Cat Contour Drawing: Single-Line Outline and Blind-Contour Practice

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Blind contour: a cat sits facing right. The outline has two pointed ears, a rounded back, a tail curled to the left, and two front paws. Draw for 60 seconds without looking at the paper, starting at the left ear tip and ending at the right front paw.

Answer: A distorted but continuous line that follows the ear points, rounded back, tail curl, and paw bumps in order. The drawing may not look like a cat, but the sequence of edges is recorded.

Reason: Blind contour trains eye-hand tracking; accuracy of shape is secondary to following the edge sequence.

Check: Confirm the pencil never lifted and the eyes stayed on the subject. Check that the line includes two ear points, a back curve, a tail curl, and two paw bumps in the stated order.

Task 2

Single-line contour: a cat stands facing left. The head is about two x-heights tall and the body about three x-heights long in a hypothetical example. Draw one unbroken line from nose to tail tip, including ears and paws, allowing at most one crossing.

Answer: A single line that starts at the nose, goes over the ears, down the back, around the tail tip, under the paws, and returns to the chin, with no more than one crossing.

Reason: Planning the route keeps the line continuous and includes the required contour parts.

Check: Count breaks: zero or one crossing is acceptable. Confirm ears, tail, and paws are present. Ask a viewer to identify the animal without labels.

Task 3

Edge-focus drill: draw only the ears and tail of a cat as two separate single-line contours. The ears form two points with a dip between them; the tail is a curved line with a rounded tip. Do not draw the body.

Answer: Two separate contours: one for the ear pair with two points and a dip, and one for the tail with a curve and rounded tip.

Reason: Isolating edges builds attention to sharp turns and curves before combining them.

Check: Check that the ear contour has two points and one dip, and the tail contour has one continuous curve ending in a rounded tip. No fur texture should appear.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Correction task: a single-line contour of a cat has three breaks and includes whiskers. Describe two specific changes to make it follow the task boundary, then redraw one section as a continuous line.

Answer: Remove the whiskers because they are outside the contour boundary, and join the three breaks into one continuous line or one planned crossing. Redraw the section from the ear to the paw without lifting the pencil.

Reason: The boundary excludes fur texture and whiskers, and continuity is a core requirement.

Check: Confirm the redrawn section has no breaks and no whiskers. Check that the full contour still includes ears, tail, and paws.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Continuity: 3 = unbroken or one planned crossing; 2 = two breaks; 1 = many breaks.
- [ ] Edge accuracy: 3 = three checked turns match the reference; 2 = two match; 1 = one or none match.
- [ ] Completeness: 3 = ears, tail, and paws included; 2 = one missing; 1 = two or more missing.
- [ ] Clarity: 3 = identified as a cat without hints; 2 = identified with a hint; 1 = not identifiable.
- [ ] Valid alternatives: left or right facing, sitting or standing, curled or straight tail are all acceptable if followed consistently.

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