Rabbit Gesture Drawing with Motion Lines: Timed Practice

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

A rabbit crouches low, preparing to spring forward to the left. Draw the spine line and two hind limb direction lines. Add motion lines only if the pose sentence implies movement. Use a 30-second hypothetical interval.

Answer: The spine line compresses into a low curve from nose to tail base, with the head slightly forward. Hind limb lines angle back and down, showing stored energy. Motion lines are short or absent because the rabbit is not yet moving; if included, two short lines trail to the right of the hind feet.

Reason: A crouch is a compressed gesture, so the spine line shortens and curves. Hind limbs point toward the spring direction. Motion lines are optional because the action is preparation, not travel.

Check: Compare the spine line to the word crouch: it should be lower and more curved than a leap spine. Check that hind limb lines point left. If motion lines are present, confirm they trail right and do not cross the body.

Task 2

A rabbit turns sharply to the right while running. Draw a spine line that shows the twist, add front limb direction lines, and place motion lines that indicate the turn. Use a 60-second hypothetical interval.

Answer: The spine line curves from nose to tail base with a visible bend at the midsection, showing the twist. Front limb lines angle right and slightly inward. Motion lines curve along the outside of the turn, trailing from the hindquarters toward the left, with closer spacing near the tail base.

Reason: A turn is a twisting gesture, so the spine line bends rather than arcs smoothly. Front limbs lead the turn. Motion lines follow the curved path and sit outside the body.

Check: Trace the spine line with your finger: it should change direction at the midsection. Confirm front limb lines point right. Check that motion lines curve and remain outside the outline.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

A rabbit hops slowly forward. Draw the spine line, one front limb line, and motion lines with wide spacing. Use a 120-second hypothetical interval and label any spacing value as a hypothetical example.

Answer: The spine line arcs gently from nose to tail base with a moderate upward curve. One front limb line angles forward and down. Two motion lines trail behind the hind feet with wide spacing, for example 2 cm apart as a hypothetical example, suggesting slow motion.

Reason: A slow hop uses a gentle arc and wide motion-line spacing. Fewer limb lines are acceptable because the gesture is simple. Wide spacing communicates slower speed.

Check: Compare spacing to the word slow: wider spacing should read as slower than the leap example. Confirm the spine arc is gentle, not compressed. Check that motion lines trail behind the feet.

Task 4

A rabbit sits upright and still, looking left. Draw the spine line and limb direction lines. Decide whether motion lines are needed and justify your choice in one sentence. Use a 30-second hypothetical interval.

Answer: The spine line rises nearly vertical from tail base to nose, with a slight lean left at the head. Limb lines are short and vertical, showing support. No motion lines are needed because the pose sentence says still; adding them would contradict the action.

Reason: A still pose has no implied travel, so motion lines would misrepresent the gesture. The spine line shows upright support, and limb lines show weight bearing.

Check: Read your justification sentence: it should mention still or no movement. Confirm the spine line is more vertical than the crouch or leap examples. Check that no motion lines cross the body.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Spine clarity: 0 absent or broken, 1 present but unclear, 2 one continuous readable action line.
- [ ] Limb direction: 0 absent or contradictory, 1 present but vague, 2 each limb line supports the pose sentence.
- [ ] Motion-line direction: 0 absent or wrong direction, 1 present but ambiguous, 2 clearly echoes the moving part's path.
- [ ] Motion-line spacing: 0 uniform or absent, 1 some variation, 2 closer spacing for faster motion and wider for slower, consistent with the pose sentence.
- [ ] Valid alternatives: dotted, dashed, or curved motion lines score the same as solid lines when direction and spacing information is clear.

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