Contour Line Heart Drawing: Single-Line and Blind-Contour Practice

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a single-line contour heart in a blank box. Start at the top dip, go down the left side, around the bottom point, up the right side, and back to the dip. Do not lift your pencil. Describe where your line was least smooth.

Answer: A continuous closed line that outlines a heart shape. The least smooth part is often the bottom point or the top dip, where direction changes sharply.

Reason: The task requires one unbroken line that returns to the start. Sharp turns at the point and dip are common places for hesitation.

Check: Trace the drawn line with a finger. Confirm it is one closed loop with no breaks or crossings.

Task 2

Perform a blind contour of a heart outline for one minute. Look only at the reference, not at your paper. After finishing, look at your drawing and note one place where your hand moved faster than your eye.

Answer: The drawing may be distorted. A common fast spot is the right lobe or the bottom point. The note should identify a specific place where the line skipped or simplified an edge.

Reason: Blind contour reveals where observation lags behind hand movement. Naming a specific spot helps focus the next attempt.

Check: Confirm the paper was not viewed during drawing. Check that the note names a specific edge or curve.

Task 3

Compare two single-line contour hearts you drew: one traced from a reference and one blind contour. List one similarity and one difference in continuity or closure.

Answer: Similarity: both should be continuous closed loops if done correctly. Difference: the traced version is usually more proportional, while the blind contour may have distorted lobes or a misplaced point.

Reason: Tracing allows visual correction; blind contour does not. Both should still meet the continuity and closure criteria.

Check: Verify that both drawings are single closed lines. Check that the listed similarity and difference refer to continuity, closure, or proportion.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Draw a heart outline in one continuous line, but start at the bottom point instead of the top dip. Move up the right side, around the top dip, down the left side, and back to the bottom point. Check that the line closes.

Answer: A continuous closed heart outline starting and ending at the bottom point. The line should not lift or cross itself.

Reason: The starting point can vary as long as the line remains continuous and closed. Starting at the point tests the same contour skills in reverse order.

Check: Trace the line to confirm it returns to the bottom point without breaks. Check that the shape still has two lobes and a dip.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Line is continuous from start to finish with no lifts.
- [ ] Line returns to the starting point to close the shape.
- [ ] Outline resembles a heart with two top lobes, a dip, and a bottom point.
- [ ] Blind-contour attempt shows slow eye movement and no looking at the paper.
- [ ] Valid alternatives: slight asymmetry, uneven curve tension, and different starting points are acceptable.

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