Body Contour Drawing: Outline and Interior Lines

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

On plain paper, draw a simple seated pose using only an unbroken outline. Then add exactly three interior contour strokes: one at the knee crease, one at the hip fold, and one along the forearm ridge. Use a heavier outline and lighter interior strokes. Count and label the line types.

Answer: A closed heavier outline surrounds the seated body. Three lighter interior strokes appear inside: knee crease, hip fold, forearm ridge. Each interior stroke stops where its surface change ends. The count is one outline and three interior strokes, with labels.

Reason: The task separates silhouette from interior surface change and applies one convention evenly. Three named strokes keep the comparison controlled and checkable.

Check: Trace the outline for gaps; count interior strokes and confirm the number is three; name each surface change aloud; confirm every interior stroke is lighter than the outline.

Task 2

Draw two equal boxes. In both, draw the same simple standing pose with an unbroken outline. In the right box only, add four interior strokes at the shoulder ridge, elbow crease, waist fold, and ankle bone. State your convention in one sentence and apply it to every line.

Answer: Both boxes contain the same closed outline. The right box adds four lighter interior strokes at the named locations, each open-ended. The stated convention, for example heavier unbroken outline and lighter interior strokes, is applied to every line in both boxes.

Reason: Repeating the same pose isolates the presence of interior strokes as the only variable, making the comparison valid. A stated convention makes the check objective.

Check: Confirm the poses match; count four interior strokes in the right box and zero in the left; verify the convention sentence matches every line; check that no interior stroke closes into a loop.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

A drawing has a closed outline and six interior strokes, but two interior strokes are as heavy as the outline and one forms a closed loop. Identify the errors, state the fixes, and give the corrected count of valid interior strokes.

Answer: Two strokes violate the convention because they are as heavy as the outline; they should be redrawn lighter. One stroke violates the open-ended rule because it closes into a loop; it should be stopped where the surface change ends. After correction, the count of valid interior strokes is six, assuming all six name a surface change.

Reason: The check is consistency of convention and correspondence to surface change, not the number alone. Correcting weight and closure restores comparability.

Check: Compare each interior stroke weight to the outline; inspect each for closure; recount valid strokes after correction and confirm each names a surface change.

Task 4

Draw a simple body pose twice on one sheet. In the first drawing use a dashed outline and solid interior strokes; in the second use a solid outline and dashed interior strokes. Add two interior strokes per drawing at the same locations. State which convention you prefer and why, using one checkable reason.

Answer: Both drawings show the same pose with two interior strokes at matching locations. The first uses dashed outline and solid interior; the second uses solid outline and dashed interior. A valid preference statement names a checkable reason, such as the solid outline being easier to trace for gaps, while acknowledging that both conventions are consistent and valid.

Reason: Alternative conventions are allowed when stated and applied evenly. The comparison tests whether the difference between outline and interior is clear, not whether one style is universally correct.

Check: Confirm each drawing applies its stated convention to every line; count two interior strokes per drawing at matching locations; verify the preference reason refers to a checkable property such as traceability or contrast.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Outline closes the body shape and is applied with the stated heavier, unbroken convention.
- [ ] Interior strokes are lighter than the outline and stop where each surface change ends.
- [ ] Each interior stroke corresponds to a named surface change; no stroke is unexplained.
- [ ] No proportion construction or shading is used inside the silhouette.
- [ ] The chosen convention is applied evenly across the whole drawing, including any valid alternative such as dashed outline.
- [ ] A count of outline segments and interior strokes is recorded beside the drawing.

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