Blind-Contour Drawing of a Place: Line-First Scene Practice

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Scene description: a courtyard with a gate on the left, a low step across the middle, and a potted plant on the right. Choose four anchor edges and draw a blind contour. Lift the pen only between the gate and the step. After drawing, complete a continuity checklist with three items.

Answer: A valid answer is a line that follows four named anchors, such as gate left edge, gate right edge, step front edge, and plant pot rim. The line lifts once between gate and step. The checklist names three items, for example: connected through three anchors yes; lift named yes; eyes on scene mostly yes.

Reason: The exercise tests anchor selection and a single deliberate lift. Resemblance is not required; the checklist records observation behaviour.

Check: Count the named anchors in the answer. Confirm exactly one lift is described between gate and step. Confirm three checklist items are present and answered yes, no, or partly.

Task 2

Scene description: a bus stop with a shelter roof, two vertical posts, a bench under the roof, and a kerb line in front. Draw a blind contour using five anchors. Do not look at the paper until you stop. Then state one overlap you recorded.

Answer: A valid answer follows five anchors, such as roof front edge, left post, right post, bench seat edge, and kerb line. The stated overlap could be the bench under the roof or the posts in front of the shelter back. The line may be uneven.

Reason: Overlap is a line-placement skill that does not require shading. The exercise checks whether the learner records one overlap while keeping eyes on the scene.

Check: List the five anchors in the answer. Confirm one overlap is named and that it matches the scene description. Confirm the answer states eyes were kept on the scene until stopping.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Scene description: a park path with a fence on the right, a lamppost on the left, and a distant tree line across the top. Draw a blind contour with three anchors. Use a hypothetical four-minute limit and label it as an example. After drawing, write one sentence about where your eye moved fastest.

Answer: A valid answer uses three anchors, such as fence top rail, lamppost shaft, and tree line. The four-minute limit is labelled as a hypothetical example. The sentence names a fast eye movement, for example along the fence rail or up the lamppost.

Reason: The exercise checks time labelling and reflection on eye speed. The sentence is about observation, not drawing quality.

Check: Confirm three anchors are named. Confirm the time value is labelled hypothetical. Confirm one sentence describes eye speed and refers to a scene edge.

Task 4

Scene description: a room corner with a window on the left wall, a shelf on the right wall, and a chair in front of the shelf. Draw a blind contour using four anchors. Lift the pen only at the window-shelf gap. Then mark each of these checklist items yes, no, or partly: connected through three anchors; lifts named; no erasing; one overlap recorded.

Answer: A valid answer follows four anchors, such as window left edge, window right edge, shelf front edge, and chair back. One lift is at the window-shelf gap. The checklist has four items marked yes, no, or partly, and the overlap could be the chair in front of the shelf.

Reason: The exercise combines anchor choice, a named lift, and a full checklist. It allows valid alternatives in anchor order and start point.

Check: Confirm four anchors and one lift at the named gap. Confirm all four checklist items are marked. Confirm the overlap, if marked yes, matches the chair and shelf relationship.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Line continuity: the drawn line stays connected through at least three chosen anchor edges.
- [ ] Deliberate lifts: each pen lift corresponds to a gap or separate edge named in the scene.
- [ ] Observation focus: the learner reports keeping eyes on the scene for most of the drawing.
- [ ] No shading or perspective correction: the drawing uses line only and does not add shading or vanishing-point fixes.
- [ ] Reflection checklist completed: yes, no, or partly for each continuity item, with one sentence about eye speed and one about a lift.
- [ ] Valid alternatives allowed: different anchor choices, different start points, and optional labels are acceptable if the checklist is honest.

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