Draw a Realistic Spherical Ornament with Cap and Highlight

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a sphere with a 6 cm diameter and a cap 2 cm wide. Light comes from the upper right. Mark the main highlight and the reflected highlight.

Answer: Main highlight on the upper-right area inside the sphere; reflected highlight near the lower-left edge, dimmer than the main highlight.

Reason: The highlight faces the light source; the reflected highlight appears opposite the main light and is weaker.

Check: Measure the sphere diameter and cap width; confirm the cap is centered and both highlights are inside the silhouette.

Task 2

A drawing has a sphere diameter of 10 cm and a cap width of 5 cm. Is the cap proportion reasonable? Give a hypothetical adjusted width.

Answer: No; 5 cm is half the diameter, which is wide for this construction. A hypothetical adjusted width is about 3 to 3.5 cm.

Reason: The starting proportion is roughly one-third of the sphere diameter; 5 cm is too wide.

Check: Divide the sphere diameter by three and compare with the cap width; measure your actual drawing.

Task 3

Describe how to shade a glossy ornament so the highlight remains visible and the sphere reads as round.

Answer: Leave the highlight as paper white, shade the light-facing side lightly, darken the shadow side and under-cap area, add a dim reflected highlight opposite the main light, and blend softly while keeping the highlight edge slightly crisp.

Reason: Preserving the highlight and increasing contrast on the shadow side creates volume and gloss.

Check: Squint at the drawing; the highlight should stand out and the shadow side should be clearly darker than the midtone.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Draw a cap with a metallic value pattern. List the three value bands and where each goes.

Answer: Bright band near the top, dark band in the middle, reflected light band near the bottom edge.

Reason: Metal reflects light in bands; a bright top and dark middle with a reflected bottom edge suggests a curved metallic surface.

Check: Compare the cap's values with the sphere's values; the cap should have a distinct band pattern and not match the sphere's midtone.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Sphere silhouette is round and closed.
- [ ] Cap is centered on the vertical axis and proportionally sized.
- [ ] Main highlight is inside the sphere on the light-facing side.
- [ ] Reflected highlight is present and dimmer than the main highlight.
- [ ] Shading shows at least three distinct values on the sphere.
- [ ] Cap shows a metallic value pattern distinct from the sphere.
- [ ] Labels follow the defined x-height convention and remain readable.
- [ ] Valid stylistic alternatives are accepted if construction and value logic hold.

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