Draw Two Reaching Hand Poses: Block-In, Proportion, and Annotation

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Block in a reaching hand with palm width 3 units and palm length 4 units. Draw four fingers with hypothetical lengths of 4 units (middle), 3.5 units (index), 3.5 units (ring), and 2.5 units (little). Label the knuckle line and one joint per finger.

Answer: A correct block-in shows a rounded palm rectangle measuring 3 by 4 units, a wrist wedge, and four tapered finger tubes with the stated lengths. The knuckle line crosses the palm near its top edge, and each finger has at least one joint label in the annotation box. The four finger lengths should total 13.5 units (4 + 3.5 + 3.5 + 2.5), which is a quick arithmetic check that all four planned lengths were used.

Reason: The exercise checks that the learner can apply a consistent unit and the stated finger length ratios before contouring. Labeling joints separately keeps the contour clear.

Check: Measure the palm rectangle with a ruler against the unit marks. Subtract each drawn finger length from its planned length; any difference greater than half a unit requires adjustment. As a cross-check, add the four drawn finger lengths and compare the total to 13.5 units; a total more than half a unit off signals a measurement or planning error.

Task 2

Draw a pointing hand with a palm width of 3 units and an extended index finger of 4 units. Fold the remaining fingers into a compact mass. Add an annotation box listing the index finger joints and the palm-to-finger ratio.

Answer: A correct drawing shows a narrower palm rectangle, a long index finger rectangle divided into three segments, and a folded finger mass with visible knuckle bumps. The annotation box lists three index joints and the ratio 3:4 for palm width to index length.

Reason: This task practices separating the extended finger from the folded mass and recording a checkable ratio. The folded fingers should not be drawn as full-length tubes.

Check: Verify that the index finger length is four unit marks and the palm width is three. Check that the folded mass does not extend beyond the palm width by more than one unit.

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Task 3

Redraw the reaching hand from the first exercise at half scale in a practice strip rectangle with a baseline and midline. Keep the same proportion ratios and label two joints.

Answer: A correct half-scale redraw fits inside the practice strip rectangle, uses the same 3:4 palm ratio and finger length ratios, and marks the baseline and midline. Two joint labels appear in the annotation box or beside the strip.

Reason: Half-scale redrawing tests whether the learner can transfer proportions without relying on the original size. The baseline and midline apply the x-height convention for consistent labels.

Check: Measure the redrawn palm and compare each dimension to half the original unit marks. A difference of more than half a scaled unit (i.e., a quarter of the original unit) indicates drift; adjust and recheck. Also confirm the redrawn finger lengths total half of 13.5 units, or 6.75 units, within the same tolerance.

Task 4

Annotate both poses with one measured ratio each and one foreshortening note for the reaching hand. For the reaching hand, measure palm width and index finger length and record that ratio; for the pointing hand, measure palm width and extended index finger length and record that ratio. Use plain words for joints and keep all labels outside the contours.

Answer: A correct annotation includes, for example, palm width to index finger length as 3:3.5 for the reaching hand and palm width to extended index finger length as 3:4 for the pointing hand. The foreshortening note states that nearer fingers overlap farther ones and appear shorter. All labels sit outside the contours. As a check, divide each measured index finger length by its measured palm width: 3.5 divided by 3 is about 1.17 for the reaching hand, and 4 divided by 3 is about 1.33 for the pointing hand.

Reason: This exercise checks that the learner can record measurements and observations clearly. Measuring palm width against index finger length in both poses gives a directly comparable ratio. Plain-word joint labels are valid alternatives to abbreviations.

Check: Confirm that each ratio can be verified by measuring the drawing with the chosen unit: divide the measured index finger length by the measured palm width and compare to the recorded ratio. For the reaching hand the quotient should be about 1.17, and for the pointing hand about 1.33. Check that no label touches or crosses a contour line.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Block-in uses simple geometric volumes for palm, wrist, and fingers in both poses.
- [ ] Finger proportion ratios are stated and checked with a consistent unit.
- [ ] Foreshortening is shown in the reaching pose through overlap and shortened segments.
- [ ] Joint labels appear in the annotation box with leader lines, not inside the contour.
- [ ] Practice strip redraws each pose at a smaller scale with baseline and midline marked.
- [ ] Valid alternatives in letter style and finger curvature are accepted if joint positions and ratios remain checkable.

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