Black-and-White Contour Line Drawing: A Self-Check Practice Guide

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a simple leaf with one central vein and four side veins. Use one continuous outer contour and separate interior vein lines. No shading. Practice area: hypothetical 8 cm by 8 cm.

Answer: A closed leaf silhouette with a central vein line from base to tip and four side veins that stop at the leaf edge. No filled areas. Drawing fits within 8 cm by 8 cm.

Reason: The outer edge is the leaf boundary; veins are visible interior edges. Stopping side veins at the edge avoids drawing through the contour.

Check: Confirm the silhouette closes, count four side veins, verify each vein stops at the edge, and scan for shading.

Task 2

Draw two overlapping circles, one nearer and one farther. The nearer circle overlaps the farther circle at two crossing points. Use one line color and resolve the overlaps correctly.

Answer: The nearer circle is drawn as a complete closed contour. The farther circle's line stops at each crossing point and does not pass through the nearer circle. Line weight is heavier on the nearer circle at the crossings.

Reason: Overlap resolution requires the nearer edge to remain continuous while the farther edge terminates at the crossing.

Check: Trace the farther circle and confirm it stops at both crossings; check that the nearer circle is unbroken; verify weight change at crossings.

Task 3

Draw a cup with a handle. The handle forms a closed loop attached at two points. Use a separate closed contour for the handle and no shading. Practice area: hypothetical 12 cm by 12 cm.

Answer: A closed cup body silhouette and a separate closed handle loop. At each attachment point, the handle line meets the body line without drawing through it. No filled areas. Drawing fits within 12 cm by 12 cm.

Reason: The handle hole is a separate closed contour; attachment points are overlaps that must be resolved.

Check: Confirm both contours close, check that the handle does not cross into the body, and measure the widest span against 12 cm.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Draw a simple key: a rectangular shaft with a round bow at one end and two teeth at the other. Use one continuous outer contour and separate lines for the bow hole and tooth edges. No shading.

Answer: A closed key silhouette with a separate closed bow hole and two tooth edge lines. The outer contour is continuous. No tonal marks.

Reason: The bow hole is an interior closed contour; tooth edges are visible boundaries that stop at the outer contour.

Check: Verify the outer contour closes, the bow hole closes, two tooth lines are present, and no shading appears.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Outer silhouette is a continuous line that closes.
- [ ] Interior lines correspond to visible edges or deliberate overlaps.
- [ ] Line weight varies at least twice with a stated edge reason.
- [ ] No hatching, stippling, smudging, or filled areas appear.
- [ ] Drawing fits the measured practice area with a margin.
- [ ] Optional lettering uses a consistent baseline and x-height measured baseline to midline.

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