Cartoon Pose Exaggeration: Squash, Stretch, and Twist Practice

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A neutral figure has figure height 6 units and a torso 4 units tall and 3 units wide. Draw a stretched leaping pose using a one-third change in height and width. Describe the new figure height and torso dimensions.

Answer: New figure height is about 8 units (increase by 2). New torso height is about 5.33 units (increase by 1.33), and new torso width is about 2 units (decrease by 1). The limbs extend upward.

Reason: One-third of 6 is 2, so figure height increases by 2. One-third of 4 is about 1.33, so torso height increases by 1.33. One-third of 3 is 1, so torso width decreases by 1. The primary change is stretch, with a secondary narrowing.

Check: Measure the new figure height and torso dimensions. Confirm the figure is taller and narrower than the neutral figure, and that the silhouette reads as a leap.

Task 2

A neutral figure has a torso oval 5 units tall and 4 units wide. Draw a squashed impact pose using a one-third change in height and width. Describe the new torso dimensions and one limb adjustment.

Answer: New torso height is about 3.33 units (decrease by 1.67), and new torso width is about 5.33 units (increase by 1.33). Bend the limbs outward and lower the head toward the baseline.

Reason: One-third of 5 is about 1.67, so height decreases by 1.67. One-third of 4 is about 1.33, so width increases by 1.33. The primary change is squash, with limbs adjusted to show impact.

Check: Measure the new torso dimensions. Confirm the torso is shorter and wider, and that the limbs bend outward without breaking the silhouette.

Task 3

A neutral figure has a torso oval 4 units tall and 3 units wide. Draw a twisted turning pose by rotating the torso about 30 degrees around the midline. Describe the shoulder and hip adjustment.

Answer: Rotate the torso oval about 30 degrees. Offset the shoulders in one direction and the hips in the opposite direction. Keep the head turned further than the torso but connected by a short neck line.

Reason: The twist is a rotation around the midline, so the torso oval changes orientation rather than only size. Offsetting shoulders and hips shows the rotation clearly. The head turn adds readability.

Check: Check that the torso oval is rotated and that shoulders and hips are offset in opposite directions. Confirm the head and feet still read clearly.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Invent a pose for the prompt 'reaching upward' using a primary stretch and a secondary twist. Use a neutral figure with figure height 5 units and a torso 3 units tall and 2 units wide. Describe the shape changes.

Answer: Increase figure height by about 1.67 units to about 6.67 units. Narrow the torso width by about 0.67 units to about 1.33 units. Rotate the torso about 30 degrees and offset the shoulders. Extend one arm upward and keep the feet on the baseline.

Reason: The primary change is stretch, applied to figure height and torso width using a one-third ratio. The secondary change is twist, applied as a 30-degree rotation with shoulder offset. The pose remains readable because the feet stay on the baseline and the arm extends clearly.

Check: Measure the new figure height and torso width. Confirm the torso is rotated and the shoulders are offset. Check that the silhouette reads as reaching upward without details.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] The pose shows a clear primary shape change (squash, stretch, or twist).
- [ ] Construction lines connect the head, torso, and limbs logically.
- [ ] The silhouette reads without details or labels.
- [ ] The exaggeration is consistent across the figure, using simple checkable ratios.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted if they meet the shape-change convention and remain readable.

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