Animal Contour Drawing: Blind Contour and Edge Tracing Practice

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a cat outline from the nose to the tail using one continuous line. If you have a printed plate, start at the nose arrow and stop at the tail arrow; otherwise, lightly sketch a simple cat outline first, then draw over it in one line. Do not lift the pencil. After drawing, count the breaks.

Answer: A single unbroken line from nose to tail with zero breaks if the pencil never lifted. If the pencil lifted once, the count is one break.

Reason: The task checks line continuity and adherence to start and stop points. Counting breaks gives a simple, checkable result.

Check: Count pencil lifts. Confirm start at nose and stop at tail. Record the number of breaks.

Task 2

Blind contour: cover your paper, look only at a dog outline (a printed plate or a photo placed in front of you), and draw its edge as one line without looking at the paper. Uncover and mark one place where your line lost the edge.

Answer: A distorted single line with one marked point where the line departed from the dog's edge. The mark identifies an observation error, not a neatness error.

Reason: Blind contour trains eye-hand coordination. The marked point shows where the eye jumped ahead of the hand.

Check: Confirm the paper was covered during drawing. Check that exactly one point is marked and described in one sentence.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Edge tracing: trace a faint bird silhouette from the beak arrow to the tail arrow with one unbroken line. If you have no printed silhouette, lightly sketch a simple bird outline first, then trace it in one darker line. If you drift off the edge, return to the last correct point without starting over. Count drifts.

Answer: One continuous line that stays on the silhouette, with a drift count of zero if the line never left the edge. If the line left once and returned, the drift count is one.

Reason: Edge tracing builds control. Returning to the last correct point keeps the line continuous while correcting drift.

Check: Count times the line left the silhouette. Confirm the line is unbroken and starts at the beak and stops at the tail.

Task 4

Measure your paper and pencil. Mark a baseline and a midline on your own paper, then record a hypothetical example: an animal ear is 5 centimeters from your marked baseline to your marked midline. Draw the ear edge as one line and state whether the line is unbroken.

Answer: A measurement recorded in one consistent unit and explicitly labeled hypothetical (for example, 5 cm from the learner's marked baseline to marked midline), plus a single-line ear edge. The line is unbroken if the pencil never lifted.

Reason: The task connects measurement with line continuity. Labeling the value as hypothetical avoids claiming a standard.

Check: Check that the measurement is labeled hypothetical and uses one consistent unit (centimeters or inches) throughout. Count pencil lifts to confirm continuity.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Line is unbroken from start arrow to stop arrow.
- [ ] Start and stop points match the labeled arrows.
- [ ] Blind contour drawing keeps eyes on the animal, not the paper.
- [ ] Edge tracing stays within the faint silhouette boundary.
- [ ] Self-check list is completed with one specific observation.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted: any animal outline or photo may be used, and measurements are recorded in one consistent unit and labeled hypothetical.

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