Implied Scales Mermaid Drawing: Torso, Tail, and Fin Construction

Ordinary topic reference / separately checked pixels



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Original worked example / unchanged complete key

Prompt: A student draws a mermaid with a torso length of 6 cm and a tail length of 12 cm. The hip width is 4 cm and the fin width is 5 cm. The tail has four loose bands of suggestion strokes and shading on the lower right. Identify one proportion issue and one texture issue, and state a fix for each.

Answer: Proportion issue: the fin width (5 cm) is wider than the hip width (4 cm), so the fin may look too large. Fix: narrow the fin to about 4 cm or less. Texture issue: four bands may be too few or too many depending on tail size; check that bands are loose and not row-like. Fix: adjust band spacing and add gaps for shading. The tail-to-torso ratio is 12:6 = 2:1, which matches the hypothetical example, so no change needed there.

Reason: The ratio check uses simple arithmetic with consistent units. The fin width comparison uses the hip as the widest reference. Texture is judged by the convention: loose bands, varied spacing, no complete rows.

Check: Measure torso, tail, hip, and fin with a ruler. Confirm the tail-to-torso ratio and that fin width does not exceed hip width. Squint at the drawing to confirm the tail reads as rounded and textured, not flat or grid-like.