Live-Model Gesture Drawing: Timed Pose Practice

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

A 30-second pose shows a figure leaning forward with both hands on a table. From your viewing position, the figure appears five head-heights tall. You draw the line of action from crown to supporting foot, a head oval, and limb strokes. After the pose, you count four head ovals in your sketch and see that the hands are drawn lower than the table edge in the model's pose. Describe one correction for the next pose and one check you would use.

Answer: Correction: lengthen the lower-body strokes by roughly one head-height and raise the hand position to match the table edge. Check: count head-heights again and compare the hand height to the table edge in the model's pose.

Reason: The sketch is one head-height short, so the lower body needs more length. The hands are a proportion landmark relative to the table, so comparing their height is a simple checkable relationship.

Check: After the next pose, count head ovals from floor to crown and compare to five. Mark the table edge and compare hand height to it.

Task 2

A 1-minute pose shows a seated figure with one knee raised. The model's apparent head-height count is six. Your sketch shows seven head ovals and the raised knee is at the same height as the elbow. The model's raised knee is higher than the elbow. State whether your proportion is acceptable and give one adjustment.

Answer: The head-height count is one too many, so proportion needs adjustment. Lower the raised knee relative to the elbow and shorten the torso or leg strokes slightly to bring the count closer to six.

Reason: A one-head-height difference is a checkable deviation. The knee-to-elbow relationship is a landmark comparison that can be corrected without measuring in centimeters.

Check: Recount head ovals and compare knee height to elbow height in the next sketch. Note both values in the margin.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

A 2-minute pose shows a figure standing with arms crossed. You draw the line of action, head oval, spine curve, and limb strokes. After the pose, you notice the supporting foot is not under the center of mass in your sketch, and the head-height count is correct. Describe the next step and a valid alternative line style you could use for the arms.

Answer: Next step: shift the supporting foot or the upper body so the base is under the center of mass, then recheck the midpoint. A valid alternative for the arms is angular strokes that follow the forearm direction, as long as they preserve proportion and can be checked with the rubric.

Reason: The base-under-center-of-mass check is independent of head-height count. The convention allows valid alternatives if direction and proportion are preserved.

Check: Draw a vertical line from the center of mass to the base and confirm the supporting foot intersects it. Compare arm stroke direction to the model's forearm direction.

Task 4

A 30-second pose shows a figure mid-stride. You have 30 seconds and no eraser. You draw the line of action first, then a head oval, then limb strokes. After the pose, the line of action is clear but the head-height count is eight while the model appears six. You also notice you erased twice. List two changes for the next 30-second pose and one rubric item to focus on.

Answer: Changes: do not erase during the pose, and shorten the lower-body or torso strokes to bring the head-height count closer to six. Focus rubric item: line economy, because erasing broke the timed flow.

Reason: Erasing costs time and interrupts whole-body seeing. The head-height count is a checkable proportion relationship that can be adjusted by changing stroke length.

Check: Next pose, count erasures (target zero) and recount head ovals against six. Note both in the margin.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Line of action is drawn first and clearly shows the figure's main direction.
- [ ] Head oval, spine curve, and limb strokes follow the stated convention or a valid alternative that preserves direction.
- [ ] Head-height count in the sketch is within one head-height of the model's apparent count.
- [ ] The figure's midpoint and base are checked against the model's midpoint and center of mass.
- [ ] Line economy: few strokes, no repeated erasing during the timed pose.
- [ ] Action is readable without details; proportion errors are noted in the margin.

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