Cross-Contour Pear Drawing: Wrapped Lines for Asymmetric Form

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

On a pear drawing 16 cm tall, place three wrapped lines at 3 cm, 8 cm, and 13 cm from the top. The neck is narrow and the base is wide. Describe the relative curvature and spacing you would use, and state one check.

Answer: The 3 cm line should be the tightest curve with the closest spacing to its neighbor; the 13 cm line should be the broadest with the widest spacing. A valid alternative may use four lines if spacing still changes with width. Check that the tightest curve is at the neck and the broadest at the base.

Reason: Curvature and spacing follow local width: narrow neck means tight curve and close spacing; wide base means broad curve and wider spacing.

Check: Point to the tightest and broadest curves and confirm they sit at neck and base; confirm spacing increases downward.

Task 2

A pear leans right. A student draws all wrapped lines perfectly horizontal and evenly spaced 8 mm apart. Identify two problems and give a fix for each.

Answer: Problem one: horizontal lines ignore the lean; fix by tilting lines with the neck. Problem two: even spacing ignores width change; fix by tightening spacing at the neck and widening it at the base. Check that lines follow the lean and spacing varies.

Reason: Wrapped lines should follow the form's local axis and spacing should reflect width; both are violated here.

Check: Compare line tilt to the neck direction and measure two adjacent gaps to confirm they differ.

Task 3

You have drawn five wrapped lines on a pear. Two lines cross near the middle of the body. Explain why this weakens the volume and describe how to redraw one of them.

Answer: Crossing lines suggest the surface folds back on itself, which a pear's body does not do in this study. Redraw one line so it enters and exits at the silhouette without intersecting its neighbor, keeping curvature consistent with local width. Check that no wrapped lines cross.

Reason: Cross-contours describe a continuous surface; intersections imply an impossible fold.

Check: Trace each line from edge to edge and confirm no intersection with another wrapped line.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A pear's widest point is 7 cm across and its neck is 3 cm across. A student uses hypothetical gaps of 12 mm at the widest point and 5 mm at the neck. Is this consistent with the convention? Explain and give one adjustment if needed.

Answer: Yes, it is consistent: wider form gets wider spacing (12 mm) and narrower neck gets closer spacing (5 mm). If the drawing looked flat, one adjustment is to increase curvature at the neck rather than change the gaps. Check that the wider gap sits at the wider part.

Reason: Spacing should increase with local width under the stated convention.

Check: Match each gap to the local width and confirm the larger gap is at the wider section.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Lines wrap from edge to edge without crossing or stopping short.
- [ ] Curvature is tighter at the neck and broader at the base.
- [ ] Spacing varies with local width rather than staying uniform.
- [ ] Asymmetry is acknowledged: lines are not mirror images where the pear is uneven.
- [ ] No shading or botanical labels are included; the study is line-only.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted if volume reads clearly.

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