Perspective Drawing of a Black Bear with Foreshortened Body

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

A bear faces directly toward the viewer. Its shoulder width is 8 cm in your drawing. The front paws are 2 cm apart. Draw the bear with a foreshortened body and place the paws. Use a vanishing point directly behind the bear.

Answer: Draw a horizon line and place the vanishing point behind the bear's center. Draw a ground-plane quadrilateral below the horizon. Mark two front paw points 2 cm apart and two rear paw points 3 cm apart, on the ground-plane quadrilateral. Draw perspective lines from the vanishing point through each point. Build a short torso box (depth about 4 cm) and round it into ellipses. The shoulder ellipse is wider than the hip ellipse. Draw front paws about 1.6 cm wide (about one-fifth of the 8 cm shoulder width) and rear paws about 1.2 cm wide. Add toe marks. The head overlaps the shoulder and is about 3 cm long.

Reason: When the bear faces the viewer, the body depth is compressed, so the torso box is short. The front paws are nearer and therefore larger than the rear paws. The vanishing point behind the bear keeps all depth lines converging correctly.

Check: Measure the distance between front paw points (should be 2 cm) and rear paw points (3 cm). Check that front paws are wider than rear paws. Verify that all paw contacts lie on the ground plane and that perspective lines pass through them.

Task 2

A bear walks away from the viewer at a slight angle. Its body length is 12 cm. The rear paws are 4 cm apart. Draw the bear with foreshortening and place the paws so the rear paws are nearest the viewer.

Answer: Draw a horizon line and place the vanishing point ahead of the bear. Draw a ground-plane quadrilateral below the horizon. Mark rear paw points 4 cm apart and front paw points 3 cm apart, on the ground-plane quadrilateral. Draw perspective lines from the vanishing point through each point. Build a torso box 12 cm long along the perspective line, with the rump nearer. Round into ellipses; the hip ellipse is larger than the shoulder ellipse. Draw rear paws about 2 cm wide and front paws about 1.5 cm wide. Add toe marks. The head is smaller and overlaps the shoulder ellipse less.

Reason: When the bear walks away, the rump is nearer the viewer and should be larger. The body length is longer along the perspective line but still compressed compared to a side view. Paw sizes decrease toward the front.

Check: Measure rear paw spacing (4 cm) and front paw spacing (3 cm). Check that rear paws are wider than front paws. Confirm that the hip ellipse is larger than the shoulder ellipse and that all paw contacts lie on the ground plane.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

A bear stands with one front paw lifted. The body length is 9 cm. The lifted paw is 1 cm above the ground line. Draw the bear in perspective with the lifted paw foreshortened and the other three paws on the ground.

Answer: Draw a horizon line and vanishing point. Draw a ground-plane quadrilateral below the horizon. Mark three paw contacts on the ground-plane quadrilateral: front-right, rear-left, rear-right. Mark the lifted front-left paw 1 cm above the ground line, aligned to the perspective line. Build a torso box 9 cm long. Round into ellipses. Draw the grounded front paw largest (about 1.8 cm wide), rear paws about 1.4 cm wide. Draw the lifted paw slightly smaller (1.6 cm) and angled upward. Add toe marks. Check that the lifted paw's perspective line still converges to the vanishing point.

Reason: The lifted paw is placed 1 cm above the ground plane, while the other three paw contacts remain on it. The 1.6 cm width is a chosen illustration value; height alone does not determine apparent size.

Check: Measure the lifted paw's height above the ground line (1 cm). Check that its perspective line passes through the vanishing point. Compare paw widths: grounded front paw should be widest, lifted paw slightly narrower, rear paws narrowest.

Task 4

A bear is drawn in one-point perspective with the vanishing point 15 cm to the left of its center. The body length is 11 cm. Draw the bear with a foreshortened body and four paws, then check that near-side paws are larger than far-side paws and that front paws are larger than rear paws within each side.

Answer: Place the vanishing point 15 cm left of center and draw the ground-plane quadrilateral. Choose and label which side is near from the bear’s orientation; the vanishing point’s left/right position alone does not determine this. Put near-side paw contacts closer to the viewer on the plane and draw those paws larger than the far-side paws. Within each side, use these hypothetical widths: near-front 1.8 cm, near-rear 1.4 cm, far-front 1.2 cm, and far-rear 1 cm. Keep all four contacts on the plane, draw the torso along the receding direction, and check that depth guides meet at the vanishing point.

Reason: The vanishing point defines the direction of receding construction lines. Near-side labels and paw-size ordering are set by the chosen view and the explicit task rule, not inferred from whether the vanishing point is left or right.

Check: Confirm 1.8>1.4 and 1.2>1, so front paws are larger than rear paws on each side; also confirm 1.8>1.2 and 1.4>1, so near-side paws are larger than far-side paws. Check contact points remain on the ground plane and construction lines converge to the stated vanishing point.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Perspective lines converge consistently toward the chosen vanishing point.
- [ ] Foreshortened body parts are compressed and sized according to distance.
- [ ] All four paws sit on the ground plane and decrease in size with distance.
- [ ] Silhouette reads as a black bear with rounded ears and short muzzle.
- [ ] Construction lines are light and erased or left faint in the final drawing.
- [ ] Proportions are checked with simple measurements and consistent units.

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