Contour-Only Face Drawing: Edge Lines Without Shading

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a contour-only jawline from one ear area to the chin. Use a continuous line where the edge is clear. Check that the line does not double back or gap unintentionally.

Answer: A single continuous jaw contour from ear area to chin, with no shading and no unintended gaps.

Reason: The jaw is a primary anchor edge; continuity shows you can follow a boundary without adding surface lines.

Check: Trace the jawline with your finger; if you lift or double back without a real edge break, redraw that segment.

Task 2

Draw a brow ridge and a nose bridge as two separate contour lines. The nose bridge should turn at the brow and at the nostril. Do not add a grid.

Answer: Two distinct contour lines: a brow arc and a nose-bridge line with two clear turns.

Reason: Separating brow and nose bridge tests selective edge observation and avoids merging distinct boundaries.

Check: Confirm the brow line does not merge into the nose bridge and that the nose bridge has two intentional turns.

Task 3

Draw a contour-only face with eyelid creases and lip edges. Use a hypothetical jaw width of 8 cm and brow width of 6 cm; state the difference. Do not shade.

Answer: A contour-only face including eyelid creases and lip edges, with the stated difference of 2 cm.

Reason: This combines anchor edges with secondary edges and a simple arithmetic check.

Check: Verify no shading, check eyelid and lip edges are separate contours, and confirm 8 cm minus 6 cm equals 2 cm.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Draw a partial contour study of one side of a face. Mark one intentional break where hair interrupts the jaw edge. Explain the break in one short note using the x-height convention.

Answer: A partial contour study with a marked intentional break and a short note; x-height measured baseline to midline.

Reason: Partial studies and intentional breaks are valid alternatives when clearly marked and explained.

Check: Check that the break is marked, the note explains it, and the x-height of the note is consistent from baseline to midline.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Uses contour lines only; no shading, hatching, or cross-contour surface lines.
- [ ] Includes jaw, brow, and nose-bridge edges with clear continuity or intentional breaks.
- [ ] Avoids a full proportion grid; uses direct observation and simple checkable comparisons.
- [ ] Keeps line weight purposeful and readable; valid alternatives are accepted if continuity is clear.
- [ ] Notes follow the x-height convention (baseline to midline) with consistent measurement.

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