Draw a Pile of Coins: Overlapping Ellipses and Edge Shading

Topic reference / ordinary illustration



Ordinary topic reference. Hypothetical dimensions in the four tasks are supplied in their own text; this illustration is not their measured answer.

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Worked example / complete source key

Draw a pile of three coins. Coin A is farthest, coin B is middle, coin C is nearest. Use a top-ellipse ratio of 3:1 and a side-edge band of about one-tenth of the coin diameter. Describe the visible outlines and shading.

Answer: Draw coin A as a full top ellipse with a thin side edge. Draw coin B so its top ellipse overlaps the lower right of coin A; erase the part of A's outline inside B's top ellipse. Draw coin C so its top ellipse overlaps the lower left of B; erase the hidden part of B's outline. Shade each visible side edge with a narrow band along the lower curve, darkest at the bottom center. Coin C's band is drawn last and may cover part of B's band where they meet. The final pile shows three partial ellipses, with only coin C fully outlined.