Stick Figure Drawing Exercises: Joint and Pose Practice

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a stick figure standing with both arms at the sides. Mark all joints and label the head diameter and total height using hypothetical values you choose. Describe the figure in words if you cannot draw it.

Answer: A vertical spine, head circle at top, shoulder crossbar, hip crossbar, two arms hanging down with elbow and wrist dots, two legs with knee and ankle dots. Head diameter labeled as a hypothetical fraction of total height, for example one-eighth.

Reason: The standing pose is the simplest test of joint count and connectivity. Labeling hypothetical values makes the proportion check explicit without claiming a universal standard.

Check: Count twelve joint dots. Confirm each limb line passes through its elbow or knee dot. Measure the head diameter and total height on your drawing and confirm the ratio matches your label.

Task 2

Draw a seated stick figure on a simple chair line. The hips are lower than the knees, and the elbows rest near the hips. Mark all joints and state one valid alternative for the arm position.

Answer: Spine shortened vertically, hip crossbar lowered, knees bent so ankles are below knees, elbows placed near hip level with wrists forward. A valid alternative is elbows slightly away from the hips while keeping shoulder-elbow-wrist order.

Reason: Seated poses test whether the hip and knee joints are placed before limb lines are drawn. The alternative shows that more than one arm position can satisfy the convention.

Check: Verify that hip joints are lower than knee joints, that elbow dots are between shoulder and wrist, and that the joint count remains twelve. Compare the stated alternative to the rubric.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Create a two-box pose sequence: box one shows a figure with the right knee lifted, box two shows the same figure with the right knee lowered. Keep the head size and spine length identical. Label the knee angle in each box as a hypothetical example.

Answer: Box one: right hip to knee line angled forward, knee dot above ankle level. Box two: right knee dot lowered toward ankle level. Head circle and spine length unchanged. Knee angles labeled as hypothetical values measured from vertical.

Reason: Sequence boxes test consistency across poses. Changing only one joint angle isolates the variable and makes the check straightforward.

Check: Place the boxes side by side and confirm the head top and hip line align. Count joints in both boxes. Measure the labeled knee angles on your drawing and confirm they match your labels.

Task 4

Trace a simple plate you have drawn yourself: trace only the joint dots and spine onto a fresh sheet, then complete the limbs. Compare your completed figure to the original and list any joint displaced by more than one dot diameter.

Answer: A completed figure with traced joint dots and spine, limbs drawn between joints, and a short comparison list noting any displaced joint. If no joint is displaced beyond one dot diameter, state that the trace matches.

Reason: Tracing isolates joint placement from limb angle choices. The comparison list makes the check concrete and allows valid differences in limb lines.

Check: Overlay the completed figure on the original or compare dot positions by eye. Measure displacement against one dot diameter. Confirm that limb connectivity and joint count are correct in the completed figure.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] All joints are marked with dots (or a stated alternative) at shoulders, hips, elbows, knees, wrists, and ankles.
- [ ] Limb lines connect joints in the correct order without skipping a joint.
- [ ] Head circle touches the spine and its size is consistent across poses.
- [ ] Shoulder and hip crossbars are visible and distinct from the spine.
- [ ] Any numerical angle or proportion is labeled as a hypothetical example and measured on the drawing.
- [ ] Valid alternative poses are accepted when the convention and joint connectivity are correct.

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