Drawing Anime Child Practice: Large-Head Ratio and Simple Expression

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A head oval is three centimeters tall. Using a three-and-a-half-head ratio, calculate the total figure height and the distance from the top of the head to the shoulder line if the shoulder line is one and a half head units down.

Answer: Total height is ten and a half centimeters. The shoulder line is four and a half centimeters below the top of the head.

Reason: One head unit is three centimeters. Three and a half units is three times three and a half, which equals ten and a half centimeters. One and a half units is one and a half times three, which equals four and a half centimeters.

Check: Multiply the head unit by the ratio factors and confirm the shoulder line is above the waist line and below the chin.

Task 2

A learner places the eye line one centimeter below the top of a four-centimeter head oval. Is this close to the halfway guide? Explain and give the correct halfway position.

Answer: No. The halfway guide is two centimeters below the top. One centimeter is too high and would make the face look older or compressed.

Reason: Half of four centimeters is two centimeters. The eye line should sit near the middle of the head, with eyes slightly below it for a childlike face.

Check: Measure the head oval height, divide by two, and compare the eye line position to that value.

Task 3

Describe how to change a neutral face into a surprised expression using only eyebrow angle, eye shape, and mouth curve. Then state one check to confirm the expression is clear.

Answer: Raise both eyebrows, make the eyes rounder and wider, and change the mouth to a small open oval. Check by stepping back and naming the expression from those three cues alone.

Reason: Surprise is readable when the eyebrows lift, the eyes open, and the mouth opens slightly. Using only three cues keeps the face simple and checkable.

Check: Ask another person to name the expression without seeing the rest of the drawing; if they say surprised or similar, the cues are clear.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A drawn child has a head width of five centimeters and a shoulder width of nine centimeters. Does this pass the childlike shoulder check? Suggest one adjustment.

Answer: No. The shoulders are much wider than the head. Reduce shoulder width to about five centimeters, close to head width.

Reason: The convention keeps shoulder width close to head width for a child figure. Nine centimeters is nearly double five centimeters, which reads as an older or broader figure.

Check: Compare head width and shoulder width with a paper strip or ruler; they should be close, within about one centimeter in this example.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Head is the largest single shape and is clearly marked as one head unit.
- [ ] Total figure height is close to the chosen ratio, within about a quarter head unit.
- [ ] Shoulder width is close to head width, supporting a childlike silhouette.
- [ ] Eye line sits near the middle of the head, with eyes slightly below it.
- [ ] One expression is readable from eyebrow angle, eye shape, and mouth curve.
- [ ] Limbs are short enough that the figure does not read as an adult.
- [ ] Construction lines are light and final lines are clear.
- [ ] Valid alternative styles are accepted if the ratio and expression checks pass.

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