Shark Pencil Drawing: Shading and Fin Detail

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.

Shark Pencil Drawing: Shading and Fin Detail

Worked example / complete source key

A student draws a shark with the dorsal fin at the midpoint and shades the belly as dark as the back. The fins look flat. Describe how to revise the drawing using the lesson’s convention.

Answer: Move the dorsal fin slightly behind the midpoint and adjust the pectoral fins so they balance the lower body. Erase excess tone on the belly until it is mostly paper with a faint lower edge, and keep the back as the darkest zone. Add short fin lines that follow the leading edge and taper toward the trailing edge, spaced about one x-height apart at the base. Darken the fin tips and lift a thin highlight along the leading edge. Check by squinting: the back should be darkest, the flank mid, and the belly lightest, with fins readable at arm’s length.