Car Contour Drawing: Single-Line Edge Practice

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Blind contour: look only at a side-view car reference for 60 seconds (hypothetical example) and draw its outline inside a 10 cm by 15 cm box without looking at your paper. Keep the pen on the paper.

Answer: A distorted but continuous outline that follows the roofline, lower body, and at least one wheel arch. The drawing may not look like a car; that is acceptable.

Reason: Blind contour forces the eye to lead the hand. The goal is edge observation, not accuracy. A continuous line with visible direction changes shows the eye followed the reference.

Check: Confirm the pen did not lift during the outline and that the line includes a roofline curve and one wheel arch curve. Mark three direction errors for the next step.

Task 2

Guided tracing: trace the roofline, the front wheel arch, and the side window edge separately from a simple line reference. Use one continuous stroke per edge and label each edge with a short curvature note.

Answer: Three separate traced edges: a long gentle roofline curve, a tighter semicircular wheel arch, and a window edge that is mostly straight with a small bend at the corner. Each edge has a short note.

Reason: Separating edges reduces overload and lets you feel curvature differences. The notes make your observations checkable.

Check: Compare each traced edge to the reference at three points: start, middle, and end. The direction change should match within a small margin. Confirm each edge is a single stroke.

Task 3

Single-line car: draw a full side-view car contour in one continuous line, starting at the rear lower body. Include two wheel arches and one window edge. Do not shade or add spokes.

Answer: One continuous outline starting at the rear lower body, moving up the rear edge, across the roofline, down the front edge, along the lower body, and around both wheel arches. The window edge is connected without lifting the pen.

Reason: Starting at the rear tests the convention's flexibility. The outline must remain continuous and include the three critical edges.

Check: Trace the line with your finger to confirm no lifts. Check that both wheel arches are closed by crossings and that no shading or spokes appear.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Error correction: draw a single-line car contour, then mark one place where you lifted the pen or added shading. Redraw only that section as a continuous crossing or remove the shading.

Answer: A corrected section where the pen either crosses an earlier line to close a shape or the shading is removed, leaving a clean contour.

Reason: Identifying and correcting a boundary error builds self-checking. The correction must preserve the single-line convention.

Check: Confirm the corrected section has no pen lift and no shading. Compare the corrected edge to the reference at its start and end points.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Continuity: the car outline is drawn without lifting the pen; crossings are allowed only to close shapes.
- [ ] Edge accuracy: roofline, one wheel arch, and one window edge match the reference's direction changes within a reasonable margin.
- [ ] Boundary: no shading and no mechanical detail such as spokes or mirrors.
- [ ] Line quality: the line is clear and consistent, without excessive wobble or repeated overdrawing.
- [ ] Valid alternative: a different start point or direction is acceptable if continuity and edge accuracy are maintained.

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