One-Line Contour Face Drawing: No-Lift Practice

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

On a blank sheet, mark a start point at top midline. Draw a continuous contour of an oval face 10 x-heights tall. Enter two eye loops and one mouth loop. Do not lift the pen. After drawing, measure the largest drift from each feature center to a guide dot you placed before drawing. Report the drift in x-height units.

Answer: A continuous line from start to start with two eye loops and one mouth loop, and a reported drift of one x-height or less.

Reason: The oval face is a simple outer contour. Two eye loops and one mouth loop test feature entry without complex nose or ear shapes. The drift measurement checks placement control.

Check: Trace the line with your finger to confirm no breaks. Measure each feature center to its guide dot and divide by your x-height. Pass if the largest value is 1.0 or less.

Task 2

Draw a continuous contour of a face 12 x-heights tall with a nose loop and two ear loops in addition to two eye loops and one mouth loop. Use a feature order of left eye, nose, mouth, right eye, left ear, right ear. After drawing, count the number of times the line crosses itself. Report the count and the largest drift.

Answer: A continuous line with six feature loops, a reported crossing count, and a largest drift of one x-height or less.

Reason: Six loops increase route complexity. The specified order tests planning. Crossing count is a simple checkable number that does not judge style.

Check: Trace continuity with your finger. Count visible crossings and record the number. Measure drift as in exercise 1. Pass if continuity holds and drift is 1.0 x-height or less.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Draw a continuous contour of a face 8 x-heights tall. Use only three feature loops: left eye, nose, right eye. Do not include a mouth loop. After drawing, measure the face height in millimetres and the largest drift in millimetres. Convert both to x-height units and report the ratio of drift to face height.

Answer: A continuous line with three loops, a face height in x-height units, a drift in x-height units, and a drift-to-height ratio.

Reason: Fewer loops test whether the outer contour alone can carry the drawing. The ratio connects drift to overall size and is simple arithmetic.

Check: Confirm continuity by finger trace. Compute drift divided by face height. Pass if drift is 1.0 x-height or less; report the ratio even if it passes.

Task 4

Draw a continuous contour of a face 15 x-heights tall with two eye loops, one nose loop, one mouth loop, and one ear loop. Start at top midline and return to start. After drawing, write a two-sentence reflection comparing line continuity and feature placement drift. Include the largest drift in x-height units and one specific change you would make next time.

Answer: A continuous line with five loops, a reflection of two sentences, a reported largest drift, and one specific change.

Reason: The largest face height tests scale control. The reflection prompt connects continuity and drift, which are the two judged qualities. The specific change makes the reflection checkable.

Check: Confirm continuity by finger trace. Confirm the reflection has exactly two sentences, includes a drift value in x-height units, and names one change. Pass if drift is 1.0 x-height or less and all reflection elements are present.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Continuity: the finger trace follows one path from start to end with no breaks.
- [ ] No-lift rule: the pen tip stays on the paper between the first and last mark.
- [ ] Feature loops: each feature is entered as a loop connected to the outer route.
- [ ] Placement drift: the largest distance from a feature center to its guide dot is one x-height or less.
- [ ] Convention compliance: the start point is at top midline and the line returns to the start.
- [ ] Valid alternatives: different letter styles, feature shapes, and loop orders are accepted if the convention and drift limits are met.

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