Joints Practice Drawing Poses: Build Jointed Figures with Limb Pivots

Original tasks 1, 2, 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 1

A figure has shoulder-to-elbow 3 units and elbow-to-wrist 3 units. The right elbow pivot is 1 unit below the shoulder pivot. Place the wrist pivot and state its distance from the elbow.

Answer: The wrist pivot is 3 units from the elbow pivot along the forearm segment.

Reason: Segment length is fixed at 3 units; moving the elbow does not change elbow-to-wrist length.

Check: Measure elbow-to-wrist with your unit and confirm it equals 3 units.

Task 2

A seated pose has hip-to-knee 4 units and knee-to-ankle 4 units. The knee pivot is 2 units forward of the hip pivot. Describe where the ankle pivot goes relative to the knee.

Answer: The ankle pivot is 4 units from the knee pivot, placed below the knee to show a bent leg.

Reason: The knee-to-ankle segment stays 4 units; the ankle position follows the bent-knee direction.

Check: Measure knee-to-ankle and confirm 4 units; confirm the ankle is below the knee.

Task 3

A standing figure has left arm segments 5 units each and right arm segments 5 units each. The left wrist pivot is 1 unit higher than the right wrist pivot. Is the arm construction valid? Explain.

Answer: Yes, it is valid if both arms use 5-unit segments; the wrist height difference is a pose choice, not a length error.

Reason: Segment lengths match on both sides; only pivot positions differ.

Check: Measure all four arm segments and confirm each is 5 units.

Task 4

A template shows six pivot pairs but one label sits on a segment line. State the fix and the check you would use.

Answer: Move the label at least one x-height away from the line, then measure the gap from baseline to midline of your writing.

Reason: Label readability depends on separation from lines, measured by your own x-height.

Check: Measure the gap between the label and the line; it should be at least one x-height.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] All six pivot pairs are present and labeled.
- [ ] Segment lengths match the chosen unit within one unit on each side.
- [ ] Labels are at least one x-height from any line.
- [ ] The convention (dot or cross) is used consistently.
- [ ] Valid alternatives such as curved segments or circled knees are accepted if labeled and checkable.

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