Easy Anime Eye Drawing: Iris, Highlight, and Lash Shapes

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw an anime eye in a 4 cm wide by 2.5 cm tall eye box. Use a curved upper lash line and a thin lower lid. Draw a circular iris 1.5 cm tall that touches the upper lash line, and a centered pupil 0.8 cm tall inside it. Place one highlight in the upper-right iris. Add no outer-corner lash strokes beyond the main lash line.

Answer: A clean eye with a curved upper lash line, a lower lid gap, an iris circle touching the upper lash line, a centered pupil, and a small upper-right highlight. No outer-corner lash strokes are added.

Reason: The iris is 1.5 cm in a 2.5 cm box, leaving about 1 cm of vertical space. The pupil is about half the iris height, so the iris ring remains visible. The highlight is placed away from the pupil center.

Check: Measure the iris height against the eye box height. Confirm the pupil is smaller than the iris and the highlight does not overlap the pupil center. Check that no lash strokes were added.

Task 2

Draw an anime eye with a tilted upper lash line that thickens toward the outer corner. The eye box is 6 cm wide and 3 cm tall. The iris is 2 cm tall and shifted slightly toward the inner corner, with a centered pupil inside it. Add one main highlight and one tiny second highlight on opposite sides of the iris.

Answer: A tilted eye with a thicker outer lash line, an iris shifted inward, a centered pupil inside the iris, and two highlights on opposite sides of the iris.

Reason: Shifting the iris inward changes the white space balance but keeps the iris touching the upper lash line. The second highlight is tiny so it does not compete with the main highlight.

Check: Check that the iris still touches the upper lash line after shifting. Confirm the main highlight is larger than the second. Verify the tilt is visible in the lash line, not in the iris shape.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Draw an anime eye in a 5 cm wide by 3 cm tall box. Use a narrow iris 1.8 cm tall with a centered pupil 0.9 cm tall inside it. Place the main highlight in the upper-left iris and add three lash strokes at the outer corner.

Answer: A narrow iris eye with an upper-left highlight, a centered pupil, and three short lashes following the outer curve.

Reason: An upper-left highlight follows the guide's placement convention and stays on the iris without covering the pupil. Three lashes are within the recommended limit and must follow the lash line curve.

Check: Confirm the highlight is on the iris and not on the pupil. Count the lash strokes and check their direction against the lash line. Measure the iris and pupil heights to confirm the ratio.

Task 4

Draw two anime eye variants side by side in separate 4 cm by 2.5 cm boxes. Variant A has a round iris with a smaller centered pupil and one highlight. Variant B has a slightly oval iris with a smaller centered pupil and two highlights. Both use the same lash line curve.

Answer: Two eyes with the same lash line but different iris shapes and highlight counts. Variant A has a round iris and one highlight; Variant B has an oval iris and two highlights.

Reason: Keeping the lash line the same isolates the iris and highlight changes. The oval iris is a valid stylized choice as long as it remains simple and the pupil stays inside.

Check: Compare the two lash lines to confirm they match. Check that each iris contains a smaller pupil and that highlights do not cover the pupil center. Verify the boxes are the same size.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] The eye box is clearly defined with a baseline and midline.
- [ ] The upper lash line is a single smooth curve that thickens toward the outer corner.
- [ ] The iris is a simple circle that touches or nearly touches the upper lash line.
- [ ] The pupil is smaller than the iris and leaves a visible ring of iris.
- [ ] One main highlight is placed on the iris and does not cover the pupil center.
- [ ] Lash strokes are limited to two or three and follow the lash line curve.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted: different eye tilts, highlight positions, and lash counts within the stated limits.

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