Cross-Contour Face Drawing: Surface Lines for Cheek, Nose, and Brow

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

A face outline is 12 cm wide. You mark a cheek zone 3 cm in from the outline and a nose zone 2 cm from the center. Draw two cheek lines and two nose lines with hypothetical 6 mm spacing. State where each line turns.

Answer: On the 12 cm wide outline, the center is 6 cm from each edge. The cheek zone is 3 cm in from the outline, leaving 3 cm to the center; the nose zone is 2 cm from the center, so the cheek and nose zones are separated by 1 cm. Cheek lines start near the 3 cm mark, curve forward, and turn downward at the cheekbone about 1.5 cm along the line from its start, staying within the 3 cm span to the center. Nose lines start near the 2 cm mark, wrap the nostril wing, and turn outward about 1 cm along the line from its start. Spacing is about 6 mm, a hypothetical example; measure your own reference to confirm it fits the 1 cm gap between zones.

Reason: The zones are separated by 1 cm so cheek and nose lines do not merge. Each line changes direction where the surface turns, and spacing is consistent within each zone.

Check: Measure spacing between adjacent lines; confirm each line crosses a named surface and is not an outline.

Task 2

Draw one brow line above an eyebrow on a 10 cm forehead curve. The line starts 3 cm from the center and ends 5 cm from the start. Describe the turn and give a spacing check for a second brow line at a hypothetical 7 mm spacing.

Answer: The brow line starts 3 cm from the center and runs 5 cm total. It follows the forehead curve and turns slightly upward about 4 cm along the 5 cm line from its start, which lies between the stated start and end points. A second line placed 7 mm below is a hypothetical example; measure your own reference to confirm spacing.

Reason: The brow line must follow the forehead's rounded surface, not the eyebrow hairs. The turn shows curvature, and the spacing check keeps lines readable.

Check: Trace the line with a finger; it should feel curved above the eye. Measure the gap to the second line and compare with your recorded spacing.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

A student draws three cheek lines that are all parallel and do not change direction. Identify the problem and describe a corrected version using the convention.

Answer: The lines describe a flat surface, not a rounded cheek. Correct by starting each line at a different point near the ear, curving forward, and turning downward at the cheekbone. Keep spacing within about one line-width.

Reason: Cross-contour lines must change direction where the surface turns. Parallel lines without turns do not describe the cheek's curvature.

Check: Check that each corrected line has a visible direction change at the cheekbone and that no line traces the outline.

Task 4

On a face outline, place two nose lines and two brow lines. One nose line touches the outline; one brow line becomes an eyebrow hair. Fix both and state a check method.

Answer: Move the nose line inward so it wraps the nostril wing without touching the outline. Redraw the brow line as a smooth curve above the eyebrow, not as a hair. Check by tracing each line and naming the surface it describes.

Reason: Nose lines should cross the nose surface, and brow lines should follow the forehead curve. Touching the outline or drawing hairs breaks the convention.

Check: Confirm no line touches the outline and no brow line resembles a hair; verify spacing within each zone.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Cheek zone has at least two cross-contour lines that change direction at the cheekbone.
- [ ] Nose zone has at least two lines wrapping the bridge or nostril wing.
- [ ] Brow zone has at least two lines following the forehead curve above the eyebrow.
- [ ] No line is a pure outline; each line crosses a named surface.
- [ ] Spacing within each zone is roughly consistent, within about one line-width.
- [ ] No shading or full portrait rendering is added.
- [ ] Valid alternatives in line style, spacing, and starting points are accepted if surface description remains clear.

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