Comic Face Drawing: Exaggerated Eyes and Speech-Bubble Layout

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A face rectangle is 10 cm tall and 6 cm wide. Using the convention, state the eye-line height from the top, the height of each eye oval, and the eye width used for bubble clearance.

Answer: Eye line: 5 cm from the top. Each eye oval: about 3.33 cm tall. Eye width for clearance: about 1.5 cm.

Reason: Half of 10 cm is 5 cm. One-third of 10 cm is about 3.33 cm. One-quarter of 6 cm is 1.5 cm.

Check: Double the eye-line value to get 10 cm; triple the eye height to get about 10 cm; quadruple the eye width to get 6 cm.

Task 2

A panel is 14 cm wide and 9 cm tall. The face occupies the left 8 cm. Using the convention, what is the minimum bubble clearance from the nearest eye, and how much horizontal space remains for the bubble?

Answer: Minimum clearance: about 2 cm. Remaining horizontal space for the bubble: about 6 cm.

Reason: Eye width is one-quarter of face width: 8 divided by 4 equals 2 cm. The free horizontal space is the panel width minus the face width: 14 minus 8 equals 6 cm. The bubble must stay at least 2 cm from the nearest eye, leaving about 4 cm of usable bubble width if the bubble starts at the clearance line.

Check: Add the face width and free space to confirm the panel width: 8 plus 6 equals 14 cm. Subtract the clearance from the free space to confirm usable bubble width: 6 minus 2 equals 4 cm.

Task 3

A speech text needs a bubble with an inner margin of 0.5 cm on each side. The text block is 4 cm wide. What is the minimum bubble width? If the available free space is 5 cm, does the bubble fit?

Answer: Minimum bubble width: 5 cm. Yes, it fits exactly in 5 cm of free space.

Reason: Add the left and right margins to the text width: 4 plus 0.5 plus 0.5 equals 5 cm. The available free space is 5 cm, so the bubble fits with no extra room.

Check: Subtract both margins from the bubble width to recover the text width: 5 minus 0.5 minus 0.5 equals 4 cm.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A face is 12 cm tall. The eye line is placed 5 cm from the top instead of the halfway convention. Is this a valid alternative? Explain using the rubric and state one check.

Answer: Yes, it is a valid alternative if the eyes remain readable and the bubble keeps at least one eye-width clearance. Check that the eye line is clearly marked and that the expression still reads from a short distance.

Reason: The rubric accepts valid alternative conventions when readability and bubble clearance are maintained. Moving the eye line changes the expression but does not automatically violate the task.

Check: Measure the eye-line distance from the top and confirm it is consistently applied on both sides; then view the drawing from a short distance to confirm the expression is clear.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Eye line is marked and consistent with the chosen convention.
- [ ] Both exaggerated eye ovals are large, readable, and roughly equal in size.
- [ ] Pupils and highlights support a clear gaze direction.
- [ ] Speech bubble is placed in a free area with at least one eye-width clearance from the nearest eye.
- [ ] Bubble tail points toward the mouth without crossing the eyes.
- [ ] Text fits inside the bubble with a visible inner margin.
- [ ] Expression variant is recognizable from the eyes and eyebrows.
- [ ] Valid alternative conventions are accepted when the drawing remains readable and the reasoning is explained.

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