Snail Single-Line Contour Drawing: A Continuous-Line Study

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a snail contour in one line, starting at the head and ending at the tail. Keep the tool on the paper for the entire drawing.

Answer: A single connected line that begins at the head, loops through the tentacles, follows the body to the shell opening, traces the shell's outer edge, and returns along the foot to the tail.

Reason: Starting at the head lets you draw tentacles first, then connect to the shell and body without lifting. The path ends at the tail, completing the silhouette.

Check: Trace the line with your finger from start to end. If you can follow it without a gap, the single-line rule is met.

Task 2

In a blind-contour box, draw only the snail's head and tentacles without looking at the paper. Then draw the full snail in one continuous line below the box.

Answer: The blind-contour box shows a distorted but connected head and tentacles. The full contour below is one unbroken line covering shell and body.

Reason: Blind contour trains observation of the head's shape. The full contour applies that observation to the whole snail while maintaining a single path.

Check: Confirm the blind-contour box was drawn without looking. Then check the full contour for any lifted line or gap.

Task 3

Draw a snail contour that includes the shell opening where the body emerges. The line must cross itself at least once but remain unbroken.

Answer: A continuous line that follows the body to the shell opening, crosses over itself as it enters the shell, traces the outer shell edge, and returns to the body.

Reason: The shell opening is a natural junction where the body meets the shell. Crossing the line there keeps the path connected while showing the opening.

Check: Look for the crossing point at the shell opening. Verify the line continues without lifting on both sides of the crossing.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Draw a snail contour using a pen. After finishing, measure the line length with a piece of string laid along the path. Record the length in centimeters.

Answer: A single-line contour with a measured length, for example 42 centimeters. The exact length varies with drawing size.

Reason: Measuring the line encourages a continuous path and gives a checkable number. The length is a hypothetical example, not a standard.

Check: Lay string along the entire contour, then measure the string against a ruler. Confirm the line has no gaps before measuring.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] The contour is a single unbroken line from start to finish.
- [ ] The shell is drawn as an outer contour without interior spiral construction.
- [ ] The body, foot, head, and tentacles are connected to the shell in one path.
- [ ] No shading or tonal marks are added.
- [ ] The line follows observed edges of the snail silhouette.
- [ ] Valid alternatives in shell shape and body proportion are accepted.

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