Cartoon Seashell Drawing: Simplified Spiral and Expressive Face

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a cartoon seashell with a surprised face. Use a 9 cm by 7 cm shell body, a spiral center 2.5 cm from the top tip, three arcs with 4 mm gaps, a 1 cm edge, and a 3.5 cm by 2.5 cm face box. Describe where the eyes and mouth go.

Answer: The shell body is a rounded triangle 9 cm by 7 cm. Three arcs curve around a center 2.5 cm from the top tip with 4 mm gaps. A 1 cm edge runs along the bottom and sides. Inside the 3.5 cm by 2.5 cm box, two round eyes sit about 1.2 cm apart, and a small open oval mouth sits below them to show surprise.

Reason: The smaller measurements scale down the worked example while keeping the same convention: three arcs, a clear edge, and a face inside the box. The open oval mouth creates a readable surprised expression.

Check: Count three arcs, confirm the face is inside the box, and check that the open mouth is visible from one meter away.

Task 2

Draw a cartoon seashell with a sleepy face. Use a 12 cm by 9 cm shell body, a spiral center 3.5 cm from the top tip, three arcs with 6 mm gaps, a 1.5 cm edge, and a 5 cm by 3.5 cm face box. Describe the eye and mouth shapes.

Answer: The shell body is a rounded triangle 12 cm by 9 cm. Three arcs curve around a center 3.5 cm from the top tip with 6 mm gaps. A 1.5 cm edge runs along the bottom and sides. Inside the 5 cm by 3.5 cm box, two half-closed eyes are drawn as short curved lines about 1.8 cm apart, and a small flat mouth sits below them.

Reason: Larger measurements give more room for the face. Half-closed eyes and a flat mouth are simple shapes that read as sleepy while staying inside the box.

Check: Confirm three arcs, a face inside the box, and that the half-closed eyes and flat mouth are clear from one meter away.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Draw a cartoon seashell with a happy face on a 10 cm by 10 cm paper. Choose your own shell body size between 8 cm and 10 cm wide, a spiral center between 2 cm and 3 cm from the top tip, three arcs with gaps between 4 mm and 6 mm, an edge between 0.8 cm and 1.2 cm, and a face box between 3 cm by 2 cm and 4 cm by 3 cm. State your chosen measurements.

Answer: One valid answer: shell body 9 cm by 7 cm, spiral center 2.5 cm from the top tip, three arcs with 5 mm gaps, edge 1 cm, face box 3.5 cm by 2.5 cm. Two eyes sit 1.3 cm apart above a curved smile inside the box.

Reason: The ranges allow valid alternatives while keeping the convention. Any choice within the ranges that produces three clear arcs and a readable happy face is correct.

Check: Verify your stated measurements fall within the ranges, count three arcs, and check the smile is readable from one meter away.

Task 4

Draw two cartoon seashells side by side on one paper. The first has a happy face and the second has an angry face. Use the same shell body size of 8 cm by 6 cm for both, a spiral center 2 cm from the top tip, three arcs with 4 mm gaps, a 0.8 cm edge, and a 3 cm by 2 cm face box. Describe how the faces differ.

Answer: Both shells use a rounded triangle 8 cm by 6 cm, three arcs around a center 2 cm from the top tip with 4 mm gaps, a 0.8 cm edge, and a 3 cm by 2 cm box. The happy shell has two dot eyes 1 cm apart above a curved smile. The angry shell has two dot eyes 1 cm apart above a mouth curved downward, with short slanted lines above the eyes as eyebrows.

Reason: Using identical shell structure isolates the expression change. The mouth curve and eyebrow lines are simple, readable differences that fit inside the same box.

Check: Confirm both shells have three arcs and a face inside the box, then check that the smile and the downward mouth with eyebrows are each readable from one meter away.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Shell body is a rounded triangle with a clear outer edge.
- [ ] Three spiral arcs are visible and shrink toward a center point.
- [ ] Face features sit inside the placement box.
- [ ] Expression is readable from about one meter away.
- [ ] Drawing follows the simplified spiral convention, not realistic anatomy.
- [ ] Valid alternatives in letter style, eye shape, and mouth curve are accepted if structure and readability are clear.

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