Lizard Tail Drawing: Taper, Curl, and Regrowth Variants

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a straight tapered tail with a 60 mm centerline, base width 8 mm, tip width 2 mm, and four equal divisions. State your planned widths.

Answer: A valid answer uses four 15 mm segments and hypothetical widths such as 8, 6, 4, 3, and 2 mm. Edge points are placed at half these widths above and below the centerline.

Reason: Equal divisions make the taper checkable. Each width is smaller than the previous one, and the tip is 2 mm as required.

Check: Measure each division width with a ruler. Confirm the sequence decreases and the tip is 2 mm. Redraw any step that differs by more than 3 mm from the plan.

Task 2

Draw a curled tail with three turns and a planned gap of 8 mm between turns. Mark the curl direction with arrows. State how you checked the gap.

Answer: A valid answer shows one clear curl direction, three turns, and measured gaps close to 8 mm. The check is done at the closest points between turns.

Reason: Direction arrows prevent a mid-curl reversal. Measuring the closest points gives a simple, repeatable check.

Check: Measure the gap at each pair of turns. If any gap differs from 8 mm by more than 3 mm, redraw that section.

Task 3

Draw a regrowth fork variant on a 90 mm tail. Place the fork at 60 percent of the length and make two branches of 20 mm and 15 mm, each tapering to 2 mm. Check that the fork point is wider than each branch.

Answer: A valid answer places the fork at 54 mm from the base, draws two shorter branches, and keeps the fork point wider than either branch. The branches do not overlap.

Reason: Sixty percent of 90 mm is 54 mm. Shorter branches and a wider fork point make the regrowth readable.

Check: Measure the fork position and branch lengths. Confirm the fork point width is greater than each branch width and that the branches do not cross.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Create a four-box practice strip. In each box, draw one tail type: straight taper, curl, regrowth fork, and your own variant. Label each box and list one measurement you checked.

Answer: A valid answer has four labeled boxes, one tail type per box, and a listed measurement such as taper width, curl gap, or branch length. The own variant follows the same convention.

Reason: The strip organizes practice and makes each check specific. Labels use x-height from baseline to midline, but letter styles may vary.

Check: Confirm four boxes and four labels. Check that each listed measurement matches the drawing within 3 mm of the planned example.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Centerline is smooth and clearly drawn before the outline.
- [ ] Taper narrows steadily from base to tip with no pinched or stepped sections.
- [ ] Curl has one clear direction marked by arrows and even spacing within 3 mm of the planned example.
- [ ] Regrowth fork has two shorter, narrower branches that do not overlap.
- [ ] Practice strip has four labeled boxes and measurements are checked with a ruler.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted if they follow the stated convention and pass the measurement checks.

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