Practice Drawing Comic Book Characters: Proportion, Gesture, and Expression

Topic reference / ordinary illustration



Ordinary topic reference. Hypothetical dimensions in the four tasks are supplied in their own text; this illustration is not their measured answer.

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Worked example / complete source key

A student has a panel 18 cm tall and wants a 6-head-unit character. Set the head unit, mark the guide, and describe a determined pose with an angry expression using the x-height convention.

Answer: Divide 18 cm by 6 to get a 3 cm head unit (hypothetical example). Mark six equal 3 cm units down the center line. Draw a forward-leaning action line from the head through the torso to the front foot, one line for the leading arm, and one for the balancing arm. Place shoulders about 1.5 head units wide (4.5 cm) and knees near half the leg length. For the face, measure your own x-height, mark the midline of the face box, place eyes near it, angle brows down toward the nose, and set the mouth in a firm line. Check: six units total 18 cm; the gesture reads without details; the angry face matches the forward, determined pose.