Random Plant Drawing Practice: Sketching Plant Forms from Shape Prompts

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Sketch a plant form for the prompt low spreading with opposite leaves. Draw a stem line, add four leaves in opposite pairs, and write an overall-shape note.

Answer: A low, wide stem line with two pairs of leaves attached at the same points on opposite sides, plus the note low spreading.

Reason: The stem stays low and spreads sideways, the leaves appear in opposite pairs, and the note repeats the prompt words. This satisfies all three decisions.

Check: Confirm the stem does not rise tall, count two opposite pairs, and read the note aloud against the prompt.

Task 2

Sketch a plant form for the prompt rounded clump with whorled leaves. Draw a short central stem, add three leaves at one node in a whorl, and write an overall-shape note.

Answer: A short stem with three leaves radiating from one point, forming a rounded outline, plus the note rounded clump.

Reason: A whorl means three or more leaves at one node. The short stem and radiating leaves create a rounded silhouette that matches the prompt.

Check: Check that three leaves meet at one node and that the outline reads as rounded rather than tall.

Task 3

Sketch a plant form for the prompt arching with alternate leaves. Draw one stem line that curves to one side, add five leaves alternating along the curve, and write an overall-shape note.

Answer: A single arching stem line with five leaves alternating left and right along its length, plus the note arching.

Reason: The stem curve creates the arch, alternate leaves repeat consistently, and the note matches the prompt. The leaf shape can vary.

Check: Trace the stem curve, confirm leaves alternate rather than pair, and compare the note to the prompt.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Sketch a plant form for the prompt tall narrow with clustered leaves. Draw one upright stem, add three leaves clustered near the top, and write an overall-shape note.

Answer: A tall upright stem with three leaves grouped closely near the top, plus the note tall narrow.

Reason: The upright stem gives height, the clustered leaves sit together rather than alternating, and the note matches the prompt.

Check: Check that the stem is the tallest element, that the three leaves are grouped, and that the note uses the prompt words.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Stem path is a single clear line that matches the prompt silhouette.
- [ ] Leaf arrangement is consistent across the sketch.
- [ ] Overall-shape note uses the prompt words and matches the drawing.
- [ ] Sketch follows the convention: stem line, closed leaf shapes, short stalk lines.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted when the three decisions are consistent.

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