Plant Contour Drawing: Continuous Line and Blind Contour Practice

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a potted plant in continuous contour for three minutes. Your convention: one unbroken line, no lifting, no shading. After drawing, count the number of line breaks and write the count.

Answer: A completed continuous-contour drawing with a written break count, ideally zero. The drawing shows pot, stem, and leaf edges connected as one boundary.

Reason: The task tests whether you can maintain an unbroken line while recording the plant's outer edges. Counting breaks makes continuity checkable.

Check: Compare the break count to the drawing. Confirm no shading or veins. Confirm the line starts and ends at clear boundaries.

Task 2

Draw the same plant in blind contour for two minutes. Do not look at the paper. After finishing, mark one place where the line drifted from the plant and one place where it matched well.

Answer: A blind-contour drawing with two marks: one drift and one match. The drawing may look distorted; that is acceptable.

Reason: Blind contour trains eye-hand coordination. Marking drift and match shows self-assessment rather than shape accuracy.

Check: Confirm the drawing was made without looking at the paper, for example by covering it. Confirm two marks are present and labeled.

Task 3

A student's continuous contour drawing includes a leaf vein and a shaded pot side. Their convention says 'outer boundary only, no interior detail.' Identify the two rule violations and state one fix for each.

Answer: Violation one: the leaf vein is interior detail. Fix: stop at the leaf edge and do not enter the leaf. Violation two: the shaded pot side is interior detail. Fix: trace only the pot's visible outline and leave the interior blank.

Reason: The convention excludes interior detail. Each violation maps to a specific excluded element, and each fix returns to the boundary.

Check: Re-read the convention and point to the vein and shading. Confirm each fix removes the interior element without lifting the line.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Measure your paper's width in centimeters and record it. Then draw a blind contour of the plant for two minutes. After drawing, state whether the drawing fits within the paper width and give the measured width.

Answer: A recorded paper width in centimeters and a blind-contour drawing. The answer states whether the drawing fits within that width.

Reason: This combines a simple measurement with blind-contour practice. The arithmetic is a direct comparison, not a standard.

Check: Confirm the measured width is in centimeters and matches the paper. Confirm the drawing's widest point is compared to that number.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Line is unbroken from start to end, matching the written convention.
- [ ] No shading, leaf veins, or isometric construction lines are present.
- [ ] Pot, stem, and leaf outlines are connected as one boundary.
- [ ] Blind-contour drawing shows evidence of eyes-on-plant practice, such as deliberate drift marks.
- [ ] Self-check lists one drift and one match with a next-step sentence.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted when they follow the student's stated convention.

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