

# HOW TO; - DRAWING TIPS

To practice drawing - it is useful to draw from something that exists - that you can look at and have in front of you while you draw. This will save you having to make up / imagine / design the thing you are drawing in your head at the same time as trying to focus on your drawing.

Of course, for design work your aim is to be able to draw and visually describe the idea that is in your head - and this will come more easily if you practice drawing other things as well. Drawing your designs is useful either for yourself, so you can make decisions on design details and make sure you have the best version of that idea decided on, as well as to communicate your design to other people.

Drawing is actually, a lot about looking - and really observing all the small details. You might know that an orange is round, but is it actually a perfect round, does it actually look more oval or pebble shaped from the direction you're looking at it from?

If you're drawing a flower - you know it has a series of petals and they probably meet in the middle - but where do they actually start to separate out - where does one shape actually join another, do they overlap or are they actually separate? Are the petal edges actually smooth and curved, or irregular, or crinkled?

Some ideas that can help you to practice your drawing, or to get you out of your comfort zone a little are; -

## NEGATIVE SPACE

Think about the negative space - this is the space between or around items - the gaps, the blank areas... Look at something on your desk and give yourself a minute or two to draw just the spaces. Don't draw the objects, draw the gaps inbetween them...



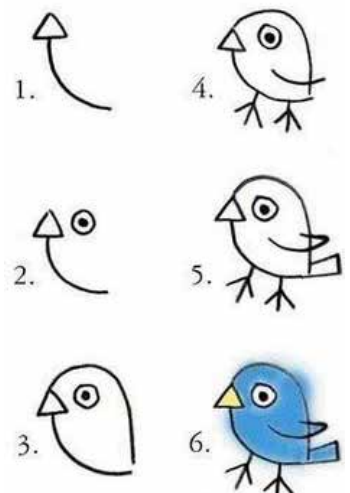
## COPY

That's right... copy other peoples drawings - by analysing and trying to copy an image. This helps you / your hand to learn how shapes and lines build into drawings, and to really look at it, and as above - a lot of drawing is about looking. We all learn by copying - whether it is learning to talk, walk, or to make jewellery! You can also get some tracing paper, and literally trace images - again, you learn to create lines and shapes and can build up your skills in this way.

*Copying to learn is absolutely fine... (Copying others' work for other purposes / to sell is of course NOT ok!)*

## FOCUS ON SHAPES

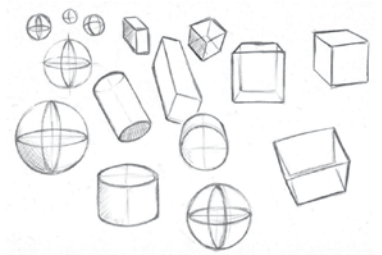
One common way to build up drawings is to look at rough / overall shapes, and build these together... If you look at and/or think through the item you'd like to draw - try breaking it down into geometric shapes - for example a ring is often a series of circles, a penguin, could be described as a circle sat on an oval, with a small triangle for a beak, and two semicircles for feet... Draw out the



general shapes, build them together, and then go over them to connect and add details.

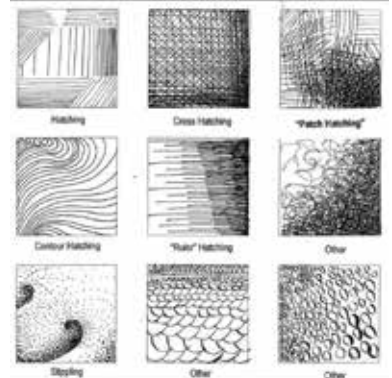
## LOOK AT LIGHT AND SHADE

Draw in black and white and try and draw just the shades - the light and dark - see if you can build a shape this way.



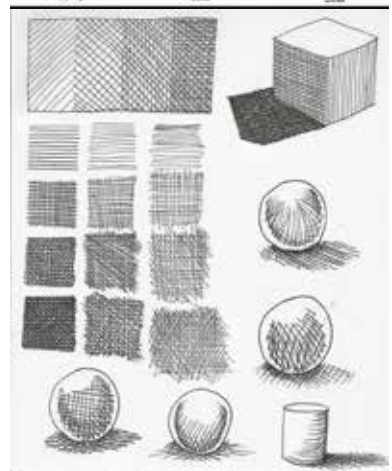
## TRY DIFFERENT MEDIA

Experiment with different drawing media - draw with a wide marker pen, with a biro, a pencil, a stick of charcoal or chalk, draw with coloured tape, with paint. Each medium will encourage a different style of drawing and a different scale - play around. Try working on different papers too - regular paper, thick watercolour or pastel paper, newspaper, graph paper, tracing paper.



## MARK MAKING

Experiment with making different types of mark... Soft, bold, sharp, lines, curls, dots, cross hatching - try different ways to build up your colour to add shape, and to add shading or tone to your drawings.



## REPETITION

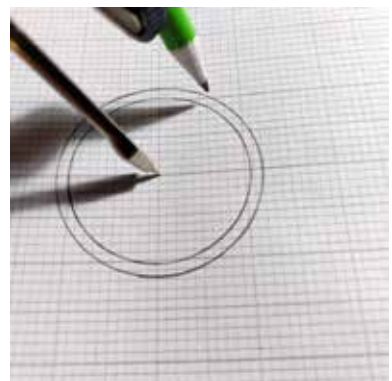
Keep practicing - sit down and try and do the same thing 5 or 10 times, and see how your work changes from the first to the tenth... Practice makes perfect!!!

## WIRE DRAWING

Grab some wire, wire cutters and pliers - cut yourself a length of wire, and see if you can use that instead of a pen, to draw your shapes - can you use this continuous line to create an image or a form?

## LOOK AT OTHER DRAWINGS

See how other people draw - each person has their own style - some people are great at perfectly photographic style drawings, some are better at more cartoony styles, some create more vibrant, abstracted drawings.



## DRAW ON LOOSE PAPER

Avoid the pressure of doing a 'good' drawing in a sketchbook or on 'nice' paper. Work on scraps of paper, envelopes, re-use old printouts, or any other paper in your home / work. If you don't like your results - you can just turn over and go again, or put it straight into the recycling (although it might be great to keep some examples for comparison later once you've had some more practice)! Those you want to keep can then be stuck / collaged into your sketchbook, or photographed and added to a digital folder.

**TIP** - Practice makes perfect - no-one can draw perfectly first time, if ever - but the more you try, the better you will get at putting onto paper what is in your head..