Pine Cone Contour Drawing with Blind-Contour Practice

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A pine cone is 8 cm tall and 4 cm wide. You draw it 6 cm tall. What widest drawn width keeps the same ratio? Show your arithmetic.

Answer: 3 cm.

Reason: The object ratio is 8:4, or 2:1. For a 6 cm drawn height, divide by 2 to get 3 cm width.

Check: Measure the drawn height and width in centimeters and confirm the ratio is about 2:1.

Task 2

During a blind-contour attempt, you notice your line has drifted far from the pine cone edge. What should you do next, and why?

Answer: Finish the attempt without looking at the paper, then start a fresh attempt. Do not correct the current line by looking down.

Reason: The drill trains hand-eye coordination by keeping the eye on the object. Correcting mid-attempt defeats the purpose.

Check: Confirm that the next attempt begins with your eye on the pine cone and your paper out of view.

Task 3

Your clean contour drawing includes shaded scale surfaces and a spiral pattern in the center. Which parts should be removed to follow this lesson's convention?

Answer: Remove the shading and the spiral pattern. Keep only the outer silhouette and scale edges that meet the silhouette.

Reason: The lesson excludes scale shading and spiral construction; contour-only means boundary lines.

Check: Trace each remaining line and ask whether it marks a visible outer edge or a scale edge meeting that outer edge.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A pine cone is 15 cm tall and 5 cm wide. You draw it 9 cm tall. What widest drawn width keeps the same ratio? Show your arithmetic.

Answer: 3 cm.

Reason: The object ratio is 15:5, or 3:1. For a 9 cm drawn height, divide by 3 to get 3 cm width.

Check: Measure the drawn height and width in the same unit and confirm the ratio is about 3:1.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Blind-contour attempt shows continuous looking at the pine cone with minimal paper-checking.
- [ ] Clean contour uses only outer silhouette and scale edges that meet the silhouette; no shading or spiral construction.
- [ ] Proportions are checked with one consistent unit and are close to the object's height-to-width ratio.
- [ ] Line is continuous and confident; corrections are limited to lines that do not match a visible edge.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted: a larger or smaller drawing with the same ratio, a different starting point, or a simplified scale edge count, provided the contour convention is followed.

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