Draw a Person Looking Down: Head Tilt and Neck Construction

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A head is tilted 45 degrees forward from vertical. The head length is 10 units. Where should the eye line be placed along the midline, and what is the neck length if it is half the head length?

Answer: Eye line at 5 units from the top of the head along the midline. Neck length is 5 units.

Reason: The eye line sits halfway between top of head and chin, so 10 divided by 2 equals 5 units. Neck length is half the head length, so 10 divided by 2 equals 5 units.

Check: Measure along the tilted midline from the top of the head; confirm the eye line is at the midpoint. Measure the neck from chin to shoulder and confirm it equals half the head length.

Task 2

A drawing shows a head tilted 30 degrees from vertical, but the eye line is drawn horizontal to the page. Describe the error and the fix.

Answer: The error is that the eye line is not perpendicular to the tilted midline. The fix is to redraw the eye line perpendicular to the midline, which means it should be tilted 30 degrees from horizontal in the opposite direction.

Reason: Feature lines must follow the head tilt. A horizontal eye line on a tilted head makes the face look flat and inconsistent. Perpendicularity keeps the features aligned with the angle.

Check: Use a set square or card corner to check that the angle between the eye line and the midline is 90 degrees.

Task 3

A neck is drawn 6 units long for a head that is 8 units long. The front neck line is vertical. Is this consistent with a head tilted 30 degrees forward? Explain and suggest a correction.

Answer: No. The neck is too long (6 units instead of about 4 units) and the front neck line should tilt slightly forward, about 10 degrees from vertical, to support the tilted head. Correction: shorten the neck to about 4 units and tilt the front neck line forward slightly.

Reason: Neck length should be about half the head length, so 8 divided by 2 equals 4 units. A vertical front neck line with a tilted head can look disconnected; a slight forward tilt improves support.

Check: Measure neck length against head length; confirm it is about half. Check the front neck line angle against vertical; it should be slightly forward, not perfectly vertical.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

You are drawing a person looking down with a 15-degree head tilt. The head length is 9 units. Place the nose base at two-thirds of the head length from the top. How many units from the top is the nose base, and what neck length would you use if following the half-head convention?

Answer: Nose base is 6 units from the top along the midline. Neck length is 4.5 units.

Reason: Two-thirds of 9 is 6 (9 times 2 divided by 3 equals 6). Half of 9 is 4.5 (9 divided by 2 equals 4.5).

Check: Measure along the tilted midline from the top of the head to the nose base; confirm it is 6 units. Measure neck from chin to shoulder; confirm it is 4.5 units.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Head midline is straight and tilted at a consistent angle from vertical.
- [ ] Facial feature lines are perpendicular to the tilted midline, not horizontal to the page.
- [ ] Neck length is approximately half the head length, using consistent units.
- [ ] Front neck line is roughly parallel to the chin-to-shoulder line.
- [ ] Back neck line connects to the back of the skull, not the middle of the head.
- [ ] Neck width is proportionate to the head (for example, about 3 units for an 8-unit head).
- [ ] Overall head-neck transition looks smooth and supportive, with no sharp bends.
- [ ] Valid alternative line styles and handwriting are acceptable if the tilt and alignment are consistent.

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