Facial Shading Practice: Light Direction and Plane Shadows

Topic reference / ordinary illustration



Ordinary topic reference. Hypothetical dimensions in the four tasks are supplied in their own text; this illustration is not their measured answer.

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Worked example / complete source key

A face outline is drawn with a light arrow pointing from the upper left. The forehead tilts back, the left cheek faces left, the nose projects forward, and the jaw underside faces down. Assign each plane to light, mid, or shadow and explain one cast shadow.

Answer: Forehead: left side light, right side mid because it tilts away from upper-left light. Left cheek: light to mid gradient as it curves away. Nose: top plane light, left side mid, right side shadow, underside shadow. Jaw underside: shadow because it faces down. Cast shadow: the nose casts a shadow on the right cheek because the light comes from the left and the nose blocks it. All assignments trace to the upper-left arrow.