Contour Drawing for Animation Poses: Single-Line Frames

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw four frames of a figure bending forward from standing to hands near knees. Each frame must be one continuous contour line. Describe your start point and the change per frame.

Answer: A valid answer starts at a foot, traces up and around the figure, and returns to the foot in each frame. Frame one is upright; frame two leans slightly; frame three leans more with arms forward; frame four has hands near knees. Start points may differ, but each frame is one line.

Reason: The contour must show a gradual bend while remaining unbroken. Changing one element per frame keeps the sequence readable.

Check: Count lift-free frames out of four. Cover labels and ask whether the bend order is clear. Accept different start points if each frame is one line.

Task 2

Redraw the four-frame bend sequence on a blank strip without lifting the pencil. Record how many frames you complete as one line. Use hypothetical frame size 12 cm by 8 cm and state your actual count.

Answer: A valid answer reports the actual number of lift-free frames, for example 3 of 4. The redrawn strip should match the first strip's pose order and remain one line per frame.

Reason: Redrawing from observation tests control and continuity. The count is simple arithmetic: lift-free frames divided by four.

Check: Verify the reported count against the strip. Check each frame for one line and compare pose order to the first strip.

Task 3

A student draws frame two with a separate line for the arm. Explain the mistake and give a fix that keeps the frame as one contour.

Answer: The mistake is lifting the pencil to add a separate arm line. The fix is to loop back along the contour to suggest the arm, or to adjust the outer edge so the arm is part of the single line.

Reason: The convention requires one unbroken line per frame; separate marks break continuity.

Check: Inspect the frame for any lifted-pencil marks. Confirm the fix produces one line and the pose still reads.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Score a four-frame strip: three frames are one line, and two frames read clearly without labels. Give continuity and readability scores and one improvement.

Answer: Continuity is 3 of 4, or 75 percent. Readability is 2 of 4, or 50 percent. One improvement is to change one pose element per frame more clearly, such as arm angle, so the sequence reads without labels.

Reason: Scores are simple counts out of four. The improvement targets readability while keeping the one-line rule.

Check: Recount the frames against the strip. Confirm the arithmetic and that the suggested change would not require lifting the pencil.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Each frame is drawn as one continuous line with no lifted pencil.
- [ ] The four frames show a gradual, readable pose change.
- [ ] The silhouette communicates the pose without labels.
- [ ] The redrawn strip is compared to the first using the checklist.
- [ ] Labels use a measured x-height convention and allow varied letter styles.
- [ ] No shading or separate detail lines are used.

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