Single Contour Line Figure Drawing: One Continuous Stroke

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

A seated figure has one arm resting on a table and the other hanging down. Describe a continuous contour route that starts at the crown of the head, enters the gap under the resting arm, and ends at the hanging wrist.

Answer: Start at the crown. Move down the left side of the head to the neck, out to the left shoulder, and down the outer left arm to the resting wrist. Cross over the line under the resting arm to the table edge, move along the table edge to the torso, cross back over the line, and continue down the left side of the torso to the left hip. Move down the outer left leg to the knee, cross over the line to the inner knee, move up the inner left leg to the crotch, cross back over the line at the crotch to the inner right leg, move down the inner right leg to the right ankle, cross over the line to the outer right ankle, and move up the outer right leg to the right hip. Continue up the right side of the torso to the right shoulder, and down the hanging arm to the wrist. The line crosses over itself under the resting arm, at the knee, at the crotch, and at the right ankle, and remains one unbroken stroke.

Reason: The route enters the required gap under the resting arm and returns to the outer edge, then uses the knee and hip crossings to describe inner separations while keeping one stroke.

Check: Trace the line with your eye from crown to hanging wrist. Confirm no stops and restarts, and confirm the line enters and exits the gap under the resting arm.

Task 2

A figure walks with one leg forward and one leg back. Describe a continuous contour route that starts at the forward ankle, enters the gap between the legs, and ends at the back shoulder.

Answer: Start at the forward ankle. Move up the outer forward leg to the hip, up the side of the torso to the shoulder, and out to the forward arm. Move down the outer forward arm to the wrist, cross over the line to the inner wrist, move up the inner arm to the armpit, cross back over the line, and continue down the torso to the hip. Move down the outer back leg to the back ankle, cross over the line to the inner back ankle, move up the inner back leg to the crotch, cross back over the line at the crotch to the outer back hip, and continue up the back side of the torso to the back shoulder. The line crosses over itself at the forward wrist, armpit, back ankle, and crotch, and remains one unbroken stroke.

Reason: The route starts at the required ankle, enters the gap between the legs at the crotch crossing, and ends at the back shoulder while remaining one stroke.

Check: Trace from the forward ankle to the back shoulder. Confirm the line enters and exits the gap between the legs and has no breaks.

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Original tasks 3 / complete keys

Task 3

A figure reaches upward with both arms. Describe a continuous contour route that starts at the left wrist, enters the gap between the left arm and the head, and ends at the right wrist.

Answer: Start at the left wrist. Move up the outer left arm to the left shoulder. Cross over the line at the shoulder into the gap between the left arm and the head, move up along the side of the head to the crown, then cross back over the line at the crown to the outer edge. Continue down the left side of the head to the neck, down the left side of the torso to the hip, and down the outer left leg to the ankle. Cross over the line at the ankle to the inner ankle, move up the inner leg to the crotch, cross back over the line at the crotch, and continue down the outer right leg to the right ankle. Move up the outer right leg to the hip, up the right side of the torso to the right armpit, and cross over the line at the armpit into the gap between the right arm and the head. Move up along the side of the head toward the crown, cross back over the line, follow the right outside edge of the head down to the right shoulder, then continue along the outer right arm to the right wrist, ending there. The line crosses over itself at the left shoulder, crown, left ankle, crotch, right armpit, and near the crown on the right side, and remains one unbroken stroke from the left wrist to the right wrist.

Reason: The route enters the required gap between the left arm and the head, uses crossings to describe both arm gaps, and ends at the right wrist in one stroke.

Check: Trace from the left wrist to the right wrist. Confirm the line enters and exits the gap between the left arm and the head, and check for no stops and restarts.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A figure bends forward to touch the ground. Describe a continuous contour route that starts at the top of the back, enters the gap between the arms and the legs, and ends at one hand.

Answer: Start at the top of the back and trace the outer back to the hip, then down one outer leg to the ankle. Cross the drawn ankle segment into the inner leg, continue to the crotch, and cross back into the other leg. Follow that leg to its hip, then move up the torso to the shoulder of the first arm. Draw that arm only as far as its wrist, cross into the gap between forearm and shin, follow the shin edge to the knee, and cross back to the leg contour. Continue along the torso to the other shoulder, then draw the second arm down to its hand and stop. The first arm ends at the wrist before the gap; the second distinct arm reaches the hand after the gap.

Reason: The route enters the required arm-and-leg gap at the first wrist, exits at the knee, then continues to the other shoulder and down the second arm. It distinguishes both arms and does not retrace the first outer-arm segment.

Check: Trace from the top of the back to the final hand. Confirm one continuous route, entry at the first wrist, exit at the knee, and a final descent along the other arm.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] One unbroken stroke from start to finish; no stops and restarts.
- [ ] Crossings are deliberate and used to enter inner gaps.
- [ ] The pose and main body parts are readable.
- [ ] Line tension is even; no heavy pressing to correct drift.
- [ ] Valid alternatives in start point, crossing location, and proportion are accepted.

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