Contour Line Drawing of a Bonsai Tree: A Focused Outline Study

Ordinary topic reference / separately checked pixels



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Original worked example / unchanged complete key

Prompt: A bonsai reference shows a trunk that tapers from a base width of about four centimeters to a branch junction width of about two centimeters over a vertical distance of ten centimeters. Draw a slow contour line along the left trunk edge from base to junction, then continue along the lower edge of the first branch for five centimeters. Describe the line you would draw and how you would check it.

Answer: Start at the base on the left edge. Move your eye upward at a steady pace, letting the pencil follow. The line should curve slightly inward as the trunk narrows from four to two centimeters over ten centimeters. At the junction, do not lift the pencil; turn the line to follow the lower edge of the branch for five centimeters. The line should show a gentle taper and one clear direction change at the junction. To check, trace the line with your finger: it should be continuous from base to branch tip, with no jumps. Count direction changes: at least one at the taper and one at the junction. If the line is smooth with no taper, slow down and repeat.