Manga Drawing Exercises: Timed Gesture and Line-Control Drills

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.

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Worked example / complete source key

Draw a 30-second gesture of a figure reaching upward, then refine the outer contour with controlled lines. Use a baseline and midline, and check the contour against a one-millimeter band (hypothetical example).

Answer: First, mark the baseline at the feet and the midline through the torso. Draw a small head oval, a curved spine line, and straight lines for the reaching arm and supporting leg. The action line runs from the supporting foot through the spine to the raised hand. After 30 seconds, stop. Without erasing, draw the outer contour slowly, keeping within one pencil width of the gesture shapes. Check with a ruler: if the contour stays within your chosen band, the control is consistent. Note one improvement, such as keeping the raised arm line straighter next time.