Draw a Mushroom in One Continuous Contour Line

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Plan a continuous contour route for a mushroom with a cap 8 cm wide and a stem 4 cm tall. State the start point, the order of edges, and the end point.

Answer: Start at the bottom-left of the stem base. Go up the left stem edge about 4 cm, turn outward along the cap's left underside, around the cap top in an arc about 8 cm wide, down the cap's right underside, turn inward at the stem junction, and down the right stem edge to the bottom-right of the base.

Reason: The route visits each outer edge once and keeps start and end on the same base line, so the pencil never needs to lift.

Check: Confirm the route includes both stem sides, both cap undersides, and the cap top, with start and end on the stem base.

Task 2

A drawing has a cap 5 cm wide and a stem 5 cm tall. Using the silhouette check, is the cap clearly wider than the stem? What single change would improve the read?

Answer: No, the cap and stem are equal in width, so the silhouette is ambiguous. Widen the cap to about 7 cm while keeping the stem at 5 cm, or narrow the stem, so the cap is visibly wider.

Reason: The check requires the cap to be visibly wider than the stem; equal widths fail that check even if the line is continuous.

Check: Compare the two recorded widths; the cap value should be clearly larger than the stem value.

Task 3

During drawing, the pencil reaches the stem-cap junction and the line has a 1 cm gap because the pencil lifted. Describe the fix and the corrected route at that junction.

Answer: The fix is to make a tight U-turn at the junction instead of stopping. Approach the junction, curve back slightly, and continue along the cap underside, then return down the stem edge. The corrected route has no gap and the pencil stays down.

Reason: A U-turn keeps the contour continuous at the hardest transition and avoids a lifted-pencil gap.

Check: Trace the junction with a finger; there should be no gap and the line should connect stem to cap underside.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

You want to label the start and end points. Using the x-height convention, describe how to keep the labels consistent and check them.

Answer: Write both labels in lowercase with the same baseline-to-midline height, for example a hypothetical 4 mm x-height for both. Check by comparing the two letter heights against the same baseline-to-midline measurement.

Reason: The x-height convention measures lowercase letters from baseline to midline; matching that measurement keeps labels consistent without prescribing one letter style.

Check: Measure baseline to midline on both labels; the values should match, and valid letter-style alternatives are acceptable.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] The outline is one continuous line with no lifted-pencil gaps.
- [ ] The cap is visibly wider than the stem.
- [ ] The stem reaches a base and the start and end points are both on that base.
- [ ] No shading or cap-gill detail is included.
- [ ] The silhouette reads as a mushroom from a short distance.
- [ ] Line pressure is even enough that the contour looks unbroken.
- [ ] Any labels use consistent letter size measured baseline to midline (x-height convention).
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted: leaning stems, uneven caps, and small deliberate crossings near the stem.

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