

How to Draw for Beginners

*A Complete Step-by-Step Guide
From Simple Shapes to Confident Creations*

By Nora Layne

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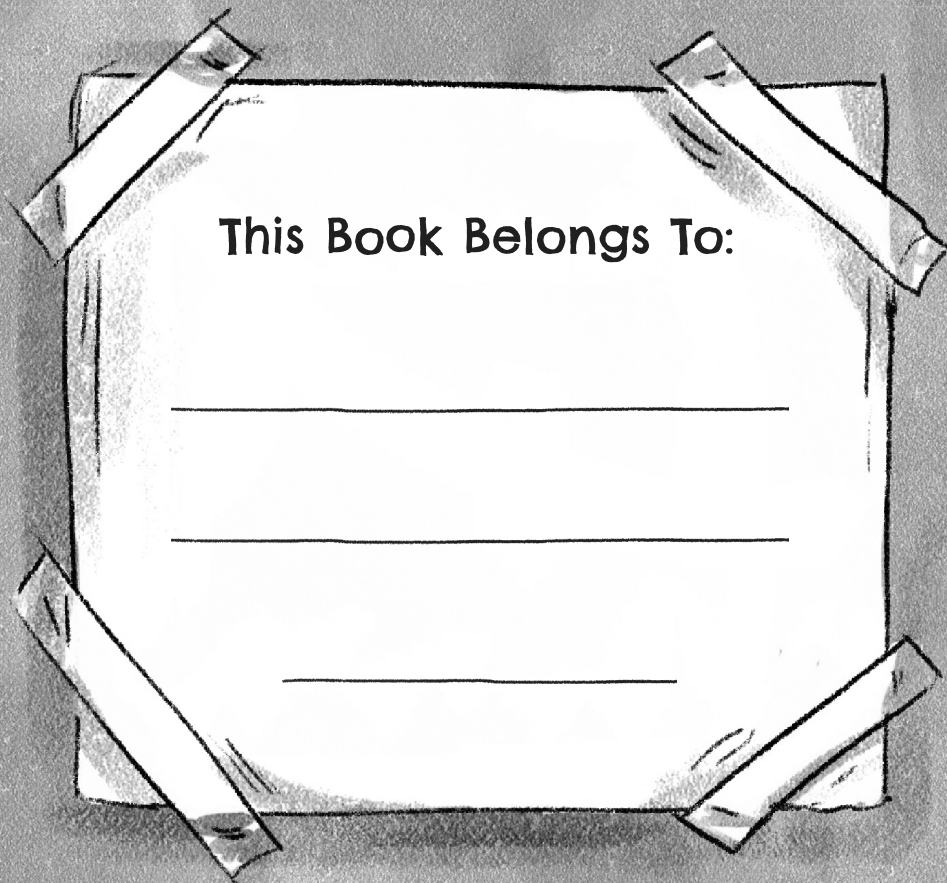
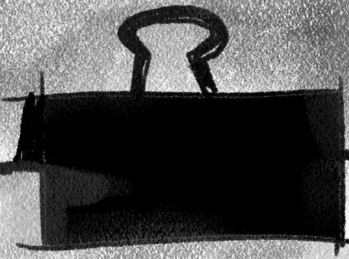


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Introduction

Welcome to Your Drawing Journey!

Hey there, artist-in-the-making!

Whether you're picking up a pencil for the very first time or returning to drawing after years away – welcome.

You've just opened a book that's going to help you unlock skills, spark creativity, and give you the tools to express yourself through art.

This isn't about "being perfect" or "naturally talented." This is about learning step-by-step, having fun, and making progress one drawing at a time!

So if you've ever thought...

"I can't even draw a stick figure."

"I'm too old to learn."

"I don't know where to start."

You're in exactly the right place.

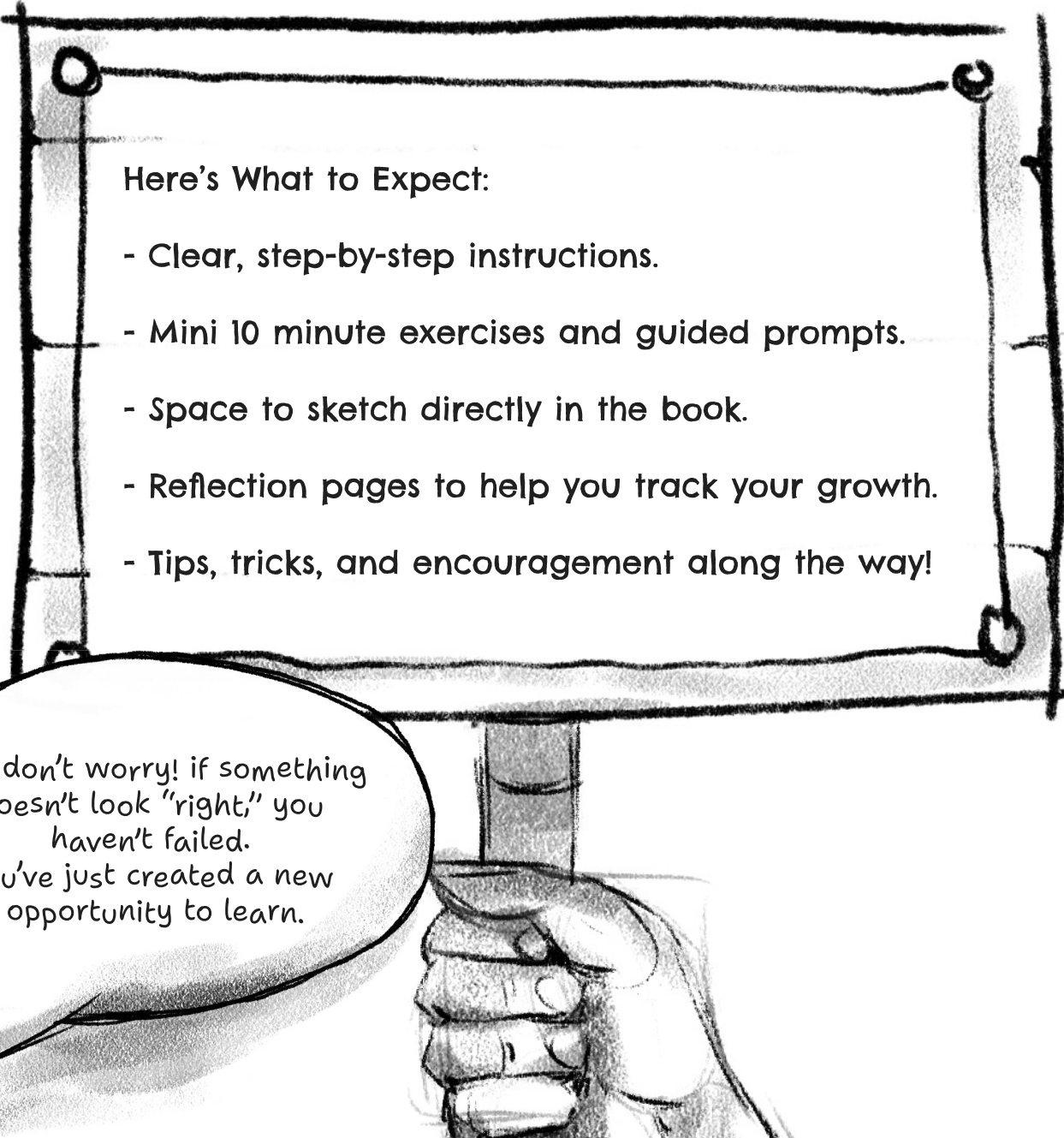
How Does this Book Work?

This book is built like a creative journey.

Each chapter focuses on one specific skill – starting with super simple concepts like shapes and lines, and gradually building toward more advanced topics like shading, animals, and full-body figures.

You'll learn by doing, not just reading.

Think of it as a workbook, a sketchbook, and a mini art course rolled into one!



Here's What to Expect:

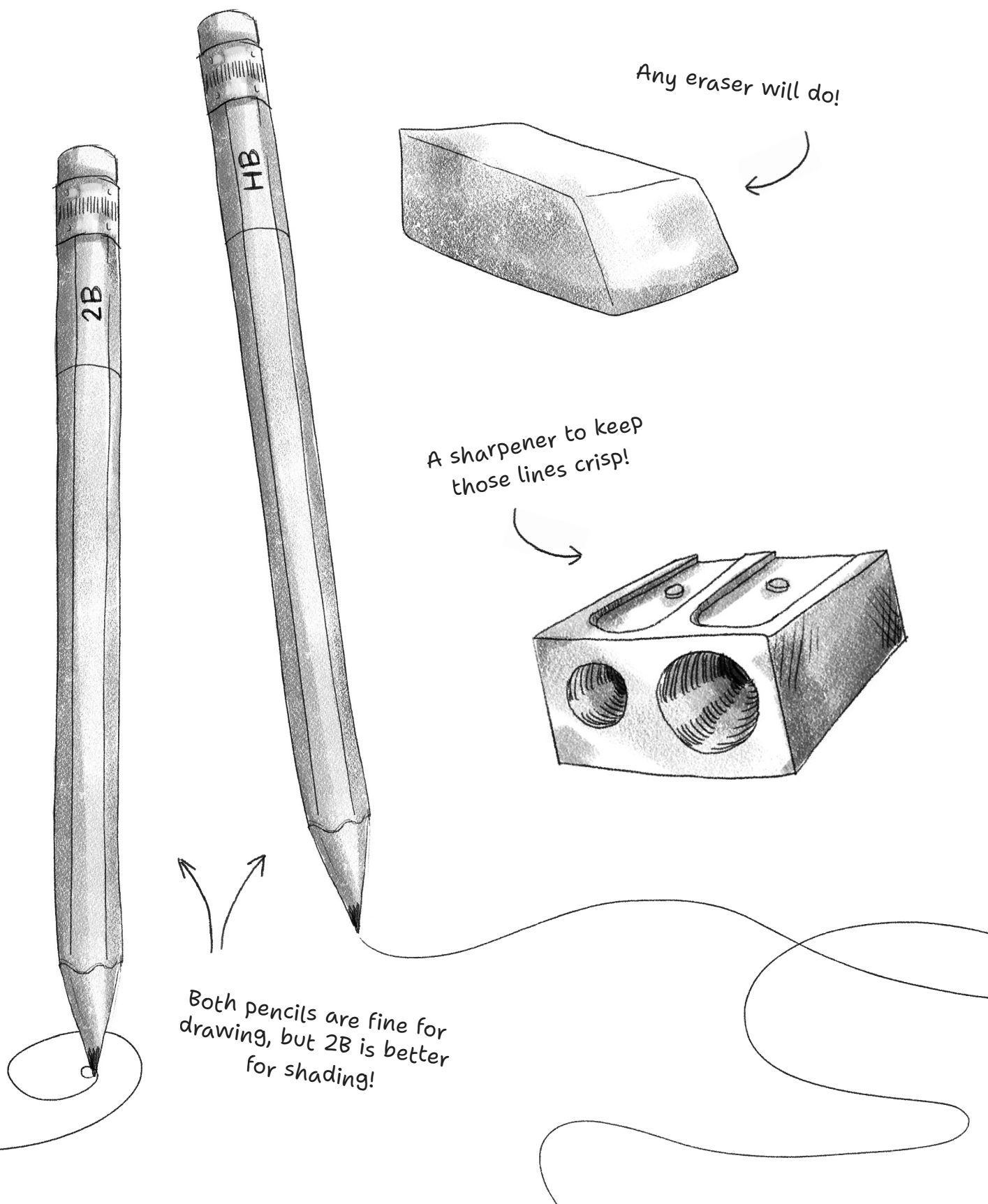
- Clear, step-by-step instructions.
- Mini 10 minute exercises and guided prompts.
- Space to sketch directly in the book.
- Reflection pages to help you track your growth.
- Tips, tricks, and encouragement along the way!

And don't worry! if something doesn't look "right," you haven't failed. You've just created a new opportunity to learn.

First Things First: Tools & Materials You'll Need

Good news: you don't need fancy tools to get started!

Here's what we recommend:



Optional Tools:

A pen for outlining and writing!

A ruler for extra straight lines.

Use a blending stump for some extra blending help.

A kneaded eraser is great for cleaning edges!

Feel free to use your own sketchbook for completing exercises!

You don't need to be born with talent. You just need curiosity, a pencil, and the willingness to start.

Let go of the pressure, trust the process, and enjoy the ride. You're officially on your way to becoming the artist you've always wanted to be.

Let's get drawing!

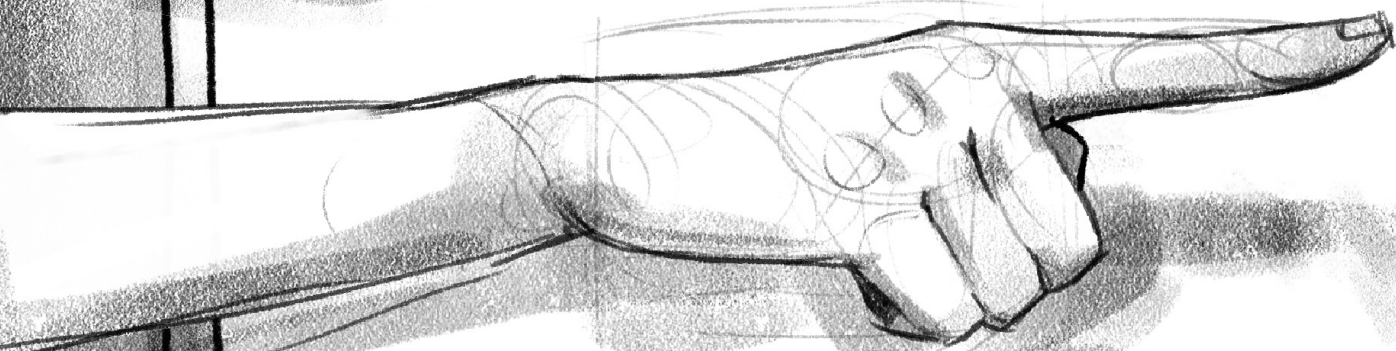


Chapter 1

The Basics - Laying the foundation

By the end of this chapter, you will understand fundamental drawing techniques; including how to hold a pencil, make basic strokes, and build shapes that will serve as the foundation for all future drawings.

Let get started!



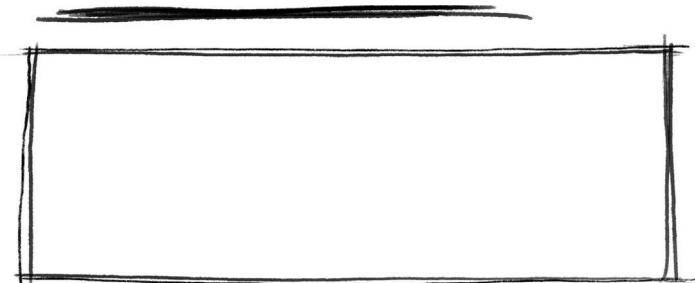
Let's Begin With the Basics!

Before we jump into complex sketches or detailed drawings, let's slow things down and warm up. Think of this like stretching before a workout.

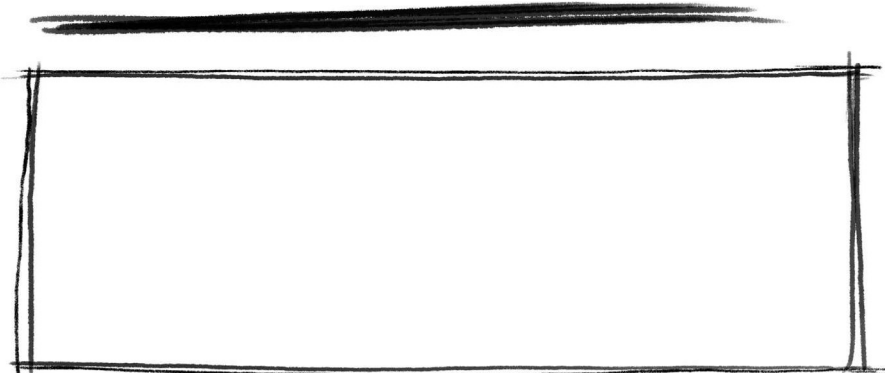
Exercise 1.1: Lines

Draw a series of different lengthed straight lines (small, medium, and large). Go over them 5 times, making sure to keep them relatively even.

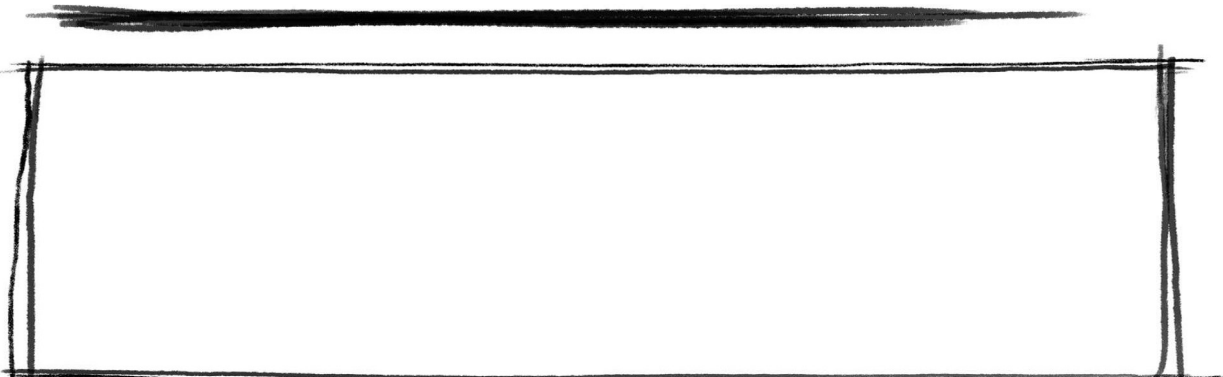
A. Small



B. Medium



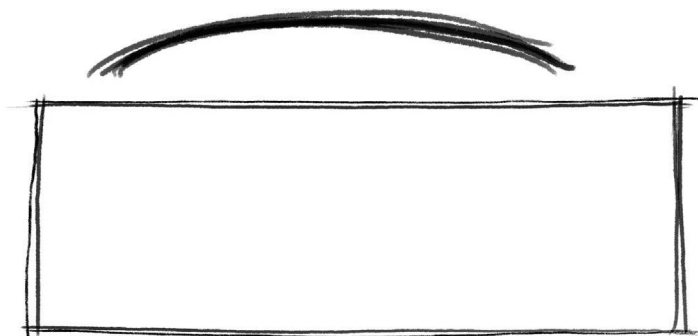
C. Large



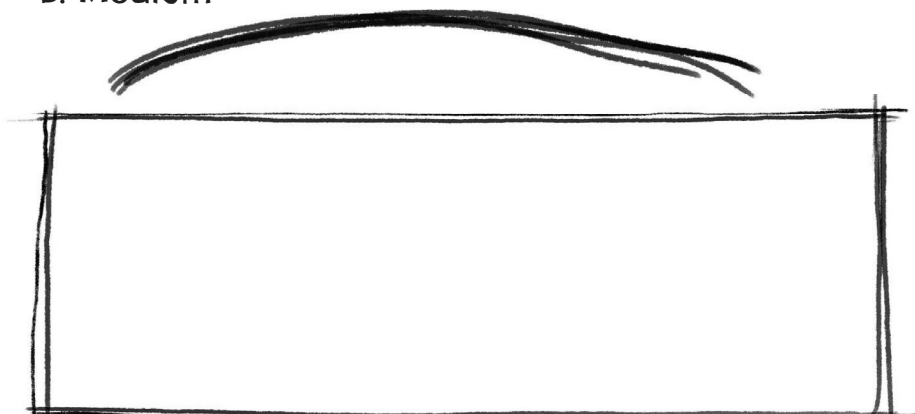
Exercise 1.2: Curved Lines

Draw a series of different lengthed curved lines (small, medium, and large). Go over them 5 times, making sure to keep them relatively even.

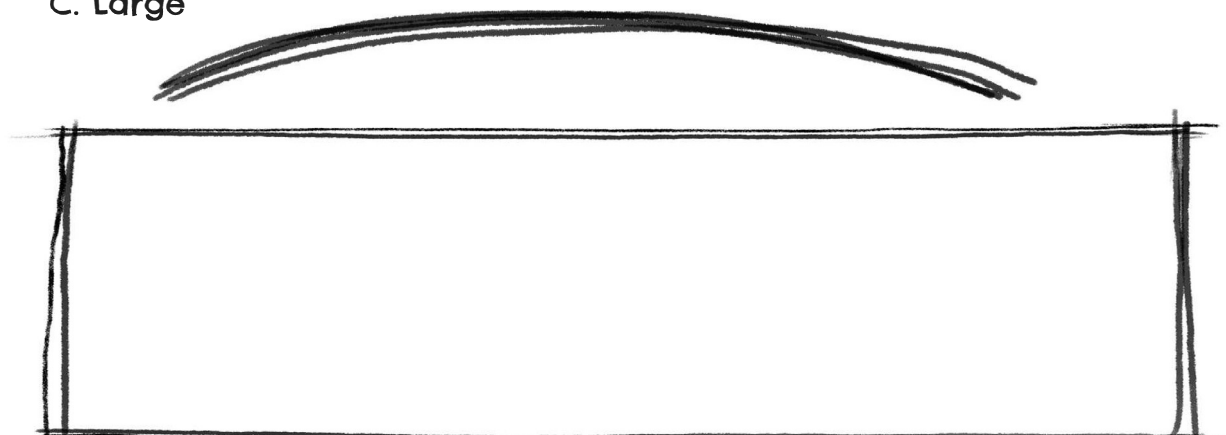
A. Small



B. Medium

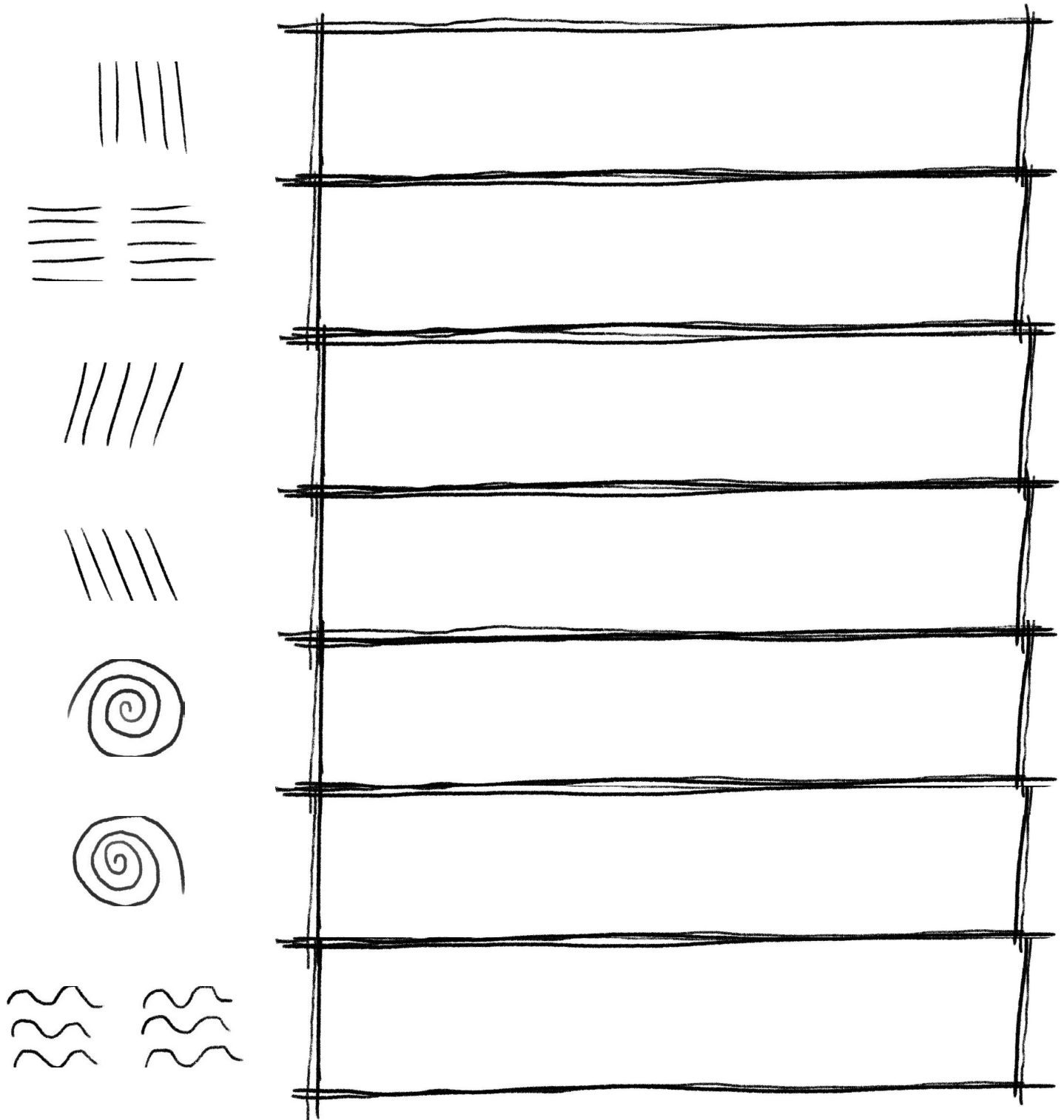


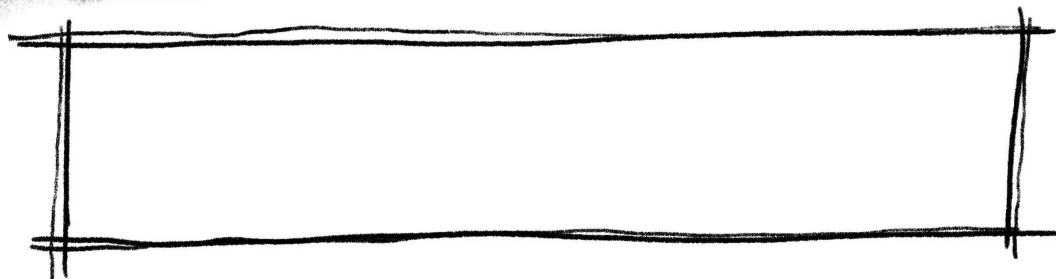
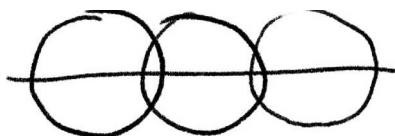
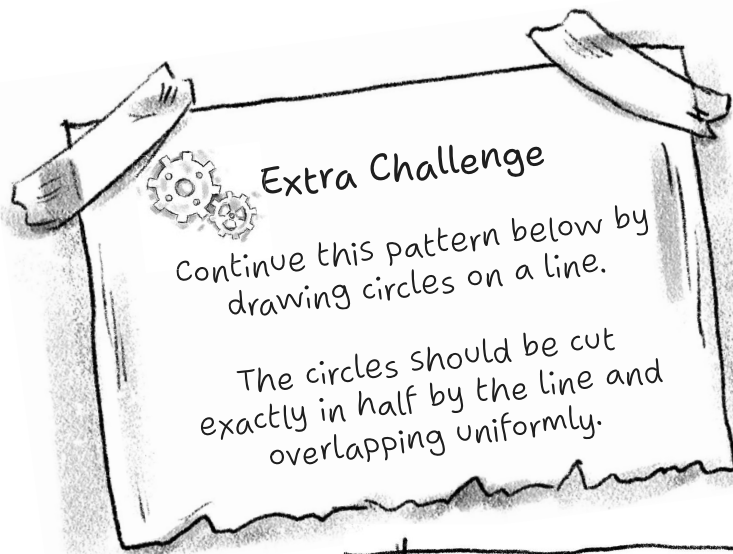
C. Large



Exercise 1.3: Uniformity

Practice uniformity by repeating the line pattern.





This exercise is important
for building pencil control!

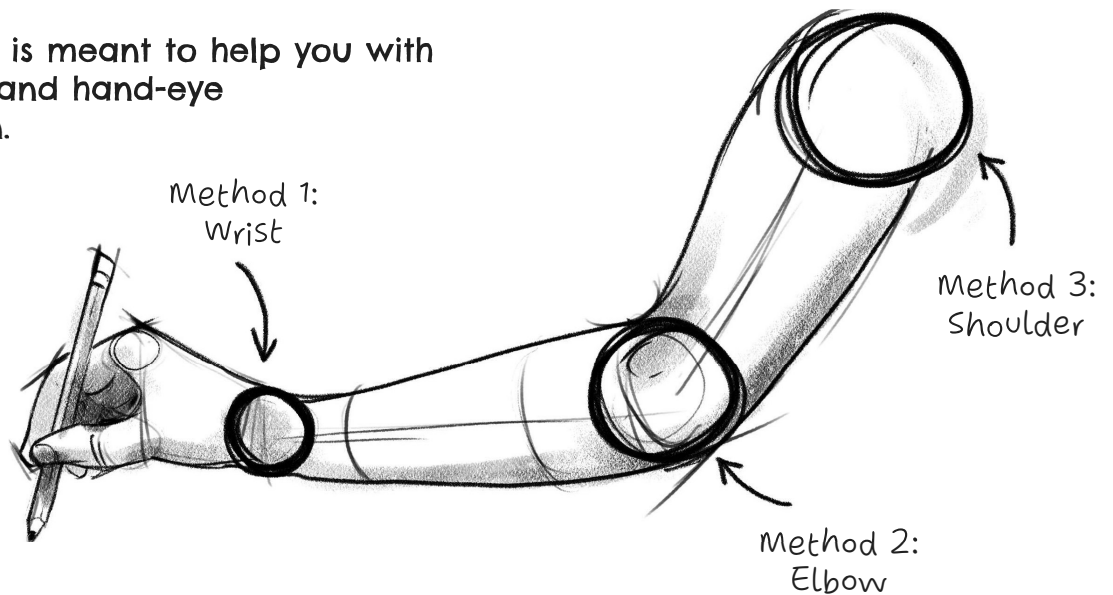


Keeping line spacing uniform
challenges our hand-eye
coordination and gives space
to practice confidence in
your brushstrokes.

Exercise 1.4: Circles

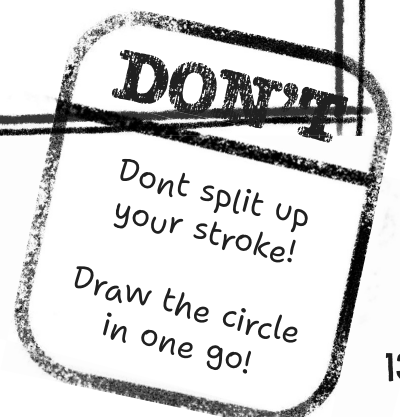
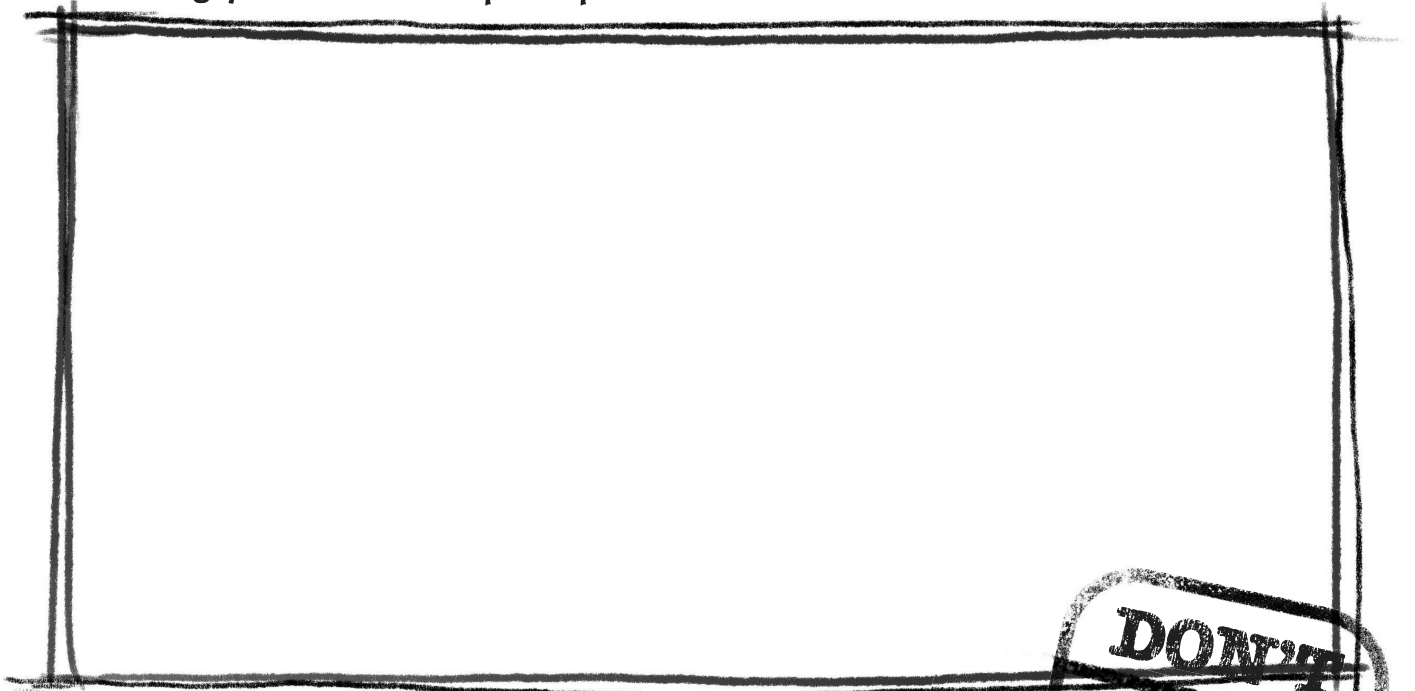
Take a few minutes to draw as many perfect circles as you can, using different parts of your arm.

This exercise is meant to help you with line control and hand-eye coordination.



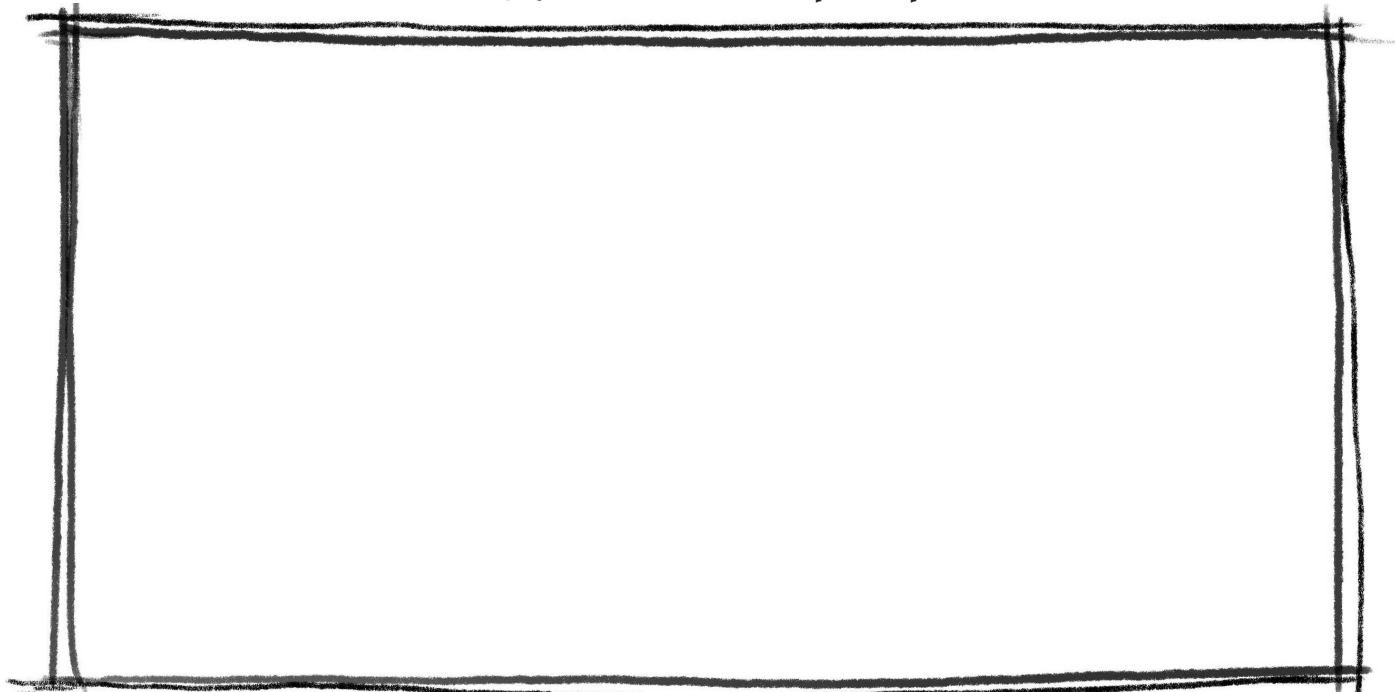
Method 1: Wrist

Fill this box with circles using your wrist as a pivot point.



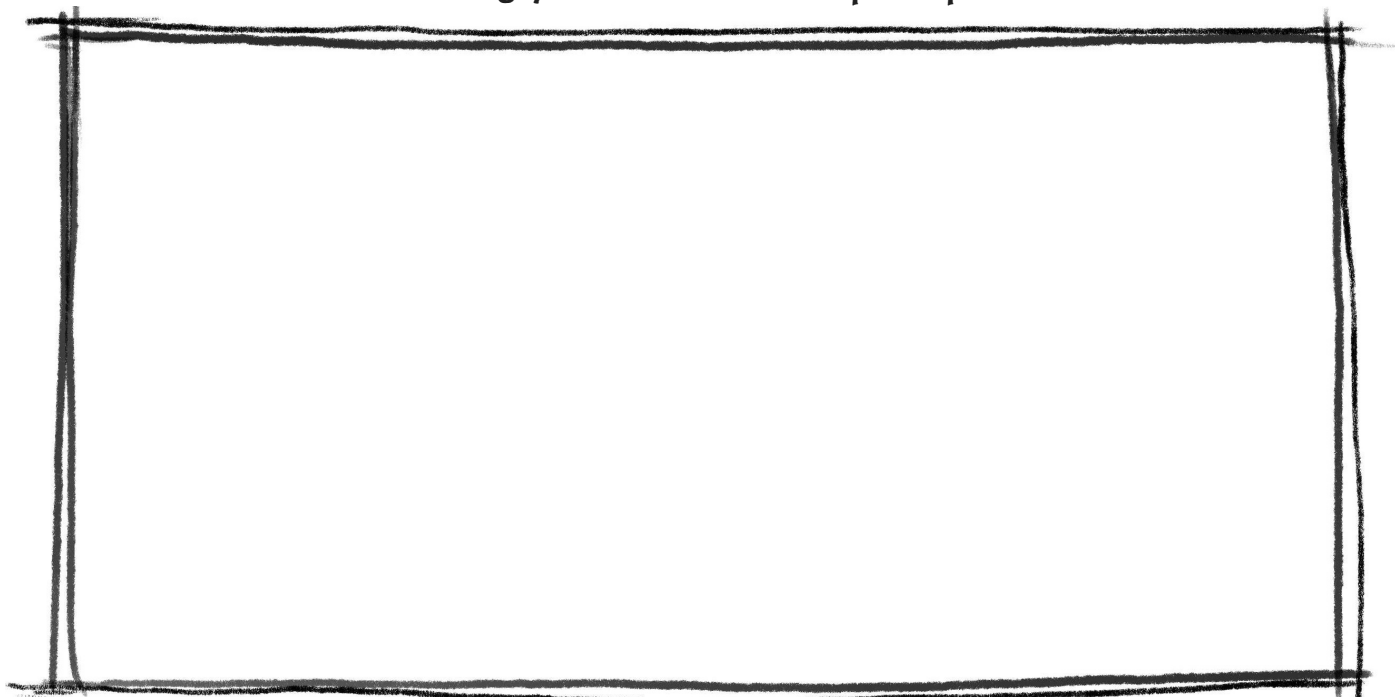
☐ Method 2: Elbow

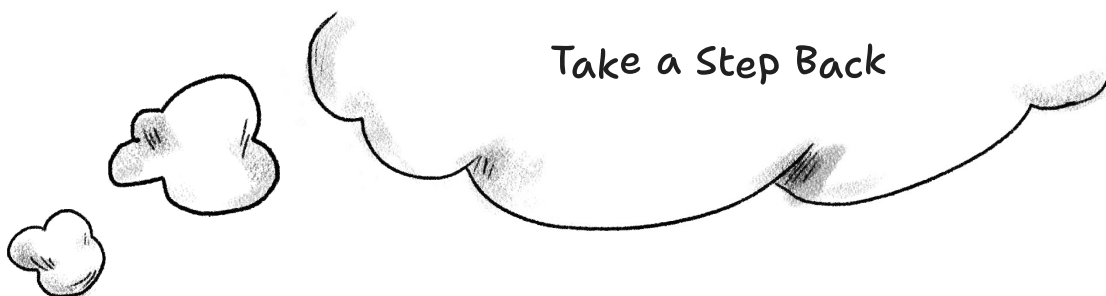
Fill this box with circles using your elbow as a pivot point.



☐ Method 3: Shoulder

Fill this box with circles using your shoulder as a pivot point.





Q: Which was your favorite and least favorite method? Why?

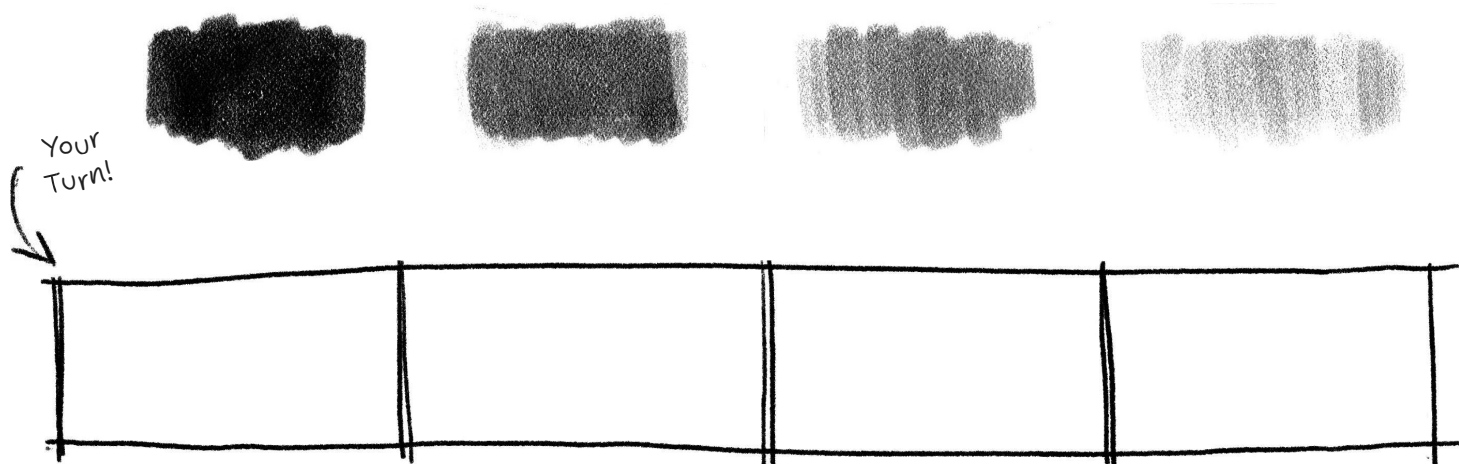
A: _____

Q: How does the quality of the circle change when drawing with different parts of your arm?

A: _____

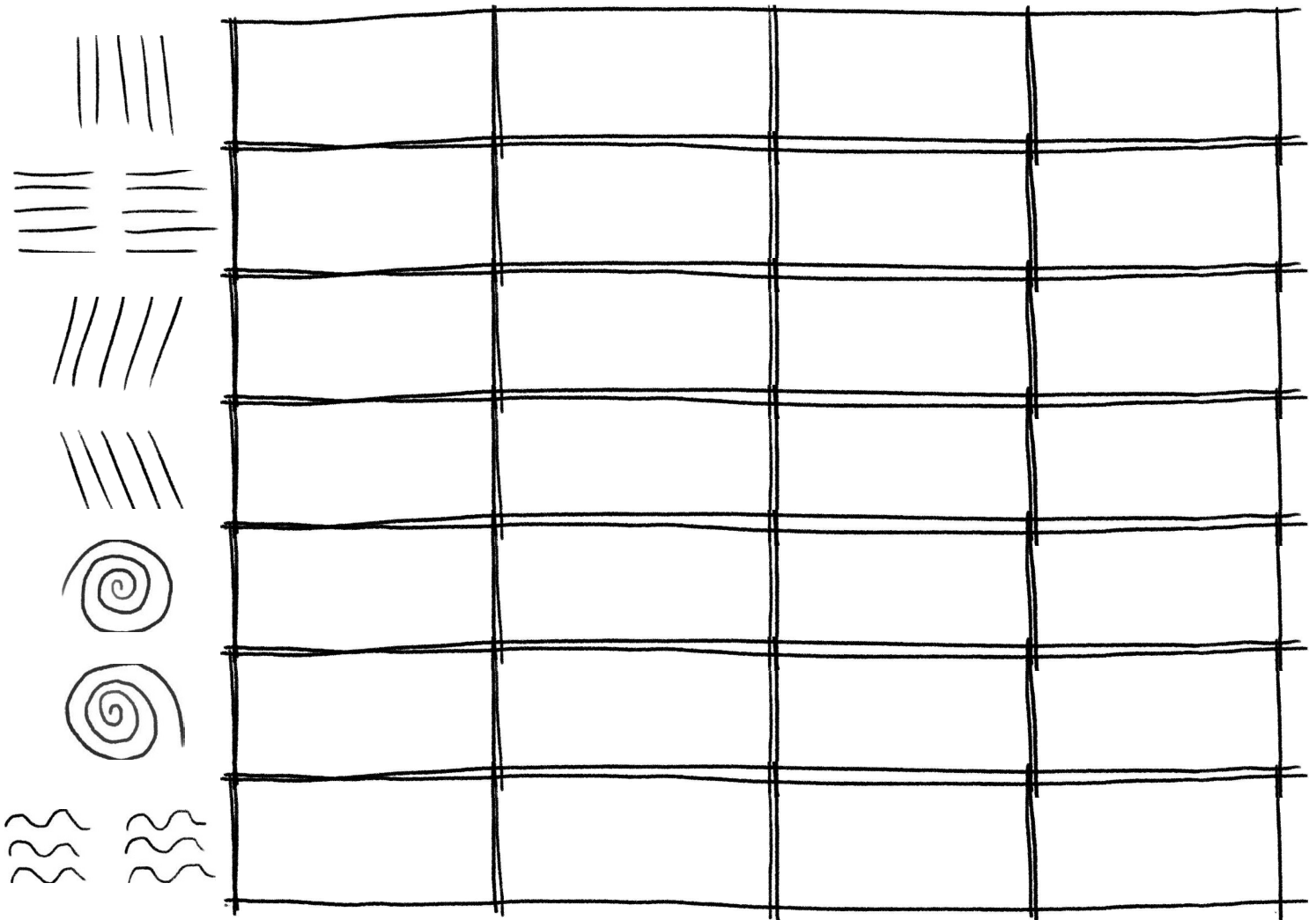
Exercise 1.5: Using Pressure

Now that we have practiced drawing lines using our whole arm, let's have a look at pressure. Using the bar below, practice going from hard to soft pressure.

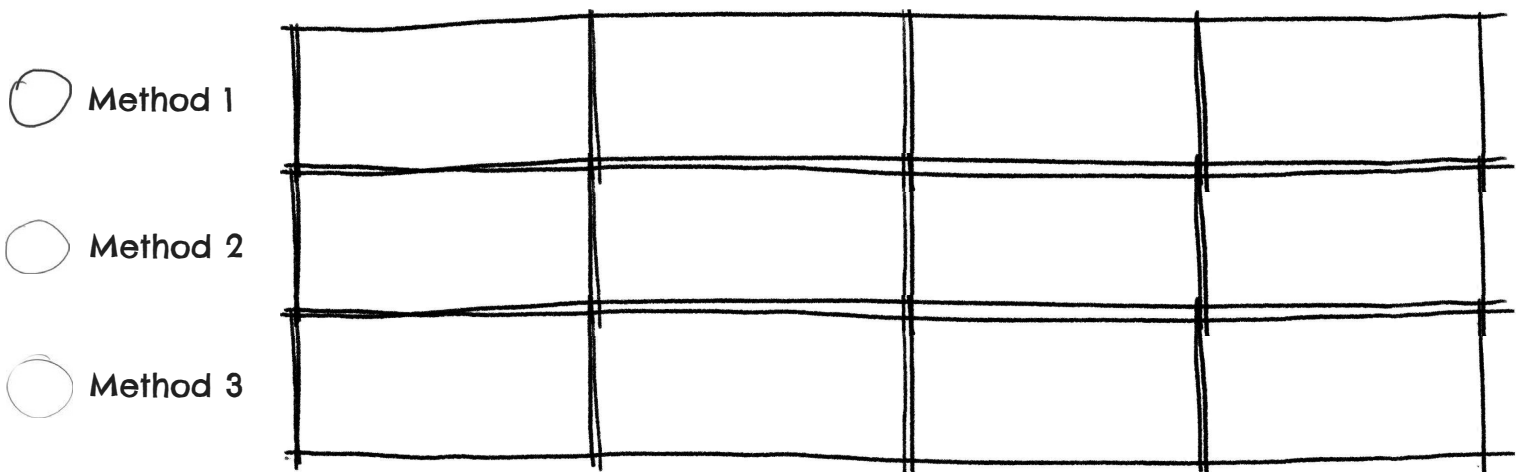


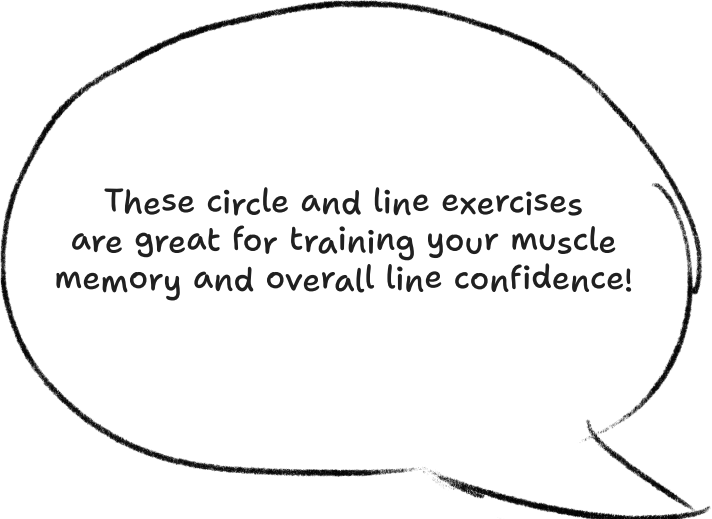
Exercise 1.6: Combining Pressure, Lines, and Circles

Time to combine lessons! Draw uniform lines and circles from exercises 1.3 & 1.4, only this time implementing drawing from hard to soft pressure.

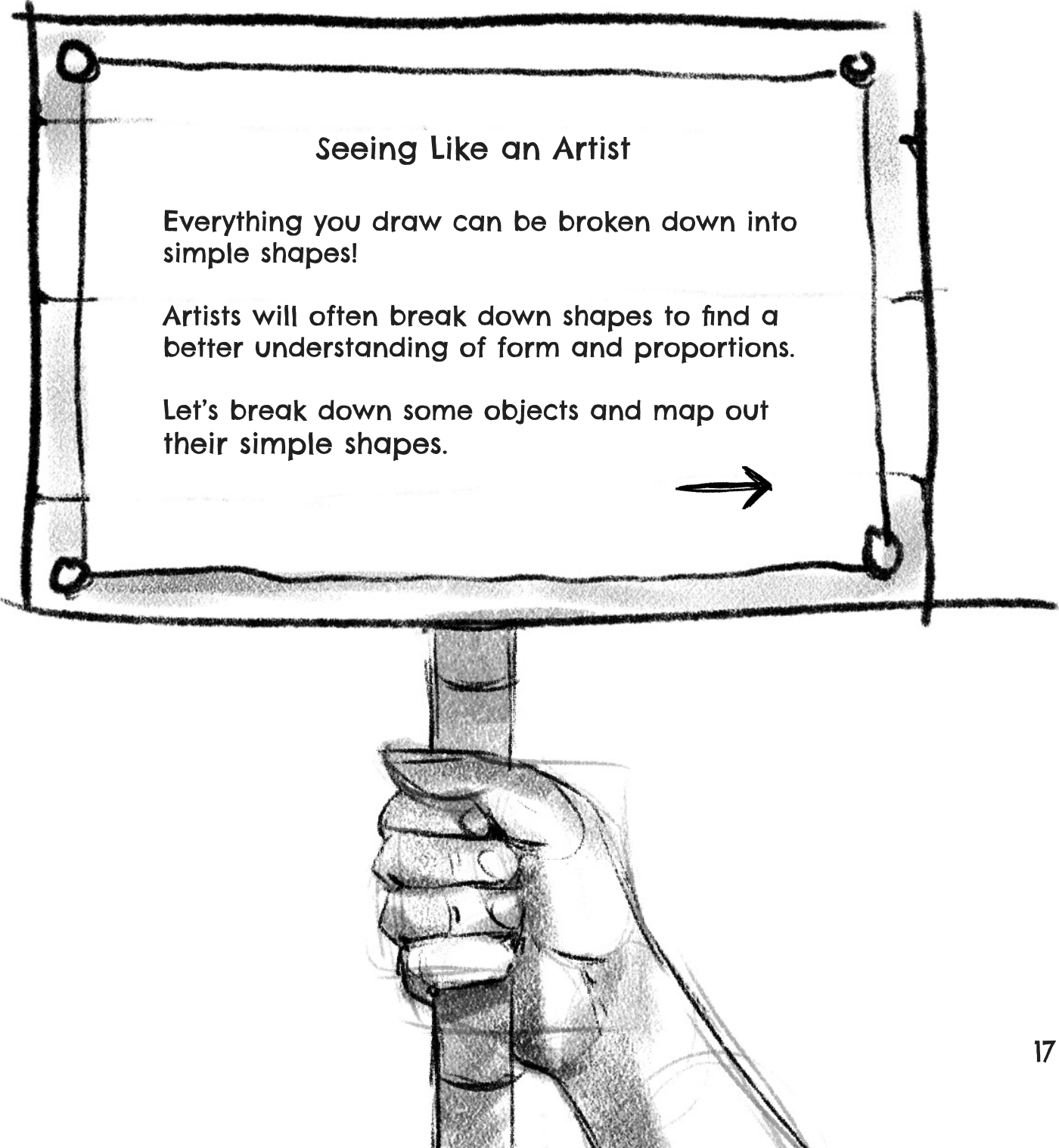


This time, choose one of the shapes and draw it using various methods.





These circle and line exercises
are great for training your muscle
memory and overall line confidence!

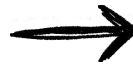


Seeing Like an Artist

Everything you draw can be broken down into
simple shapes!

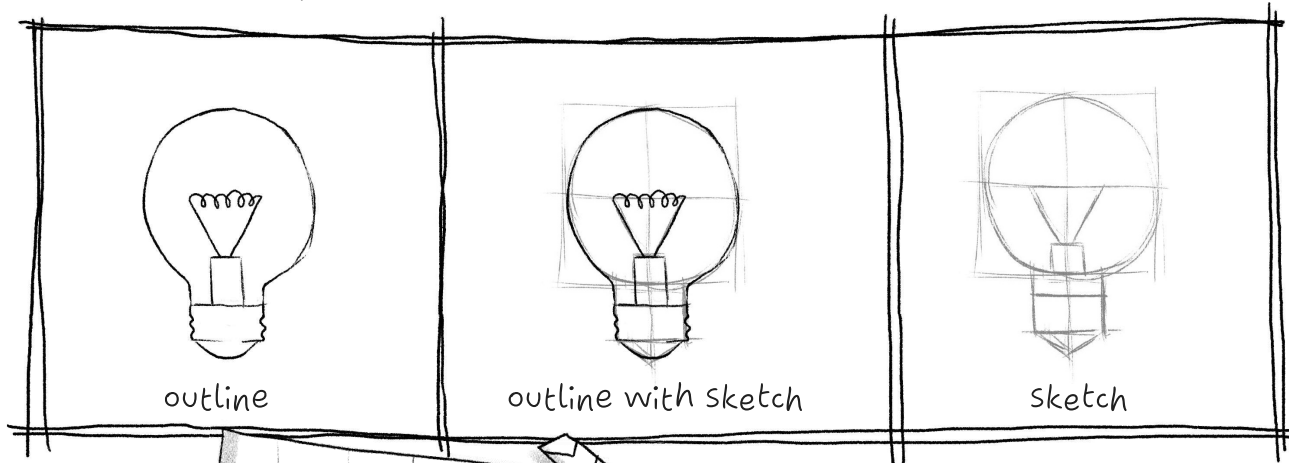
Artists will often break down shapes to find a
better understanding of form and proportions.

Let's break down some objects and map out
their simple shapes.

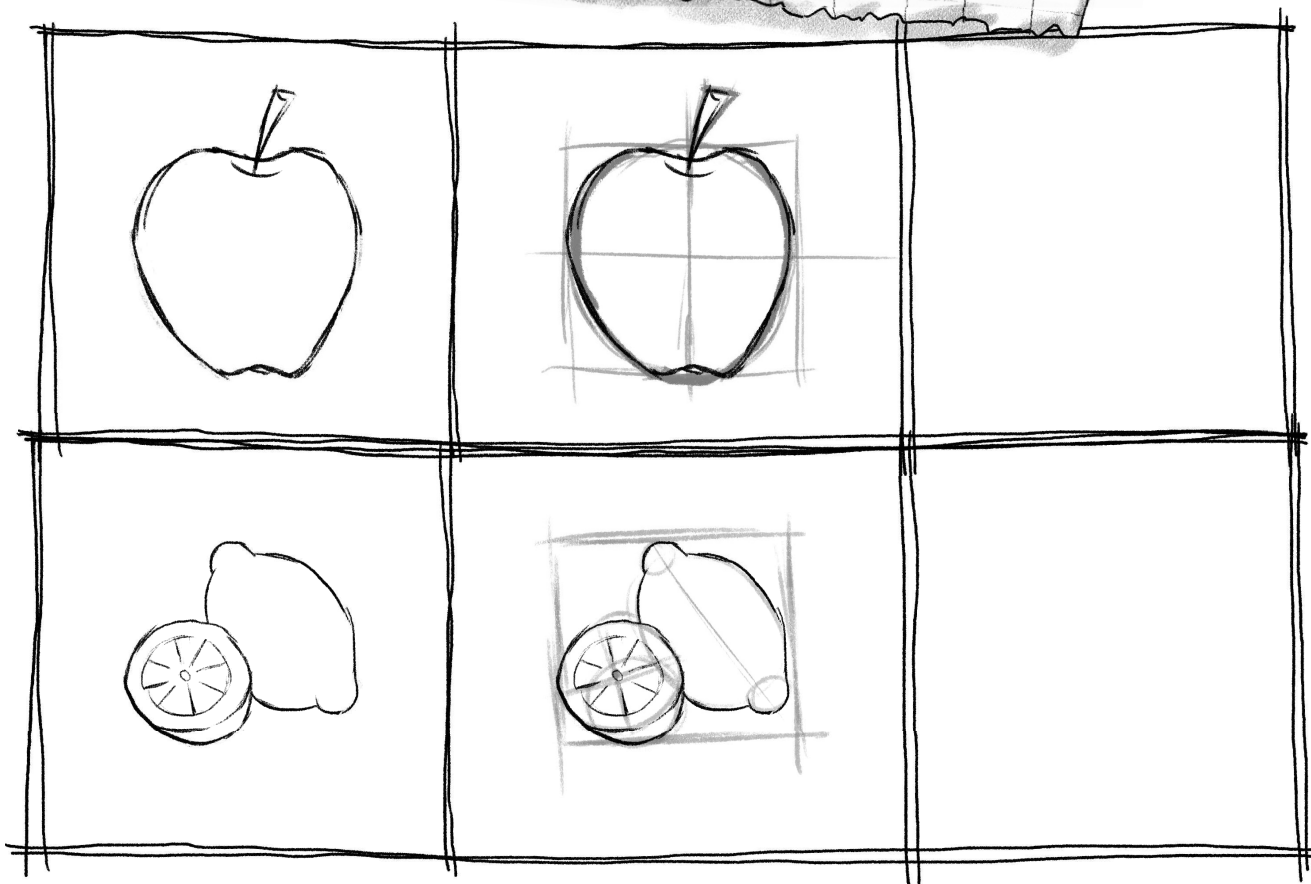
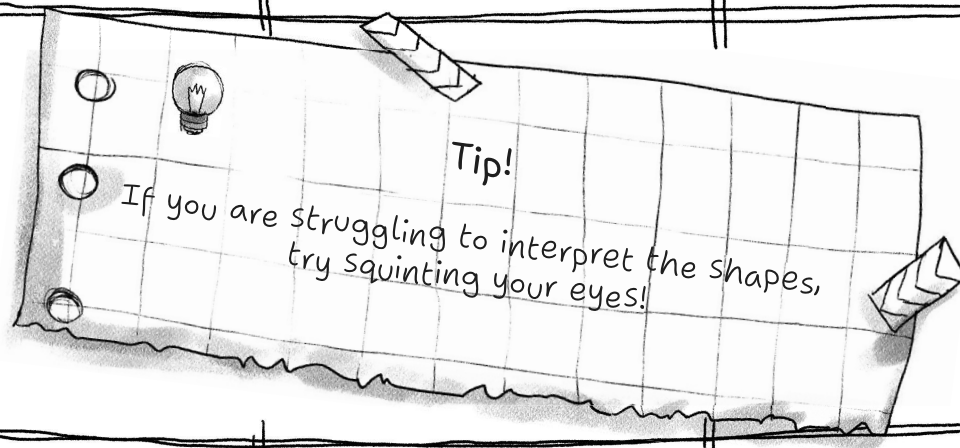


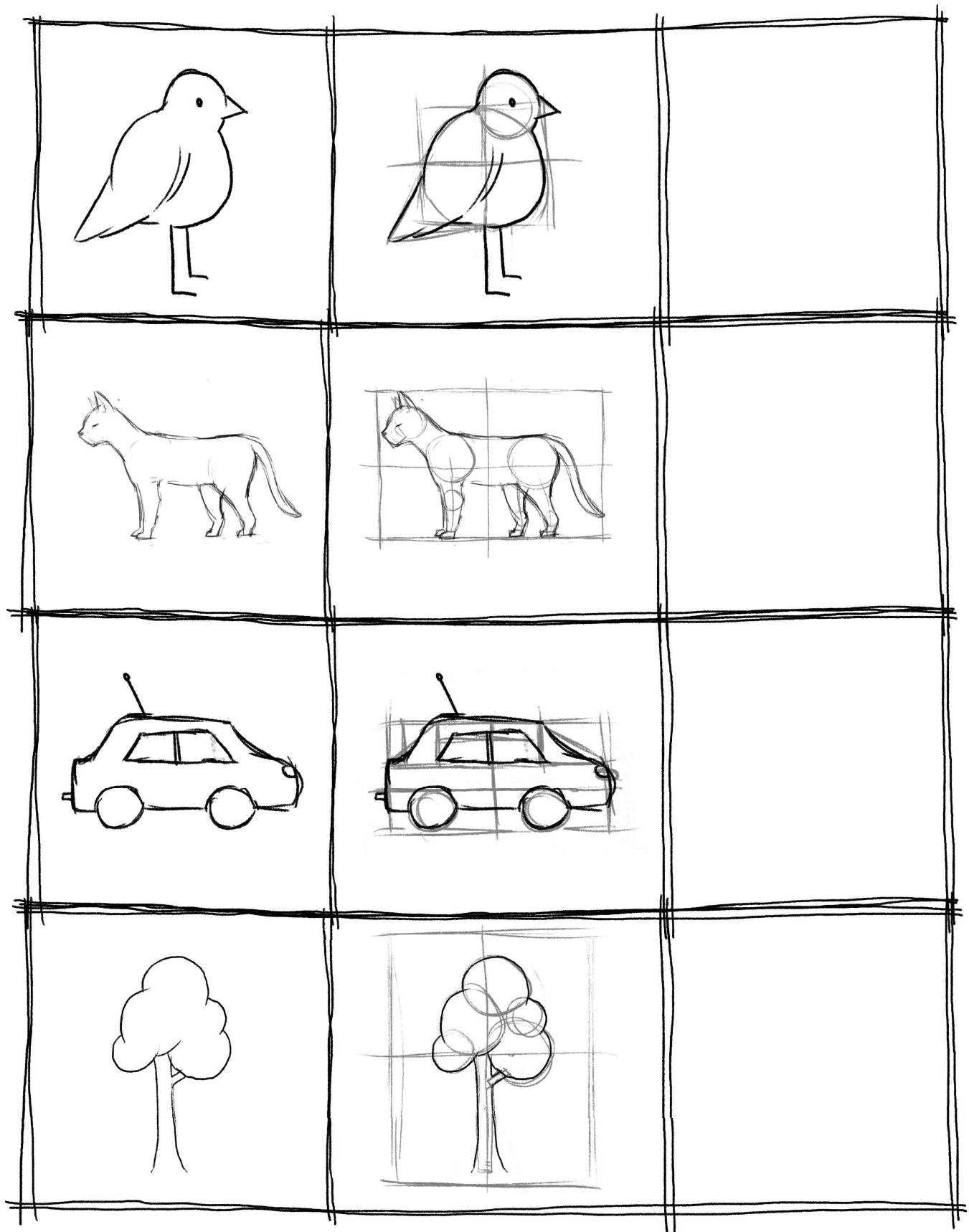
Exercise 1.7: Breaking Down Shapes

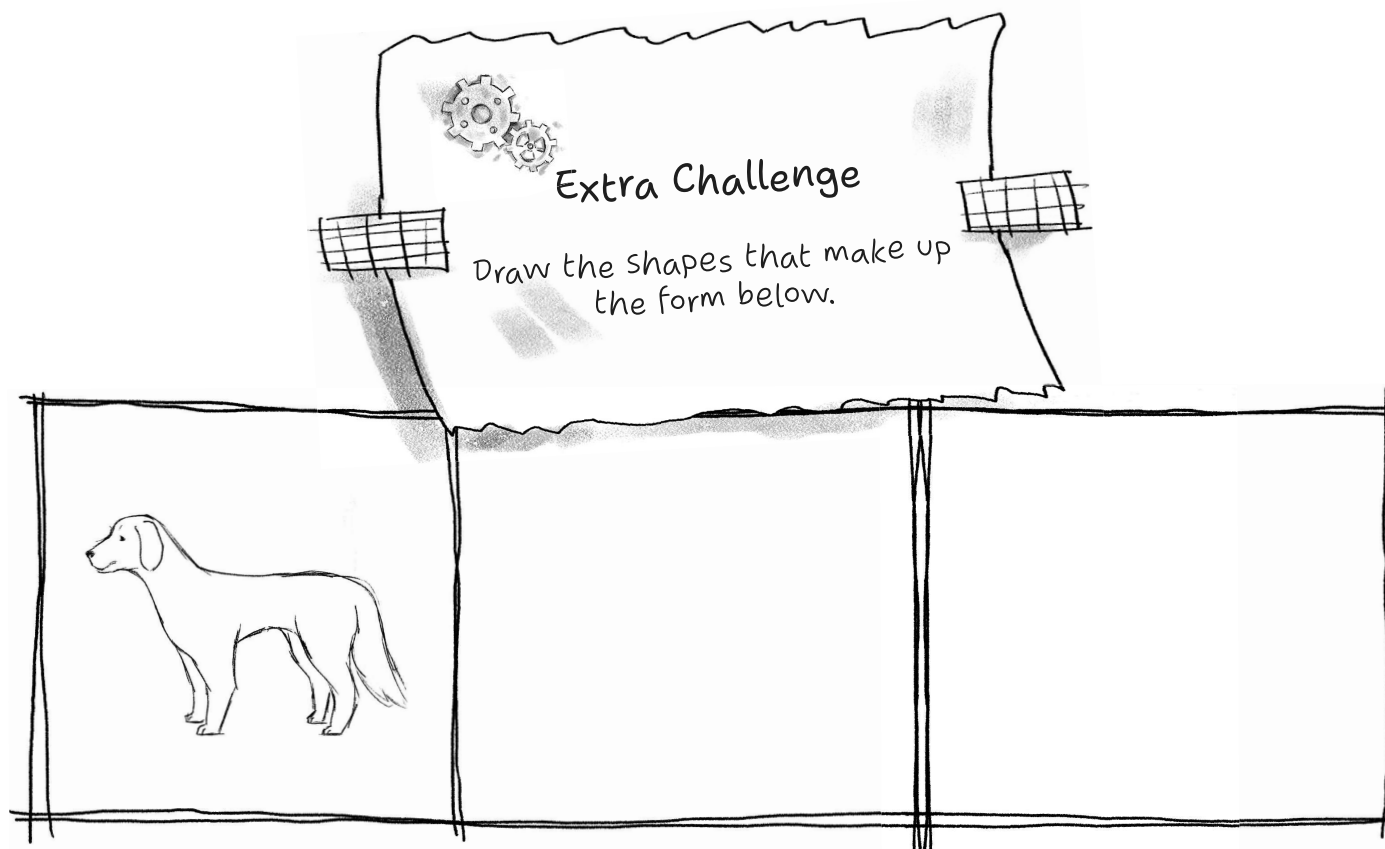
Fill in the missing steps.



Your Turn!







Congratulations!
You can see construction lines!

By identifying the basic shapes within complicated forms, you are not just learning to draw lines and shapes; you are learning to see construction lines within a drawing!

Construction lines allow artists to see the blueprint for creating a drawing from scratch. They are also extremely important for understanding proportions and 3D.

These are all fundamentals which we will explore further in the upcoming chapters.

Exercise 1.8: Building Up Shapes

Now that you understand good pencil control and shapes, let's apply all of our skills from this chapter into drawings.

A. Start simple. Draw a House in 4 steps:

