Contour Drawings of Hair: Silhouette and Strand Edges

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a tied-hair contour. The silhouette narrows at a tie point. Draw two strand edges that converge at the tie and one overlap gap where a front strand crosses a back strand. Use one line weight and no shading. State which strand is in front at the gap.

Answer: A closed silhouette that narrows at the tie point, with two inner edges meeting near the tie. One overlap gap is drawn where the front strand crosses the back strand; the back line stops at the front line. The front strand is stated as in front. All lines use one weight; no shading.

Reason: The tie point is a convergence zone, so strand edges should meet there rather than pass through. The overlap gap resolves which edge is in front. One line weight keeps the contour convention consistent.

Check: Trace the silhouette: it should be closed with face gaps. Trace the two converging edges: they should meet near the tie. Count intended gaps (1) and drawn gaps (1); difference should be 0. Confirm no shading.

Task 2

Draw a short-hair contour. The silhouette follows the skull closely. Draw two crown overlaps and one strand edge that meets the silhouette near the ear. Use one line weight. Label each overlap gap with the front strand.

Answer: A close-fitting closed silhouette around the skull. Two crown overlaps are drawn as gaps where front strands cross back strands; the back lines stop. One strand edge meets the silhouette near the ear and stops there. Each gap is labeled with the front strand. One line weight; no shading.

Reason: Short hair has few long inner edges, so most contours meet the silhouette. Crown overlaps are the main depth cues. Labeling the front strand makes the overlap order checkable.

Check: Confirm the silhouette is closed and close-fitting. Count intended gaps (2 crown) and drawn gaps (2); difference 0. Confirm the ear edge stops at the silhouette. Check labels name the front strand at each gap.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

A loose-hair contour has four intended overlap gaps. Your redraw shows three gaps. Using the arithmetic check, state the missing gaps and describe where one missing gap should be placed.

Answer: Intended gaps minus drawn gaps equals missing gaps: 4 minus 3 equals 1 missing gap. The missing gap should be placed where a front lock crosses a back lock and the back line currently passes through the front line without stopping.

Reason: The arithmetic check isolates the count difference. The placement rule is the overlap convention: the rear line must stop at the front line. Finding a line that passes through another identifies the missing gap.

Check: Recount intended gaps (4) and drawn gaps (3). Confirm the difference is 1. Inspect the drawing for any line that crosses another without a gap; that is the missing gap location.

Task 4

Draw a contour-only redraw of a loose-hair variant in a blank box. Use exactly two overlap gaps and one line weight. Then write a note stating the overlap order at each gap and the line-weight rule you used.

Answer: A contour-only drawing with a closed silhouette, two overlap gaps where front strands cross back strands, and one consistent line weight. The note states the front strand at each gap and the line-weight rule (for example, one uniform weight for all visible edges). No shading or proportion guides.

Reason: A redraw in a blank box tests whether the contour convention is understood without copying. Two gaps are enough to show overlap order. The note makes the convention explicit and checkable.

Check: Trace the silhouette and confirm it is closed. Count intended gaps (2) and drawn gaps (2); difference 0. Read the note: it should name the front strand at each gap and state one line-weight rule. Confirm no shading or guide lines.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Silhouette is a closed contour with clear gaps where hair meets the face.
- [ ] Every inner strand edge either stops at an overlap gap or returns to the silhouette.
- [ ] Overlap order is stated or visually unambiguous at each gap.
- [ ] Line weight follows one stated convention consistently.
- [ ] No shading, blending, texture, or proportion guide lines are present.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted if silhouette, overlap order, and line-weight rule are preserved.

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