Cartooning People: Exaggeration Drills for Expressive Figures

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a base figure with a head width of 3 cm. Apply a 2.0 times head-width exaggeration. Keep torso and limbs at base size. Label the new width.

Answer: The new head width is 3 cm times 2.0 equals 6 cm. The figure should show a clearly larger head while the torso and limbs remain at base size.

Reason: Doubling the head width creates a strong single-feature change that is easy to compare. Keeping other features at base isolates the variable.

Check: Measure the drawn head width with a ruler. It should be about 6 cm. Confirm the torso and limbs match the base measurements.

Task 2

A base arm is 5 cm from shoulder to wrist. Draw a figure with the arm lengthened by 40 percent. Calculate the new length and label it.

Answer: The new arm length is 5 cm plus 40 percent of 5 cm, which is 5 cm plus 2 cm equals 7 cm.

Reason: A 40 percent increase is a clear, checkable change. Lengthening one arm changes the gesture and reach without altering the head or legs.

Check: Measure the drawn arm from shoulder to wrist. It should be about 7 cm. Confirm the other arm and legs remain at base length.

Task 3

Draw three faces with the same base head size. Exaggerate expression only: one surprised, one angry, one sleepy. Use simple eyebrow and mouth changes. Label each.

Answer: Surprised: raised eyebrows and open oval mouth. Angry: eyebrows angled down toward the nose and flattened mouth. Sleepy: lowered eyebrows and small curved mouth. Head size stays the same in all three.

Reason: Changing only expression isolates the emotional read. Simple line changes are easy to compare and do not require realistic facial proportion.

Check: Compare the three faces. Confirm the head outlines are the same size. Check that each label matches the visible eyebrow and mouth changes.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Create a four-cell comparison grid. In each cell, draw the same base figure but apply one exaggeration: head size 1.5 times, arm length plus 50 percent, leg length minus 30 percent, and wide mouth expression. Label each cell with the target and the numerical change.

Answer: Cell 1: head width multiplied by 1.5. Cell 2: arm length increased by 50 percent. Cell 3: leg length reduced by 30 percent. Cell 4: mouth widened for expression. Each cell shows only one change from the base.

Reason: The grid makes single-feature comparisons visible side by side. Labeling the numerical change makes each cell checkable.

Check: Measure the base and each cell with a ruler. Confirm each cell changes only its labeled target. Check that the labels match the visible changes and the recorded numbers.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Clear intent: the exaggeration target is labeled and visible.
- [ ] Measurable change: a simple multiplier or percentage is recorded and checkable with a ruler.
- [ ] Readable result: the exaggerated feature supports a clear character read.
- [ ] Valid alternatives: different styles and lettering are accepted if labels are readable and consistent.
- [ ] Comparison: the figure is compared to the base or to another drill figure.

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