How to Draw a Mouth in Side Profile: Lip Projection and Jaw Alignment

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Lip height is 10 units. Mark the lip midline and state its distance from the upper lip crest.

Answer: Midline is 5 units from the upper lip crest.

Reason: The midline is the midpoint of lip height, so 10 divided by 2 equals 5.

Check: Measure lip height, divide by two, and confirm the midline mark matches.

Task 2

The mouth corner is 3 units behind the chin front. The upper lip projects 1 unit and the lower lip projects 2 units. State the total forward span from corner to lower lip base.

Answer: The lower lip base is 2 units forward of the face plane; the corner is 3 units behind the chin front, so the corner-to-lower-lip span is 5 units.

Reason: Add the corner offset and the lower lip projection: 3 plus 2 equals 5.

Check: Measure the corner offset and projection separately, then add and compare.

Task 3

A drawing shows the upper lip projected 2 units and the lower lip projected 1 unit, with lip height 6 units. Identify one likely construction error and one fix.

Answer: Likely error: upper and lower lip volumes may be swapped or the midline side is misread. Fix: keep the midline visible and recheck each projected point against it.

Reason: Lip height 6 gives a midline at 3 units; projection choices must be checked against that midline rather than assumed.

Check: Confirm midline at 3 units and verify each projected point is on the correct side.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

The closure line drifts 2 units away from the jaw alignment. State a checkable adjustment using lip height 8 units.

Answer: Re-measure lip height as 8 units, confirm midline at 4 units, and move the mouth corner or lip curves so closure follows the jaw alignment without stretching lips.

Reason: The midline check at 4 units gives a stable reference before adjusting closure.

Check: Measure lip height, divide by two, and confirm closure line distance from jaw alignment is reduced to your recorded tolerance.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Jaw alignment line is drawn and the mouth corner is placed relative to it.
- [ ] Lip height is measured and the lip midline is marked at the midpoint.
- [ ] Upper and lower lip projection use a recorded unit and correct midline side.
- [ ] Closure line connects lips cleanly from the mouth corner.
- [ ] Chin front, corner, and projection distances are consistent and checkable.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted when construction and proportion are plausible.

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