# Leaf Contour Drawing: Blind and Continuous Line Practice

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

A leaf is 10 cm long and 5 cm wide. Your continuous contour drawing closes and measures 8 cm long and 5 cm wide on paper. Using the outer-edge-only convention, is the drawn proportion closer to 2:1 or 1.5:1, and what single measurement check confirms it?

Answer: The drawn ratio is 8:5, or 1.6:1, which is closer to 1.5:1 than to 2:1. The leaf ratio is 10:5, or 2:1. Measure the drawn length and width with a ruler and divide length by width; compare the result to the leaf's ratio.

Reason: Proportion is compared as a ratio of length to width. The drawn ratio 1.6 is nearer 1.5 than 2.0, so the drawing is proportionally too short relative to its width. A ruler measurement of both dimensions gives a checkable number.

Check: Measure drawn length and width in the same units, compute length divided by width, and compare with the leaf's length divided by width.

Task 2

You start at the tip of a leaf and draw toward the stem. The leaf has one sharp turn near the tip and two gentle turns near the stem. Your drawing shows the sharp turn first, then two gentle turns. Did the order of turns match the leaf, and what check confirms it?

Answer: Yes, the order matches: sharp turn near the tip first, then two gentle turns near the stem, assuming you started at the tip. Check by tracing the leaf edge with your finger in the same direction you drew and naming each turn aloud in order.

Reason: Turn order is a sequence check independent of proportion. If the drawn sequence matches the observed sequence from the same start point and direction, observation order is correct. The finger trace reproduces the viewing path.

Check: Trace the leaf edge with a finger from your start point in your drawing direction, name each turn, and compare the spoken sequence to the drawn sequence.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

A continuous contour must stay unbroken. You need to show that the leaf's edge overlaps itself once. Using the stated convention, what is an acceptable way to indicate the overlap without lifting the pencil, and how do you check it?

Answer: Cross the line once at the overlap and continue; do not lift the pencil. Check that the line is unbroken except at the single crossing and that no gap was introduced.

Reason: A single crossing preserves continuity while indicating overlap. The convention allows one crossing line. The check is continuity plus a count of crossings: exactly one, no gaps.

Check: Follow the line from start to finish with a finger; confirm no lift points and count crossings at the overlap (one is acceptable under the stated convention).

Task 4

Your blind contour closes but is 7 cm long for a 14 cm leaf, with width 7 cm for a 7 cm leaf width. State the drawn ratio, the leaf ratio, and one reason the blind attempt may still be useful despite the mismatch.

Answer: Drawn ratio is 7:7, or 1:1. Leaf ratio is 14:7, or 2:1. The blind attempt is still useful because it records observation order and line continuity; proportion can be corrected in a later continuous attempt.

Reason: Ratios are computed as length divided by width. The blind attempt's purpose is observation and continuity, not proportional accuracy, so a mismatch does not invalidate the practice. The check separates purpose from outcome.

Check: Compute both ratios from measured lengths and widths, then verify that the blind drawing's turn order matches the leaf by finger-tracing the edge.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Line continuity: the contour is unbroken from stem to stem, or a stated convention explains any gap.
- [ ] Observation: the order of major turns matches the leaf, even if proportions differ.
- [ ] Convention: only the outer edge is drawn; no veins or shading appear.
- [ ] Blind segment: eyes remained on the leaf during the blind portion, evidenced by deliberate divergence rather than remembered shape.
- [ ] Self-check: closure, proportion, and turn order are annotated without erasing.
- [ ] Valid alternatives: a single crossing line for overlap, a stated gap convention, or a different start point are acceptable if applied consistently.

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