Draw a Mouse Snout in Perspective: Foreshortening Practice

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a near-profile mouse snout with x-height 5 pencil widths and B–N 5 pencil widths. Mark the far cheek as a short stub.

Answer: A profile snout with B–N equal to x-height and a short far cheek stub.

Reason: In profile the snout axis is longest, so B–N matches x-height; the far cheek is mostly hidden.

Check: Measure B–N and x-height in pencil widths; confirm the ratio is about 1.0 and the far cheek is shorter than the near cheek.

Task 2

Draw a three-quarter mouse snout with x-height 6 pencil widths and B–N 4 pencil widths. Make the near cheek 5 widths and the far cheek 3 widths.

Answer: A three-quarter snout with B–N shorter than x-height and the near cheek longer than the far cheek.

Reason: The ratio 4/6 fits a three-quarter turn, and unequal cheeks show the angle.

Check: Compute 4 divided by 6, about 0.67; confirm near cheek 5 is greater than far cheek 3.

Task 3

Draw a near-front mouse snout with x-height 6 pencil widths and B–N 2 pencil widths. Widen the muzzle so the near cheek is 6 widths and the far cheek 4 widths.

Answer: A near-front snout with a short B–N and a broad muzzle.

Reason: Foreshortening makes the axis short and the width large; the near cheek stays longer.

Check: Confirm B–N is about one-third of x-height and the near cheek exceeds the far cheek.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A drawing has x-height 8 millimetres, B–N 3 millimetres, near cheek 7 millimetres, and far cheek 6 millimetres. State whether it reads as near-front and give one fix if not.

Answer: It reads as near-front because B–N is short, but the cheeks are too close in length; lengthen the near cheek or shorten the far cheek.

Reason: The ratio 3/8 is small, matching a front view, but the cheek-width test is weak.

Check: Compute 3 divided by 8, about 0.38; compare 7 and 6 millimetres and adjust so the near cheek is clearly longer.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] B–N shortens from profile to front view.
- [ ] Near cheek is longer than far cheek in angled views.
- [ ] B–N and x-height use the same unit.
- [ ] Ratio is written beside each drawing.
- [ ] Construction lines are light and erased where needed.
- [ ] Valid alternative styles are accepted if the checks pass.

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