Eyes Drawing Styles: Cartoon, Anime, and Realistic Side by Side

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw three aligned columns with a shared baseline and midline. In the cartoon column, draw a bold upper lid and a large circular iris that touches the upper lid. In the anime column, draw a defined upper lid with a short eyelash line and a vertical oval iris. In the realistic column, draw an upper lid with a subtle fold and a circular iris slightly covered by both lids. Add one highlight per column: large for cartoon, sharp for anime, small and soft for realistic.

Answer: A completed page shows three columns at the same scale. The cartoon eye has a thick upper lid and a large highlight. The anime eye has a defined upper lid, a taller iris, and a sharp highlight. The realistic eye has a lid fold, a partly covered iris, and a small soft highlight.

Reason: The shared baseline and midline keep the comparison fair. Each style uses its characteristic lid thickness, iris shape, and highlight size, so the differences are visible side by side.

Check: Verify that all three columns share the same baseline and midline. Check that the cartoon highlight is the largest, the anime highlight is sharp, and the realistic highlight is the smallest and softest. Confirm that the realistic iris is partly covered by both lids.

Task 2

Using the same three-column layout, redraw the cartoon eye but make the lower lid visible and thin. Then redraw the anime eye with a smaller pupil and a second sharp highlight. Finally, redraw the realistic eye with a slightly larger visible sclera area by raising the upper lid line. Label what changed in each column.

Answer: The cartoon eye now has a thin lower lid but keeps its bold upper lid and large highlight. The anime eye has a smaller pupil and two sharp highlights. The realistic eye shows more sclera because the upper lid line is raised, while the iris remains partly covered.

Reason: Changing one feature at a time within each style shows how construction choices affect the read. The cartoon remains simplified, the anime gains a sharper highlight pattern, and the realistic eye shows more sclera without losing its lid fold.

Check: Compare the new drawings with the first set. Confirm the cartoon lower lid is thin, the anime pupil is smaller with two sharp highlights, and the realistic sclera area is larger due to the raised upper lid line.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Draw a single row with three eye outlines side by side, all sharing the same iris diameter. In the first outline, overlap the upper lid by one-third of the iris height. In the second, overlap the upper lid by one-half. In the third, overlap the upper lid by two-thirds. Label each outline with the overlap fraction and describe how the visible iris shape changes.

Answer: As the upper lid overlap increases from one-third to two-thirds, the visible iris becomes shorter and more crescent-like. The first outline shows the most iris, the second shows a moderate amount, and the third shows the least.

Reason: The iris diameter stays constant, so the change in visible shape comes only from lid overlap. This isolates the effect of lid coverage, which is a key difference between styles.

Check: Measure the visible iris height in each outline. Confirm that the one-third overlap shows the tallest visible iris and the two-thirds overlap shows the shortest. Check that the labels match the fractions.

Task 4

Create a comparison table with three rows (cartoon, anime, realistic) and three columns (upper lid, iris shape, highlight). Fill each cell with a short description based on your drawings. Then draw one new eye in each style that follows your table descriptions.

Answer: The table lists the upper lid as bold for cartoon, defined with eyelash line for anime, and folded for realistic. Iris shape is large circular for cartoon, vertical oval for anime, and circular but partly covered for realistic. Highlight is large and simple for cartoon, sharp and angular for anime, and small and soft for realistic. The new drawings match these descriptions.

Reason: Writing the descriptions first forces you to identify the construction choices before drawing. The new drawings test whether you can apply those choices consistently.

Check: Compare each new drawing with its table row. Confirm that the upper lid, iris shape, and highlight match the written description. Check that the three styles remain visually distinct.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Three columns are aligned and share a baseline and midline.
- [ ] Cartoon column uses a bold upper lid, minimal lower lid, and a large simple highlight.
- [ ] Anime column uses a defined upper lid, vertical iris emphasis, and sharp highlights.
- [ ] Realistic column uses a lid fold, visible lower lid, and small soft highlights.
- [ ] Labels clearly identify each style and the compared features.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted if the construction choices are consistent within each style.

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