Elephant Contour Drawing: Single-Line and Blind-Contour Practice

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Using the convention above, draw a single-line elephant contour starting at the forehead and ending at the ear. Measure with the same definitions: head height is top of head to bottom of jaw, body length is chest to rump, and leg length is belly line to ground line at the front leg. The reference has head height 3 cm, body length 8 cm, and leg length 2 cm. Your drawing has head height 4 cm, body length 8 cm, and leg length 2 cm. Record the three ratios and state which landmark is closest to the reference.

Answer: Head ratio 4/3 ≈ 1.33; body ratio 8/8 = 1.00; leg ratio 2/2 = 1.00. The body and leg landmarks are closest, both matching exactly; the head is furthest.

Reason: Divide each drawing measurement by the matching reference measurement using centimeters throughout. A ratio of 1.00 means the drawing matches the reference for that landmark.

Check: Re-measure each distance with the same ruler, confirm the unit is written, and recalculate the three divisions.

Task 2

A blind-contour drawing shows a tangled line and the pencil lifted twice. The student covered the paper during drawing. List two rubric items that are still assessable and one that is not fully met.

Answer: Assessable: the blind-contour variant is documented and the paper was not viewed; the ear and mouth are included if present. Not fully met: proportion ratios are calculated or described, and one closest and one furthest landmark are identified, because no measurements or ratios were recorded.

Reason: Blind contour does not require a clean line, and the single-line continuity item applies only to the single-line variant, so the pencil lifts do not count against a blind-contour drawing. The rubric items that can still be judged are the documented no-peeking condition and the presence of the ear and mouth; the proportion item fails if no measurements or ratios were recorded.

Check: Ask the student to state the variant and confirm coverage; inspect the drawing for the ear and mouth marks.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

You have a reference with body length 12 cm and a drawing with body length 9 cm. Using finger-widths as your unit, the reference body is 6 finger-widths and the drawing body is 4.5 finger-widths. Are the two ratios consistent? Show the arithmetic.

Answer: Centimeter ratio: 9/12 = 0.75. Finger-width ratio: 4.5/6 = 0.75. Yes, the ratios are consistent because both equal 0.75.

Reason: A ratio compares the drawing to the reference in the same unit. Converting to a common unit is not required if each pair uses one unit consistently, but both pairs should produce the same ratio.

Check: Divide 9 by 12 and 4.5 by 6 separately; confirm both results are 0.75 before comparing.

Task 4

Design a proportion self-check for an elephant contour drawn in a frame you measure as 14 cm by 18 cm. State three landmarks with explicit endpoints, the unit, and one hypothetical tolerance for a match. Then explain how you would record a valid alternative using a different starting point.

Answer: Landmarks with endpoints: head height (top of head to bottom of jaw), body length (chest to rump), and front leg length (belly line to ground line at the front leg). Unit: centimeters. Hypothetical tolerance: a ratio between 0.9 and 1.1 counts as a match. Record the starting point beside the frame and note that the route began at the rump instead of the forehead; the rubric accepts any starting point if the boundary is continuous and the ear and mouth are included.

Reason: The self-check must use the same unit for reference and drawing and must name the landmarks before measuring. The tolerance is a chosen practice value, not a standard.

Check: Verify that all three measurements carry the unit, that the tolerance is stated as hypothetical, and that the starting point is written on the page.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Outer boundary is drawn as one continuous route in single-line variant, or honestly marked where it breaks.
- [ ] Ear curve and mouth line are included and distinguishable from the outer boundary.
- [ ] Blind-contour variant is documented and the paper was not viewed during drawing.
- [ ] Three landmark measurements are recorded with a consistent unit for both reference and drawing, using defined endpoints: head height (top of head to bottom of jaw), body length (chest to rump), and leg length (belly line to ground line at the front leg).
- [ ] Proportion ratios are calculated or described, and one closest and one furthest landmark are identified.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted: different starting point, finger-width units, or a different frame size measured from actual materials.

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