
- [ ] Pot body connects the ellipses with tapered sides and a rim band.
- [ ] One continuous curved stem starts at the top ellipse center.
- [ ] Three to five leaf boxes alternate along the stem and stay above the rim.
- [ ] Leaf shape is repeated consistently, with a center vein in each leaf.
- [ ] Pot base touches the baseline and the drawing shows left-right balance.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted: uniform line weight, colored outlines, or different repeated leaf shapes.

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