Cartoon Face Expressions: Swap Eyes, Brows, and Mouths

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a happy face using open circle eyes, flat brows, and an upward curve mouth. Place eyes on the midline 1.5 cm apart and mouth 1.5 cm below the midline.

Answer: A 6 cm by 4 cm oval with two open circles on the midline about 1.5 cm apart, flat brow lines 1 cm above the eyes, and an upward curve mouth 1.5 cm below the midline. Measurements are hypothetical examples and may be scaled proportionally.

Reason: The upward curve mouth signals happiness; flat brows keep the face calm rather than excited.

Check: Measure eye spacing (about 1.5 cm) and mouth distance from midline (about 1.5 cm); confirm the mouth curves upward.

Task 2

Draw an angry face using slanted line eyes with small pupils, brows angled down toward the center, and a downward curve mouth.

Answer: A 6 cm by 4 cm oval with slanted line eyes on the midline, brows angled down toward the center about 1 cm above the eyes, and a downward curve mouth 1.5 cm below the midline. Measurements are hypothetical examples and may be scaled proportionally.

Reason: Angled brows and slanted eyes create tension; the downward mouth reinforces anger rather than sadness.

Check: Check that brows angle down toward the center and the mouth curves downward; measure feature distances from the midline.

Task 3

Draw a sad face using open circle eyes, raised arc brows, and a downward curve mouth. Then swap only the mouth to an upward curve and describe how the expression changes.

Answer: First face: open circle eyes, raised arcs, downward mouth, reading as sad or worried. After swapping the mouth upward, the face reads as relieved or gently happy because the brows still suggest concern.

Reason: Raised brows add worry; changing only the mouth shows how one feature shifts the emotion.

Check: Confirm only the mouth changed between the two drawings, that both faces use the same oval and feature positions, and that the emotion labels match the feature changes.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Invent an original expression by combining wide circle eyes, flat brows, and a downward curve mouth. Label it with an emotion word and name the key feature.

Answer: A face with wide eyes, flat brows, and a downward mouth can read as disappointed or stunned. The key feature is the wide eyes, which add surprise to the sad mouth.

Reason: Combining features from different emotion families creates a mixed expression useful in cartoons.

Check: Check that the three feature types are present, the label is one word, the named key feature is visible in the drawing, and the face follows the stated convention.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Face oval is present and consistent in size across expressions.
- [ ] Eyes, brows, and mouth follow the stated convention or a clearly labeled alternative.
- [ ] Features are placed using the midline and measured spacing.
- [ ] At least three distinct expressions are shown in the practice row.
- [ ] Each practice face is labeled with an emotion word and a key feature.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted if the convention is stated and consistent.

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