Mushroom Contour Drawing: Trace Edges and Gill Lines

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A mushroom cap is 5 cm wide and the stem is 4 cm tall. The gill area shows 8 visible gill lines. Draw the outer silhouette and gill edges. State where each gill line starts and stops.

Answer: The silhouette starts at the left stem base, goes up the stem, around the cap, down the right stem, and closes at the base. Each of the 8 gill lines starts at the cap rim and stops at the stem surface.

Reason: The convention requires one outer contour and gill lines bounded by rim and stem. The 5 cm and 4 cm values are hypothetical examples for scale, not manufacturing standards.

Check: Count the gill lines: 8. Confirm each touches the rim and stem and stops. Confirm the silhouette closes at the base with no shading.

Task 2

A tilted mushroom hides the right half of the stem junction. Draw only visible edges. How many gill lines should cross the hidden junction?

Answer: Zero gill lines should cross the hidden junction. Draw gill lines only where the rim and stem are visible, and stop them at the visible boundaries.

Reason: Contour drawing records visible edges. A hidden junction is not drawn, so no gill line can cross it.

Check: Inspect the hidden area: no line should enter it. Confirm every drawn gill line has a visible start at the rim and a visible stop at the stem.

Task 3

A student draws 10 gill lines, but 3 continue past the stem outline. The cap is 7 cm wide. Identify the error and give the corrected count of valid gill lines.

Answer: The error is that 3 gill lines cross the stem outline. The corrected count is 7 valid gill lines that stop at the stem.

Reason: Each gill line must stop at the stem surface. Lines that pass the boundary violate the convention. The 7 cm width is a hypothetical example.

Check: Count lines that stop at the stem: 10 minus 3 equals 7. Confirm no line crosses the stem outline.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Draw a blind-contour mushroom in a box while looking mostly at the object. Then redraw in a blank panel from observation. List two checks to compare the drawings.

Answer: Check one: the outer silhouette closes at the base in both drawings. Check two: every gill line stops at the rim and stem in both drawings.

Reason: Blind contour may distort shape, but the convention still applies: edges are traced and gill lines are bounded. The comparison focuses on edge rules, not neatness.

Check: Place the drawings side by side and verify silhouette closure and gill-line stopping in each. Note one improvement for the next attempt.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Outer silhouette is a single continuous contour where the edge is continuous.
- [ ] Cap-to-stem junction follows the visible edge, not an invented seam.
- [ ] Gill lines begin at the cap rim and end at the stem surface.
- [ ] No gill line crosses the stem outline or continues into the cap.
- [ ] No shading is used; only contour lines appear.
- [ ] Gill spacing is even enough to read as separate edges, with natural variation allowed.
- [ ] Redrawn observation panel shows edge tracing rather than copied shading.
- [ ] Optional lettering uses x-height baseline to midline; style is not graded.

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