Two-Cup Water Drawing: Rim Ellipses, Levels, Shadows

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.

Two-Cup Water Drawing: Rim Ellipses, Levels, Shadows

Worked example / complete source key

Two cups sit on a table. Cup A is nearer and half full. Cup B is farther and nearly full. Light comes from the left. Describe the rim ellipses, water levels, and shadows.

Answer: Cup A has a larger rim ellipse with a lower front rim point. Its water ellipse sits about halfway down the cup, parallel to the rim. Cup B has a smaller rim ellipse and its water ellipse is close to the rim. Both shadows extend to the right, starting at each cup base. The nearer cup's shadow is slightly larger.

Reason: The nearer cup appears larger, so its rim ellipse is larger. The fuller cup has its water ellipse closer to the rim. One light direction from the left makes both shadows point right. The comparison is clear because size, water height, and shadow direction are consistent.

Check: Verify that the nearer cup's rim ellipse is larger, the fuller cup's water ellipse is closer to its rim, and both shadows point away from the same light direction.