Leaf Contour Drawing: Blind and Continuous Line Practice

Topic reference / ordinary illustration



Ordinary topic reference. Hypothetical dimensions in the four tasks are supplied in their own text; this illustration is not their measured answer.

Leaf Contour Drawing: Blind and Continuous Line Practice

Worked example / complete source key

A leaf is 12 cm long and 6 cm wide. You draw a blind contour and then a continuous contour. In the blind attempt, the outline closes but the length is 9 cm on paper. In the continuous attempt, the outline closes and the length is 11 cm. Using the convention that contour shows the outer edge only, which attempt better matches the leaf's proportion, and what check confirms it?

Answer: The continuous attempt better matches proportion. The leaf's length-to-width ratio is 12:6, or 2:1. The blind attempt's ratio is 9:6, or 1.5:1, which is too short relative to width. The continuous attempt's ratio is 11:6, about 1.83:1, closer to 2:1. Check by measuring the drawn length and width with a ruler and comparing the ratio to the leaf's ratio; both outlines close, so closure does not distinguish them.