# Botanical Drawing Warm-Up: A 30-Minute Timed Drill Routine

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

In a 2-minute leaf drill, you draw a leaf 8 cm long and 4 cm wide. The widest point is 3 cm from the base. Where is the widest point relative to the tip, and what proportion check can you make?

Answer: The widest point is 5 cm from the tip (8 minus 3). The width-to-length ratio is 4 to 8, or 1 to 2. Check that the widest point is closer to the base than the tip, which matches a leaf that tapers toward the tip.

Reason: Subtract the base-to-widest distance from the total length to find the tip distance. Compare width and length as a simple ratio. The position of the widest point is a checkable feature of the outline.

Check: Measure the drawn leaf: length 8 cm, width 4 cm, widest point 3 cm from base. Confirm the tip distance is 5 cm and the ratio is 1 to 2.

Task 2

A 3-minute stem drill: draw a stem 10 cm long that curves left then right. The bend changes direction at 4 cm from the base. Describe the curve and a check for even thickness.

Answer: Draw a continuous line from base to tip. From 0 to 4 cm, curve gently left; from 4 to 10 cm, curve gently right. Add a second line parallel to the first, keeping a gap of about 2 mm. Check that the gap stays even and that there is one clear change of direction at 4 cm.

Reason: The stem has two curve sections meeting at a single direction change. A parallel second line suggests thickness without shading. The check is the even gap and the single bend point.

Check: Measure the change point at 4 cm from the base. Compare the gap between the two lines at three points: near the base, at the bend and near the tip. The gaps should be similar.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

A 5-minute bloom drill: draw a bloom silhouette 5 cm wide and 5 cm tall with the centre at the middle. Add three petal division lines. What shape check confirms the centre is correct?

Answer: Draw a closed shape 5 cm wide and 5 cm tall. Mark the centre at 2.5 cm from the top and 2.5 cm from the side. Add three lines from the centre to the edge. Check that the centre is equidistant from the top and bottom and from the left and right edges.

Reason: A centred bloom has a centre point at half the width and half the height. Three division lines are within the stated range. The check uses simple halving of the dimensions.

Check: Measure from the centre to each edge: top 2.5 cm, bottom 2.5 cm, left 2.5 cm, right 2.5 cm. Confirm three division lines reach the silhouette.

Task 4

A 10-minute sprig drill: draw a stem 12 cm long with two leaves and one bloom. Leaf A is 4 cm long and attaches 3 cm from the base. Leaf B is 3 cm long and attaches 7 cm from the base. The bloom sits at the tip. Describe the layout and a connection check.

Answer: Draw the stem from base to tip. Mark attachment points at 3 cm and 7 cm. Draw leaf A at 3 cm with a 4 cm outline, and leaf B at 7 cm with a 3 cm outline. Draw the bloom at the 12 cm tip. Check that each leaf meets the stem at its marked point and that the bloom touches the tip.

Reason: The attachment distances are measured along the stem. Leaf lengths are separate from attachment positions. The bloom is at the stem end. The check confirms each part connects at the stated point.

Check: Measure along the stem: leaf A at 3 cm, leaf B at 7 cm, bloom at 12 cm. Confirm leaf A is 4 cm long and leaf B is 3 cm long, and that all three parts touch the stem.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] The four timed slots are used in order: 2, 3, 5 and 10 minutes.
- [ ] Each drill focuses on its stated line or shape goal without shading or extra detail.
- [ ] Leaf outlines show a clear width-to-length proportion and a identifiable widest point.
- [ ] Stem curves show one clear change of direction and an even suggested thickness.
- [ ] Bloom shapes use a silhouette plus three to five division lines, not every petal.
- [ ] The full sprig connects stem, leaves and bloom at believable points and fits the box.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted: a smooth leaf edge may replace a serrated one, and petal division lines may vary in number within the stated range.

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