

Ten ways to draw with Accuracy

Here are ten things you can do to help you draw accurately and to check that your drawing is correct.

1. Learn to see.

Draw what you can actually see, not what you think is there. Try not to call things by name, a *hand*, a *flower*, and so on, as this causes you to draw the object as you think it should look and not how it actually is. It's much better to just think in terms of abstract shapes rather than named objects.

2. Keep moving!

Develop the entire drawing at the same time, don't focus on one part for too long. Then you will be able to decide how much or how little detail you want to put in. If you've already put too much detail into one small part, you are then stuck with needing to put the same amount of detail into the whole picture.

3. Measured drawing

Use a pencil at arms length to take measurements. Look for angles as well as lengths. Look for a convenient unit of measurement and see how this measure relates to other parts of the object .

4. Plumb lines.

Extend horizontal and vertical lines from one object to another so that you can see how they relate to each other. This helps to keep each object in the right place relative to all the others.

5. Negative shapes.

Learn to see and draw abstract negative shapes. If the negative shapes aren't right, then neither are the positives.

6. Use your logic.

Wheels on a car have to be joined by a straight axle, and hands have no more than four fingers and a thumb. Always check the obvious!

7. Turn your drawing upside down.

This will give you a completely new perspective on what you have drawn, and errors are easy to spot. You can even draw your picture upside down for greater accuracy.

8. Reverse the image.

Look at your picture in a mirror and the faults will jump out at you!

9. Stand back.

View your drawing from a few feet away to see where corrections need to be made. After all, this is the distance from which most people will view your picture. Stand back often as you are drawing, don't keep right up close to the paper.



10. Take a break.

Come back to your picture after an hour, a day or even several weeks to see it through fresh eyes.

Finally, remember that if you are drawing for fun, or are learning a new technique, the process is more important than the finished picture.

So enjoy the process, and however your picture turns out you will have succeeded!

