Drawing a Dad: Pose Construction and Feature Practice

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a dad figure standing straight with arms at sides. Use a head oval, torso rectangle, and hip rectangle. Mark the eye line at the one-third line from the top of the head and place simple features.

Answer: A figure with head oval, torso about two head heights tall, hips shorter, arms tapered tubes with slight elbow bend, eye line at the one-third line from the top of the head, nose base at the two-thirds line from the top, mouth line one-third of the way from the nose base down to the chin (about seven-ninths from the top), and simple mouth. Clothing can be a plain shirt.

Reason: The straight stance tests basic proportion and feature placement without complex pose changes.

Check: Check that the torso is roughly two head heights, eyes sit on the one-third line from the top of the head, the nose base sits on the two-thirds line from the top, the mouth sits about seven-ninths from the top (one-third of the way from nose base to chin), and the figure stands balanced on both feet.

Task 2

Draw a dad figure with one hand raised in a wave. Keep the other arm relaxed. Add a collared shirt and simple folds at the raised elbow.

Answer: A figure with one arm raised, elbow bent, hand near head height, other arm relaxed at side, collared shirt with fold lines at the raised elbow, and features placed using the thirds convention.

Reason: The raised arm tests joint placement and clothing folds while keeping the figure readable.

Check: Check that the raised elbow is near shoulder height, the hand is simple and readable, the collar follows the neck, and the relaxed arm hangs with the wrist near the hip.

Task 3

Draw a dad figure seated on a simple chair shape. Show the hips at seat level, knees bent, and feet on the floor. Add a sweater and simple smile lines.

Answer: A seated figure with hips on the seat, thighs horizontal, knees bent, feet flat, torso upright, sweater hem over hips, and smile lines near the mouth.

Reason: Seated poses test hip and knee joint placement and clothing over bent forms.

Check: Check that the hips rest on the seat, knees are bent at a natural angle, feet touch the floor line, and the torso stays upright above the hips.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Draw a dad figure from a slight side view, turning the head slightly. Shift the midline and feature positions accordingly. Add short hair and a simple jacket.

Answer: A figure with a slight side turn, shifted midline, features adjusted to the turn, short hair, jacket with collar and simple folds, and balanced stance.

Reason: The side view tests feature placement when the head turns and clothing cues from a different angle.

Check: Check that the shifted midline matches the head turn, features remain proportional along the shifted midline, and the jacket follows the torso shape.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Pose is balanced and grounded, with clear weight distribution.
- [ ] Head, torso, and hips align along the spine line or show intentional shift.
- [ ] Features follow the defined thirds convention or a clearly stated alternative.
- [ ] Clothing follows the body shape and includes at least one dad cue.
- [ ] Final line is clear and construction lines are removed or faint.
- [ ] Figure reads as a single adult dad without extra family members or scene elements.

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