Sunglasses Negative Space Drawing: Shade the Surround, Not the Frame

Topic reference / ordinary illustration



Ordinary topic reference. Hypothetical dimensions in the four tasks are supplied in their own text; this illustration is not their measured answer.

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Worked example / complete source key

A student draws a sunglasses outline inside a 12 cm by 8 cm negative-space box. The lens width is 4 cm, the bridge is 2 cm, and each side gap to the box edge is 3 cm. The student shades the surround with two layers and leaves the frame and lenses unshaded. Check the arithmetic and the convention.

Answer: Total width check: 3 cm left gap + 4 cm left lens + 2 cm bridge + 4 cm right lens + 3 cm right gap = 16 cm, which exceeds the 12 cm box. The outline is too wide for the box. Correct by reducing each side gap to 1 cm: 1 + 4 + 2 + 4 + 1 = 12 cm. The convention is correct because the frame and lenses are unshaded and the surround is shaded. After correction, the negative shape should read clearly.