Drawing a Falcon Head: Profile, Hooked Beak, and Eye Placement

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

A profile guide has head length 12 units and head height 8 units. The eye is placed 4 units back from the front. Check whether the eye placement follows the one-third rule and whether the head proportion is acceptable.

Answer: The eye placement follows the rule because 4 is one-third of 12. The head proportion is acceptable because length 12 is greater than height 8.

Reason: One-third of 12 is 4, so the eye is correctly placed. A falcon head in profile should be longer than tall, and 12 is greater than 8.

Check: Divide head length by 3 and compare with the eye distance; compare head length and head height directly.

Task 2

A drawing shows the eye on the beak base and the upper beak pointing straight forward. Identify two mistakes and state the fixes.

Answer: Mistake one: eye on the beak base. Fix: move the eye back to the midline behind the beak base at about one-third of head length. Mistake two: straight beak. Fix: curve the upper beak downward and slightly back to form a hook, then add the lower beak.

Reason: The eye must sit behind the beak base, not on it. A falcon beak in profile must hook downward, not point straight forward.

Check: Confirm the eye is behind the beak base and above the mouth line; confirm the upper beak turns downward.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

You are drawing a three-quarter view of a falcon head. The near eye is clear. Describe where to place the far eye and how to keep the hook visible.

Answer: Keep the near eye on the midline behind the beak base. Hide or minimize the far eye because the far side is compressed. Shift the beak base slightly for the angle but keep the upper beak curving downward and slightly back so the hook remains visible.

Reason: In a three-quarter view, the far side of the head is compressed, so the far eye is hidden or minimal. The hook must still turn downward to read as a falcon.

Check: Check that the near eye is on the midline and behind the beak base; check that the upper beak still turns downward.

Task 4

A student draws a falcon head with head length 10 units, head height 10 units, and eye distance 5 units. List the proportion errors and give corrected hypothetical values.

Answer: Error one: head height equals head length, so the head is too tall. Corrected example: head length 10, head height 6. Error two: eye distance 5 is one-half of head length, not one-third. Corrected example: eye distance about 3.3 units, which is one-third of 10.

Reason: A falcon head in profile should be longer than tall, so height should be less than length. The eye should be about one-third of head length from the front, not one-half.

Check: Compare head length and height; divide head length by 3 and compare with the eye distance.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Head length is clearly greater than head height.
- [ ] Eye sits on the midline behind the beak base at about one-third of head length from the front.
- [ ] Upper beak forms a downward hook and the lower beak sits under it.
- [ ] Mouth line is continuous from face to hook tip.
- [ ] Forehead curves gently from beak base to crown; back of head curves into the neck.
- [ ] Feather detail is light and does not obscure the profile.
- [ ] Valid alternatives in feather edge style and line weight are accepted if proportion and eye placement remain clear.

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