Draw a Sitting Dragon: Folded Legs and Curled Tail

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

A dragon sits with a head width of 5 cm. The torso is 10 cm tall, the base oval is 7.5 cm wide, and the tail curl spans 10 cm. Using the head width as one unit, state the torso height, base oval width, and tail curl span in units, and say whether they match the suggested proportions of two, one and a half, and two units.

Answer: Torso height = 2 units (10 cm). Base oval width = 1.5 units (7.5 cm). Tail curl span = 2 units (10 cm). All three match the suggested proportions.

Reason: Divide each measurement by the head width: 10 ÷ 5 = 2, 7.5 ÷ 5 = 1.5, and 10 ÷ 5 = 2. Compare each result to the suggested values.

Check: Re-measure the head width and each part with a ruler. Confirm the divisions are correct and the units are consistent.

Task 2

A seated dragon has a torso 12 cm tall and a head width of 4 cm. The base oval is 5 cm wide. Using the head width as one unit, state the torso height and base oval width in units. Identify which of these two measurements deviates from the suggested target values (torso about two units, base oval about one and a half units) and suggest one adjustment.

Answer: Torso height = 3 units (12 ÷ 4 = 3), which is above the suggested target of 2 units but at the stated maximum of three head widths. Base oval width = 1.25 units (5 ÷ 4 = 1.25), below the suggested target of 1.5 units. Both deviate from the suggested targets; one adjustment is to shorten the torso to about 8 cm (2 units) or widen the base oval to about 6 cm (1.5 units).

Reason: Divide each measurement by the head width: 12 ÷ 4 = 3 and 5 ÷ 4 = 1.25. Compare each result to the suggested targets of 2 units for the torso and 1.5 units for the base oval. The torso is at the maximum acceptable limit but above the target, and the base oval is below the target, so either part can be adjusted to bring the pose closer to the suggested proportions.

Check: Measure the torso and base oval again after adjustment. Confirm the torso is about two head widths (and no more than three) and the base oval is about one and a half head widths, using the same head-width unit throughout.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

A dragon sits with its tail curling around the left side. The tail curve starts at the lower back, sweeps around the base oval, and the tip points toward the forepaws. The front legs are folded near the chest. Describe one mistake that would make the pose unclear and how to fix it.

Answer: A common mistake is drawing the tail across the front legs. This hides the folded pose. Fix it by routing the tail around the outside of the base oval and curling the tip near the forepaws without crossing them.

Reason: The tail should stay outside the front legs so the folded pose remains visible. Crossing the legs obscures the key feature of the task.

Check: Trace the tail line with your finger. Confirm it does not overlap the front legs and that the curl stays outside the base oval.

Task 4

A dragon sits with a head width of 3 cm. The torso is 6 cm tall, the base oval is 4.5 cm wide, and the tail curl spans 6 cm. The front legs are folded, but one forepaw extends 2 cm beyond the base oval. State whether the leg fold is consistent with the pose and suggest a fix.

Answer: The proportions match the suggested values: torso = 2 units, base oval = 1.5 units, tail curl = 2 units. However, the forepaw extending 2 cm beyond the base oval makes the fold look stretched. Shorten the front leg by about 2 cm or widen the base oval by about 2 cm so the forepaw stays within the horizontal footprint of the torso and base oval.

Reason: The folded legs should fit within the horizontal footprint of the base oval and torso area. A forepaw extending 2 cm beyond the base oval breaks the compact seated shape, so the overhang should be reduced by shortening the leg or widening the base.

Check: Measure the forepaw position relative to the base oval. After adjustment, confirm the forepaw rests near the chest center and stays within the horizontal footprint of the torso and base oval, with no more than a small overhang.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Seated pose is clear: hips low, torso upright, dragon not standing or flying.
- [ ] Front legs are folded close to the chest and forepaws rest near the center.
- [ ] Hind legs are tucked under the hips and fit within the base oval.
- [ ] Tail curls around one side and does not cross the front legs.
- [ ] Proportions are checked with a consistent unit system and adjusted as needed.
- [ ] Silhouette is readable from a distance and line quality is consistent.
- [ ] Minimal detail is used; full-body scale texture is avoided.

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