Side View of a Person Drawing: Profile Proportions and Standing Stance

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a side-view figure 6 units tall with a vertical measurement scale beside it. Set a horizontal foot baseline at y=0 and the top of the head at 6 units. Use horizontal guides from the scale to place the ear at 4.5 units, hip at 3 units, knee at 1.5 units, and ankle at 0.5 units above the baseline. Sketch the profile contour and align the leg; keep the figure off the ruler.

Answer: Keep the 6-unit scale vertical beside the figure. Transfer the 4.5, 3, 1.5, and 0.5 height ticks horizontally to the ear, hip, knee, and ankle. The ear is at 4.5/6=75%, the hip at 3/6=50%, and the knee at 1.5/6=25%. Keep the foot on the baseline and draw the profile separately from the ruler.

Reason: The ruler supplies vertical heights; horizontal guides place the landmarks at those heights without making the body lie on the scale. The proportions are hypothetical drawing guides.

Check: Confirm the scale is vertical and beside the figure. Check the ear, hip, knee, and ankle against horizontal guides from 4.5, 3, 1.5, and 0.5 units; confirm the foot rests on the baseline and the body is not drawn on the ruler.

Task 2

Draw a side-view figure 10 units tall, facing right, with a slight forward lean. Place a vertical measurement scale upright beside the figure, use the horizontal foot baseline as y=0 and the top of the head as y=10, then transfer these heights with horizontal guides: ear 7, hip 5, knee 2.5, and ankle 0.5 units. Show the lean relative to a separate vertical plumb reference through the ankle; keep the figure off the ruler.

Answer: Keep the 10-unit measurement scale vertical beside the figure. Transfer the ear, hip, knee, and ankle heights with horizontal guides. To show the forward lean, draw a separate faint plumb guide through the ankle and place the head and upper torso slightly to its right; the guide is not the measurement ruler. Keep the foot on the baseline and the arm near the torso.

Reason: The beside-the-figure ruler records height only. A separate vertical plumb reference shows the horizontal displacement of the leaning body; the ruler must not tilt with the figure.

Check: Confirm the ruler remains vertical beside the figure and all four landmarks align horizontally with their ticks. Check that the optional ankle plumb guide is separate and vertical, the upper torso is slightly right of it, and the foot touches the baseline.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Draw a side-view figure 8 units tall with a vertical measurement scale beside it. Set a horizontal foot baseline at y=0 and the top of the head at 8 units. Use horizontal guides to place the ear at 6 units, hip at 4 units, knee at 2 units, and ankle at 0.5 units. Draw the profile contour and mark the elbow near the waist and wrist near the hip; keep the body off the ruler.

Answer: Place the scale beside the figure and transfer the four heights horizontally. The ear is at 6/8=75%, the hip at 4/8=50%, the knee at 2/8=25%, and the ankle is 0.5 units above the baseline. Draw the elbow near the waist and wrist near the hip on the figure itself, not on the scale; keep the foot on the baseline and the profile contour continuous.

Reason: The scale and horizontal guides check landmark heights, while the elbow and wrist are placed relative to the body’s waist and hip.

Check: Confirm the scale is beside the figure, the four landmarks align horizontally with their stated ticks, and the elbow/wrist are on the arm near the waist/hip. Confirm the foot and contour.

Task 4

Draw a side-view figure 7 units tall with a vertical measurement scale beside it. Set a horizontal foot baseline at y=0 and the top of the head at 7 units. Transfer the ear at 5 units, hip at 3.5 units, knee at 1.75 units, and ankle at 0.5 units from ruler ticks using horizontal guides. Keep a visible gap between the ruler and the profile contour; do not use the ruler as the body’s stance line.

Answer: Keep the 7-unit ruler vertical in a separate lane beside the figure. Transfer the four stated heights horizontally: ear 5/7≈71%, hip 3.5/7=50%, knee 1.75 units, and ankle 0.5 units. Draw the nose and chin as part of the forward profile contour, separated from the ruler; if the two lanes touch, move the ruler farther aside rather than changing the figure.

Reason: The knee at 1.75/7=25% matches the worksheet guide. The measurement ruler records height only. Horizontal guides align the landmarks; the ruler is not a contour boundary or stance axis.

Check: Confirm the ruler is upright and beside the figure, the profile is in its own lane with a visible gap, and horizontal guides align the ear at 5 units, hip at 3.5, knee at 1.75, and ankle at 0.5 with their ticks. Confirm the foot is on the baseline.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] The measurement scale is vertical and clearly placed beside the figure, separate from the body contour.
- [ ] Ear, shoulder, hip, knee, and ankle align horizontally with their corresponding scale ticks.
- [ ] Profile contour is continuous from forehead to chin.
- [ ] Arm and leg segments connect in sequence and match the stated landmark heights.
- [ ] Foot sits on the horizontal baseline.
- [ ] Measurements use one consistent unit.
- [ ] If a plumb stance guide is used to show a lean, it is vertical through the ankle and distinct from the measurement scale.
- [ ] Valid alternatives (slight lean, varied line weight) are accepted if the ruler, guides, and figure remain consistent.

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