Cupcake Contour Drawing: Blind and Slow Line Practice

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Blind contour of a cupcake wrapper only. Start at the top rim and follow each visible ridge to the base without looking at the paper. Use one continuous line per ridge and change direction at each fold. Do not draw frosting.

Answer: A single-line record of visible wrapper ridges with direction changes at folds, drawn without looking at the paper. Distortion is acceptable.

Reason: The exercise isolates the regular, repeating edge type so you can practice continuous observation without the distraction of frosting overlaps.

Check: Confirm the drawing was made without looking at the paper, that each visible ridge is represented by a continuous line, and that folds show direction changes. Check that no frosting or shading appears.

Task 2

Slow contour of the frosting only. Follow the nearest visible swirl edge, glancing at the paper only to reposition. Record at least one place where two frosting swirls overlap as two separate edges.

Answer: A slow contour drawing of frosting swirls with at least one overlap recorded as two separate edges, using brief glances at the paper.

Reason: Frosting edges are irregular and overlapping, so this exercise trains you to separate nearby edges rather than merging them into one silhouette.

Check: Look for at least one overlap drawn as two distinct edges. Confirm the drawing includes only frosting edges and that glances at the paper were brief and used only for repositioning.

Task 3

Combined slow contour of wrapper and frosting. State your convention in one sentence, then draw the full cupcake. Record the boundary where frosting overhangs the wrapper as separate edges. Do not add shading.

Answer: A full cupcake contour with a stated convention, separate edges at the frosting-wrapper boundary, and no shading.

Reason: The boundary between materials is the most informative edge in a food contour study, so this exercise practices recording that transition explicitly.

Check: Read the convention sentence and confirm it matches the drawing. Check that the frosting-wrapper boundary is drawn as separate edges and that no shading or cross-contour marks appear.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Reflection task. Compare your blind and slow contour drawings. Name two specific edges that were hardest to follow, one from the wrapper and one from the frosting. For each, write one sentence explaining what made it hard and one sentence stating what you would observe more carefully next time.

Answer: A short reflection naming one wrapper edge and one frosting edge, with an explanation and a next-step observation for each.

Reason: Naming specific edges and explaining difficulty turns the drawing experience into transferable observation skill.

Check: Confirm two edges are named, one wrapper and one frosting. Check that each has an explanation of difficulty and a specific next-step observation. Accept any valid edge choice.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] States an edge convention in one sentence before drawing.
- [ ] Applies the same convention to both blind and slow contour drawings.
- [ ] Keeps blind contour free of paper-looking until the drawing is finished.
- [ ] Records at least one overlap between frosting and wrapper as separate edges.
- [ ] Excludes shading and cross-contour marks.
- [ ] Names two or three specific hard edges in the reflection.
- [ ] Explains what made each named edge hard to follow.
- [ ] Accepts valid alternatives such as silhouette versus swirl following, or lifting at folds, if stated and consistent.

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