Cross-Contour Sneaker Drawing: Wrap Lines Around a Converse-Style Shoe

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

On a simple shoe outline with a rounded toe box, draw three cross-contour guide lines across the toe. Describe where each line starts, how it bends, and where it ends.

Answer: Each line starts at one edge of the toe box, bends forward over the rounded top, and ends at the opposite edge. The center of each line curves more than its ends, matching the toe's rounded surface.

Reason: Cross-contour lines must follow the local surface. A rounded toe requires a forward bend at the center and flatter ends.

Check: Compare each line's bend to the toe outline: the line should curve in the same direction as the toe's rounded top.

Task 2

A side panel is flatter near the sole and rounder near the ankle. Draw two guide lines along the side panel and explain how their curvature changes from bottom to top.

Answer: Near the sole, the guide lines are gently curved and nearly parallel to the sole. As they rise toward the ankle, they curve upward more strongly to follow the panel's increasing roundness.

Reason: Curvature should increase where the surface is rounder. The side panel transitions from flatter to rounder, so the lines bend more near the ankle.

Check: Check that the upper part of each line bends more than the lower part, matching the panel's change in roundness.

Task 3

Draw one cross-contour line around the sole thickness, starting at the front of the sole and ending at the back. Describe how it follows the heel curve.

Answer: The line runs along the sole's thickness, staying close to the sole edge, and curves around the heel in a smooth arc. It does not cut across the sole's top surface.

Reason: The sole is a thin curved form. A wrapped line must follow its thickness and bend around the heel rather than crossing the upper.

Check: Confirm the line stays on the sole thickness and curves around the heel without entering the side panel.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A student draws wrapped lines that are evenly spaced but all have the same curvature across the toe, side panel, and sole. Identify the problem and state one correction.

Answer: The problem is that uniform curvature ignores local surface changes. One correction is to increase curvature on the rounded toe and heel and reduce it on the flatter side panel.

Reason: Cross-contour lines must vary with the form. Uniform curvature flattens the drawing and fails to show volume differences between zones.

Check: Compare curvature across zones: the toe and heel lines should bend more than the side panel lines.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] The study includes a clear shoe outline with a rounded toe box, side panel, and sole.
- [ ] At least two cross-contour lines wrap across the toe box, bending with its rounded surface.
- [ ] At least two cross-contour lines follow the side panel and curve upward near the ankle.
- [ ] At least one cross-contour line wraps around the sole thickness and follows the heel curve.
- [ ] Line curvature changes consistently with local surface direction across zones.
- [ ] The outline remains light and the wrapped lines are slightly darker, keeping the study readable.
- [ ] Lacing detail and shading are omitted or minimal so the cross-contour study stays the focus.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted: line spacing, exact curvature, and optional small labels may vary if the wrapped-line convention is followed.

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