Cross-Contour Vase Drawing: Curved vs Straight Lines

Topic reference / ordinary illustration



Ordinary topic reference. Hypothetical dimensions in the four tasks are supplied in their own text; this illustration is not their measured answer.

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Worked example / complete source key

A vase is 12 cm tall. Its widest point is at 5 cm from the base, where the width is 8 cm. At the rim, 12 cm from the base, the width is 4 cm. Draw four cross-contour lines at heights 2 cm, 5 cm, 8 cm, and 12 cm. Describe how the curvature should change.

Answer: At 2 cm the line is short and slightly bowed because the vase is near its base. At 5 cm the line is longest and most strongly bowed outward because this is the widest point. At 8 cm the line is shorter and less bowed as the vase narrows toward the neck. At 12 cm the line is shortest and nearly flat at the rim. The lines should reach both silhouettes at each height, and spacing should remain readable.