Draw an Owl Perched in a Tree: Branch Grip and Foliage Framing

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a perched owl on a horizontal branch. Use a body height of 6 cm, head diameter of 3 cm, and a grip zone of 5 cm. Show two feet with one back toe and two front toes each. Add one foliage cluster of four leaves at the upper left, clear of the face.

Answer: A perched owl with body 6 cm tall, head 3 cm diameter, grip zone 5 cm, two feet inside the zone, toes interrupting the branch line, and four leaves at upper left not covering the face.

Reason: The head-to-body ratio is 1:2, and two feet fit inside the 5 cm grip zone with a small gap. The foliage cluster frames without blocking the focal owl.

Check: Measure head diameter and body height to confirm 1:2. Trace the branch line through the toes to confirm interruption. Check that no leaf overlaps the eyes or beak.

Task 2

Draw an owl on a branch angled 15 degrees upward to the left. Body height 7 cm, head diameter 3.5 cm, grip zone 6 cm. Place foliage clusters at upper right and lower left, three leaves each. Keep the grip zone clear.

Answer: An owl perched on an upward-left branch with body 7 cm, head 3.5 cm, grip zone 6 cm, two feet wrapping the branch, and two three-leaf clusters at upper right and lower left.

Reason: The 1:2 ratio holds. The angled branch requires the toes to follow the branch contour, so the branch line is erased at each toe crossing. Foliage at opposite corners frames the owl.

Check: Confirm the branch angle by comparing to a 15-degree line. Check toe crossings interrupt the branch contour. Verify foliage clusters do not enter the grip zone.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Draw a compact owl with body height 5 cm and head diameter 2.5 cm on a branch with a 4 cm grip zone. Show one foot with three visible toes and the other foot partly hidden behind the branch. Add a single foliage cluster of five leaves at the lower right.

Answer: A compact owl with 1:2 head-to-body ratio, one foot with three toes wrapping the branch, the second foot partly hidden, and five leaves at lower right clear of the face.

Reason: A partly hidden foot is valid if the visible foot clearly grips the branch. The 4 cm grip zone fits one 2 cm foot plus space. The single cluster frames without crowding.

Check: Measure the visible foot width against the grip zone. Check that the hidden foot does not float above the branch. Confirm leaves do not cover the eyes or beak.

Task 4

Draw an owl on a branch with a 7 cm grip zone. Body height 8 cm, head diameter 4 cm. Show both feet fully with toes wrapping the branch. Add foliage at upper left and upper right, four leaves each, leaving a clear gap above the owl's head.

Answer: An owl with body 8 cm, head 4 cm, both feet fully gripping the 7 cm zone, and two four-leaf clusters at upper corners with a clear gap above the head.

Reason: Two feet plus a gap fit inside 7 cm if each foot is about 2.5 cm wide. Upper corner foliage frames the head without covering it. The clear gap keeps the focal owl visible.

Check: Measure foot widths and gap to confirm they fit the 7 cm zone. Check that the gap above the head is unobstructed. Trace branch contour interruptions at each toe.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Owl body is perched and centered above the grip zone.
- [ ] Branch grip shows toes wrapping the branch with interrupted branch contour.
- [ ] Foliage frames the owl without covering eyes, beak, or grip zone.
- [ ] Head-to-body ratio is consistent and measurable.
- [ ] Final contours are clear and construction lines are removed.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted if the grip reads clearly and the owl remains the focal point.

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