Contour Drawing of Fruits and Vegetables: A Beginner's Guide

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw the contour of a carrot. The carrot is long and tapered, with a few small root hairs near the tip and a leafy top. Describe your line.

Answer: Start at the leafy top. Draw a continuous line down one side, tapering to a point at the tip, then up the other side. Add short lines for root hairs and a few lines for leaves. The contour should be narrow at the tip and wider at the top.

Reason: The carrot's shape is a tapered cylinder. The contour must show the taper and the small root hairs as part of the edge.

Check: Compare the drawing's length-to-width ratio to the actual carrot. The tip should be pointed, not blunt.

Task 2

Draw the contour of a bell pepper. The pepper has three lobes and a stem. Describe how you handle the creases between lobes.

Answer: Start at the stem. Draw the outline of one lobe, then move to the next, drawing the crease as a short inward curve. Continue around all lobes and back to the stem. The contour should show three distinct bulges.

Reason: The bell pepper's contour is not a simple oval; the lobes create inward creases that are part of the outline.

Check: Count the lobes in your drawing. They should match the number you see on the pepper.

Task 3

Draw the contour of a lemon. The lemon is oval with pointed ends and a slightly bumpy surface. Describe how you show the bumps.

Answer: Draw an oval with two pointed ends. Along the outline, add small, gentle curves to suggest bumps. Keep the line continuous. The pointed ends should be distinct.

Reason: The lemon's contour includes small irregularities that make it recognizable. The pointed ends are key features.

Check: Check that the ends are pointed, not rounded. The bumps should be subtle, not exaggerated.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Draw the contour of a broccoli floret. The floret has a thick stem and a bumpy, clustered top. Describe how you simplify the bumps into contour lines.

Answer: Start at the stem base. Draw up the stem, then around the clustered top using a series of small, connected curves that follow the outer edge of the clusters. Return down the other side of the stem. The contour should show a rough, bumpy top and a smooth stem.

Reason: The broccoli floret's top is made of many small buds. The contour line follows the outermost bumps, simplifying the texture into an edge.

Check: The stem should be straight and the top should be irregular. Check that the overall shape matches the floret's silhouette.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Contour line is continuous and describes the object's edge.
- [ ] Proportions match the observed object within reasonable accuracy.
- [ ] Key features like stems or ridges are included as contour lines.
- [ ] No shading or filling is used.
- [ ] Line weight is varied to show overlapping edges.
- [ ] Drawing shows observation of irregularities, not idealized symmetry.

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