Peace Sign Contour Drawing: A Continuous-Line Study

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A student draws a peace-sign hand but lifts the pencil at every knuckle. Using the convention, explain whether this is a valid contour study and what to change.

Answer: It is not a continuous contour study because the line is broken at each knuckle. The student should keep the tool moving through the knuckles and note any uncertainty instead of lifting.

Reason: The convention requires continuity or marked breaks. Lifting at every knuckle breaks the contour repeatedly and interrupts the record of edges.

Check: Trace the drawn path with a finger and count the lifts. If lifts occur at every knuckle without being marked, the study does not meet the continuity check.

Task 2

Describe the order of edges you would follow for a slow contour starting at the inner wrist and ending at the thumb. Include the two raised fingers and the folded fingers.

Answer: Start at the inner wrist, move to the base of the index finger, trace the inner edge to the tip and back down the outer edge, cross to the middle finger and trace its inner and outer edges, continue to the folded ring and little fingers along their visible folded edges, then follow the thumb across the palm and return to the inner wrist.

Reason: The order follows adjacent edges so the line remains continuous and passes through each junction once.

Check: Compare the described order to the hand: each step should share a junction with the next, and the final edge should return to the starting wrist edge.

Task 3

A drawing shows the thumb crossing the palm but the line stops at the thumb and restarts at the wrist. Is this acceptable under the convention? Explain.

Answer: It is acceptable only if the break is marked and explained. Otherwise the contour is incomplete because the line does not return to the wrist continuously.

Reason: The convention allows marked breaks but requires the contour to be coherent. An unmarked stop and restart leaves a gap in the recorded edge.

Check: Look for a mark or note at the break. If none is present, the drawing fails the continuity check.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

You have two minutes for a blind contour of a peace-sign hand. List three edges you will follow and state one thing you will not do.

Answer: Follow the outer wrist edge, the outer edge of the index finger, and the folded edge of the ring finger. Do not look at the paper until the timer stops.

Reason: Blind contour requires looking only at the subject; choosing specific edges keeps the line purposeful within the short time.

Check: After the timer, confirm that the three chosen edges appear in the drawing in the order you followed them, and that you did not glance at the paper during the exercise.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] The line is continuous from start to finish, or breaks are marked and explained.
- [ ] Each drawn edge corresponds to a visible edge on the observed hand.
- [ ] Junctions between fingers, palm, and thumb appear in the same order as on the hand.
- [ ] No shading, proportion construction, or invented texture is added.
- [ ] The drawing records changes of direction at the folded fingers and thumb.

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