Realistic Banana Drawing: Curvature, Ridges, and Shading

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

On a blank sheet, draw only the curved centerline and two outer contour lines for a banana. Make the left side fuller near the middle and the right side flatter. Mark stem and tip ends. Do not add ridges or shading.

Answer: A shallow crescent with a fuller left bulge near the middle, a flatter right side, and tapered ends. The widest point sits slightly past the midpoint toward the left.

Reason: This isolates the banana-specific curve and unequal side widths before adding surface detail.

Check: Measure the distance from the centerline to each side at three points. The left distance at the widest point should be greater than the right, and both ends should taper.

Task 2

Using your outline from the first exercise, add three to five longitudinal ridge lines. Space them unevenly, bow them with the body, and fade them near the stem and tip. State how many ridges you used.

Answer: Any count from three to five is valid if the ridges follow the curve, are unevenly spaced, and fade near the ends. One ridge should be more prominent than the others.

Reason: Ridge count and spacing vary, so the check focuses on banana-specific structure rather than an exact pattern.

Check: Trace each ridge with your finger: it should run roughly parallel to the centerline and not cross it. Confirm the lines soften near both ends.

Task 3

Choose a light direction and shade the banana from the second exercise using values 1 to 5. Keep the lit side at 1 or 2, the shadow side at 3, and the tip at 4. Describe your light direction in one sentence.

Answer: A valid response states one light direction, keeps the lit side lighter, shades the opposite side and ridge gaps at value 3, and darkens the tip to value 4.

Reason: Shading is checked against the learner's stated light direction, allowing different valid choices.

Check: Squint at the drawing. The side facing the stated light should be lighter than the opposite side, and the tip should be the darkest small zone.

Realistic Banana Drawing: Curvature, Ridges, and Shading

Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Draw a complete realistic banana from memory using the convention in this lesson. Include the curve, three to five ridges, and shading with a consistent light direction. Then write one sentence explaining how your tip taper supports realism.

Answer: A complete banana with a shallow crescent, unequal side widths, three to five bowed ridges, and shading that matches a stated light direction. The tip should narrow and darken slightly.

Reason: This combines all banana-specific cues and asks the learner to justify the tip treatment.

Check: Use the rubric: check curve, ridge placement, shading consistency, and tip taper. The explanation should mention narrowing or darkening at the tip.

Realistic Banana Drawing: Curvature, Ridges, and Shading

Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Curve reads as a shallow crescent with unequal side widths.
- [ ] Widest point is slightly past the midpoint toward the fuller side.
- [ ] Three to five ridge lines follow the body curve and fade near the ends.
- [ ] Ridge spacing is uneven and at least one ridge is dominant.
- [ ] Shading uses a consistent light direction and supports rounded volume.
- [ ] Tip tapers and is slightly darker than the midbody.
- [ ] No hard stripe-like ridge lines or symmetrical arc.
- [ ] Construction lines are erased or subordinate to the final contour.

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