

Real Drawing for Kids 1

A step-by-step painting guide by Richard Robinson

Watch the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/125-Real-Drawing-for-Kids-1>

MY PAINTING CLUB

Introduction

I believe that encouragement is one of the most valuable gifts we can receive, and this art course is designed to offer just that. Whether you're 5 or 95, the principles you'll learn here are timeless and universal. I've found that art and design skills can be quickly grasped by anyone with average ability, and as you progress through these steps, you'll see your drawing and artistic skills flourish. We begin by honing our pencil work, focusing on the fundamentals of shapes, proportions, perspective, and the magic of light and shade to bring your drawings to life. As you advance, you'll explore the vibrant world of color, enhancing your ability to convey action, character, and emotion. We'll build confidence with pen work, delve into the expressive potential of pastels, and eventually embrace the fluid beauty of watercolors. Finally, we'll venture into the rich textures of oil painting and mixed media. This journey is crafted to inspire and encourage you every step of the way, and I am thrilled to be part of your artistic growth.

REAL DRAWING *for Kids!*



REFERENCE PHOTO 1

The scene as Richard found it.



REFERENCE PHOTO 2

The scene as Richard found it.



REFERENCE PHOTO 3

The scene as Richard found it.



REFERENCE PHOTO 4

The scene as Richard found it.

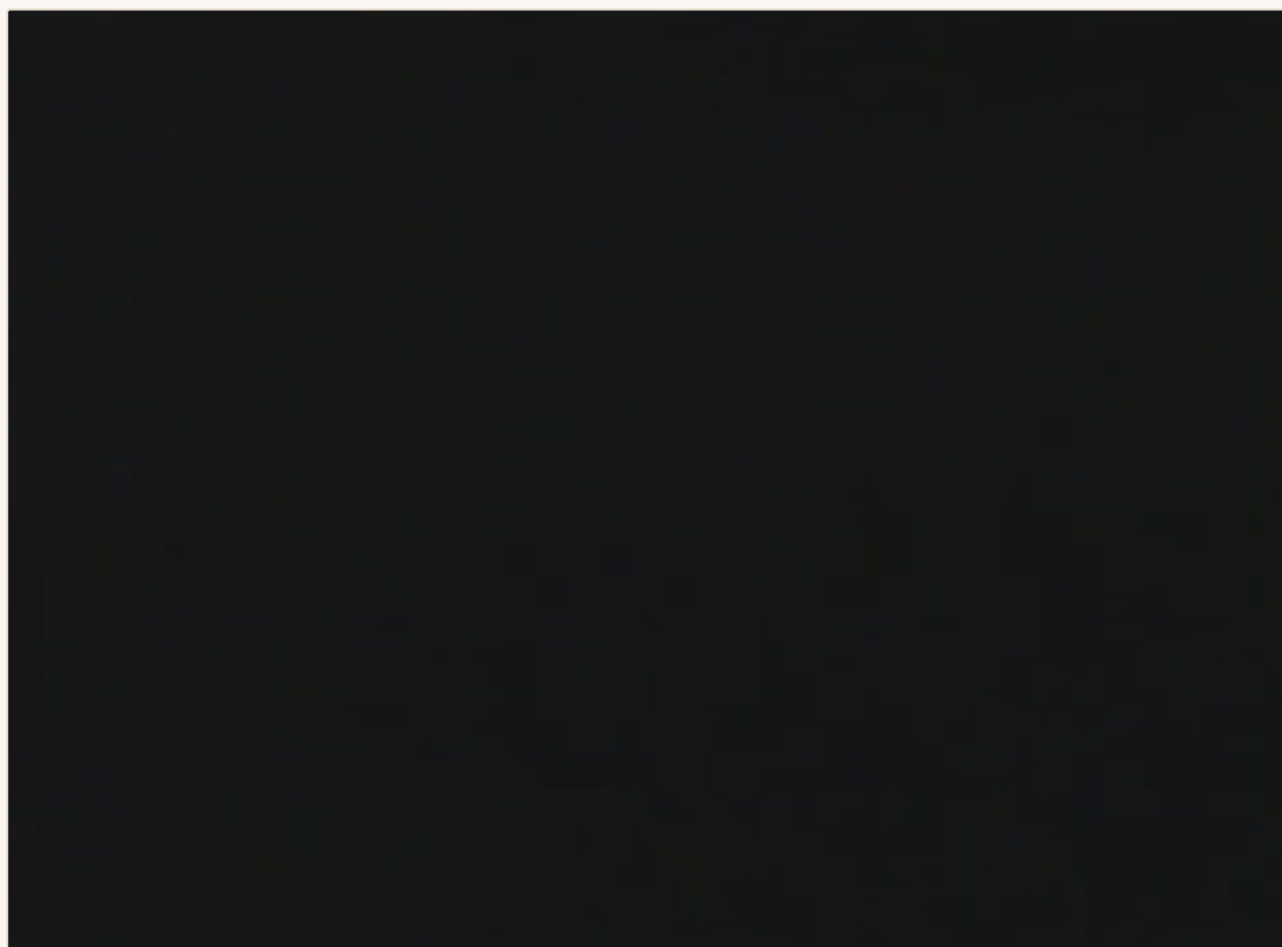
Materials

Gather these materials before you start. If you don't have the exact same supplies, use what you have and substitute freely.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- HB Pencil
- 6B Pencil
- A4 Paper (US Letter)

1 Course Structure and Recommendations



Begin with Pencil

Start your journey by focusing on pencil work. Develop skills in seeing and conveying shapes, proportions, perspective, textures, and using light and shade to create a three-dimensional form.

Introduce Color

In part three, combine color with your pencil drawings. This will enhance your ability to express actions, character, and emotion in your work.

Explore Pen Drawing

Move on to drawing with a pen in part four. This technique will build your confidence and precision in line work.

Experiment with Pen and Wash

In part five, practice drawing with pen and wash. Start with pen lines to gain confidence, then apply washes over the top for added depth.

Learn Pastel Techniques

Part six introduces pastels. Once comfortable with pencil sketches, pastels will allow for both loose, quick work and detailed expression.

Combine Pastels and Wash

In part seven, combine pastels with watercolour washes. Apply washes first with a big brush, then use pastels to add detail and cohesion.

Master Watercolour Techniques

Parts eight and nine focus on watercolour. Learn to choose subjects, prepare papers, select colours, lay washes, create depth, and highlight details.

Explore Oils and Mixed Media

In parts ten to twelve, delve into oil painting and mixed media. Experiment with bold, fast strokes or detailed layers to build depth and detail.

PRO TIP

Start with pencil to build foundational skills before exploring more complex media like oils and watercolours.

2 Warm-up Exercises



Prepare for Warm-Up Exercise

Visit grahambraddock.com and navigate to the warm-up exercises section. Print off the sheet of simple patterns provided. Gather a nice sharp pencil for the exercise.

Start with a Central Dot

Begin by placing a dot in the center of your square. This will serve as a reference point for your drawing.

Copy Patterns

Carefully copy the pattern from the square above onto your sheet. Focus on training your hand to replicate what your eye sees.

Practice Measuring by Eye

Concentrate on measuring angles and shapes by eye. This practice helps you learn to get things in proportion and fill the available space effectively.

Gain Confidence with Pencil Control

As you continue, you'll become more confident in making the pencil do what you want. This exercise is valuable for improving your drawing skills.

Create Your Own Patterns

After completing the exercises from the website, use a blank sheet of squares to invent your own patterns or objects to copy.

PRO TIP

Always start with a warm-up exercise to train your hand and eye coordination before each lesson.

3 Starting the Lesson



Prepare for the Lesson

Set yourself up in a comfortable position with a pencil and paper. Remember, this course is something you actively participate in, not just watch.

Warm-Up Exercise

Visit grahambraddock.com and find the warm-up exercises section. Print off a sheet of simple patterns to practice with. Use a sharp pencil and press firmly as you start by placing a dot in the center of the square.

Copy Patterns

Try copying the patterns in the square above. This exercise trains your hand to follow what your eye sees, helping you measure by eye, copy angles and shapes, and maintain proportion.

Create Your Own Patterns

After completing the exercises from the website, use a blank sheet of squares to invent your own patterns or items to copy. Consider swapping your patterns with someone else's for variety.

Begin the Still Life

Start with the still life of the teddy bear. Ensure you are comfortable and have your materials ready to begin drawing.

PRO TIP

Always do a warm-up exercise before starting each lesson to build confidence and improve control.

4 Drawing the Big Shape



Mark the Width Boundaries

Take your ordinary HB pencil and come in about two skinny fingers from one end of the page. Make a small mark. Repeat this on the other end of the page, coming in about two skinny fingers and making another small mark.

Mark the Height Boundaries

From the top of the page, measure down about two finger widths and make a small mark. From the bottom, measure up about two fat fingers or three skinny fingers and make another mark.

Draw the Base Line

Draw a flat line across the page, parallel to the bottom edge. This line represents the flat surface your subject will sit on.

PRO TIP

Use your fingers to measure consistent distances from the edges of the page for accurate placement.

5 Drawing Sub-shapes



Draw the Big Shape

With your eyes nearly shut, observe the overall shape of the subject. Notice how it goes up, flattens at the top, and curves down on the side. Lightly draw this big shape without pressing hard. This helps simplify what you see into manageable parts.

Identify and Mark Sub-shapes

Look inside the big shape to find sub-shapes. For example, mark where the teddy reaches the middle of the big shape. Make a small mark to indicate the top of the teddy's head, slightly angled. Draw lightly to maintain flexibility.

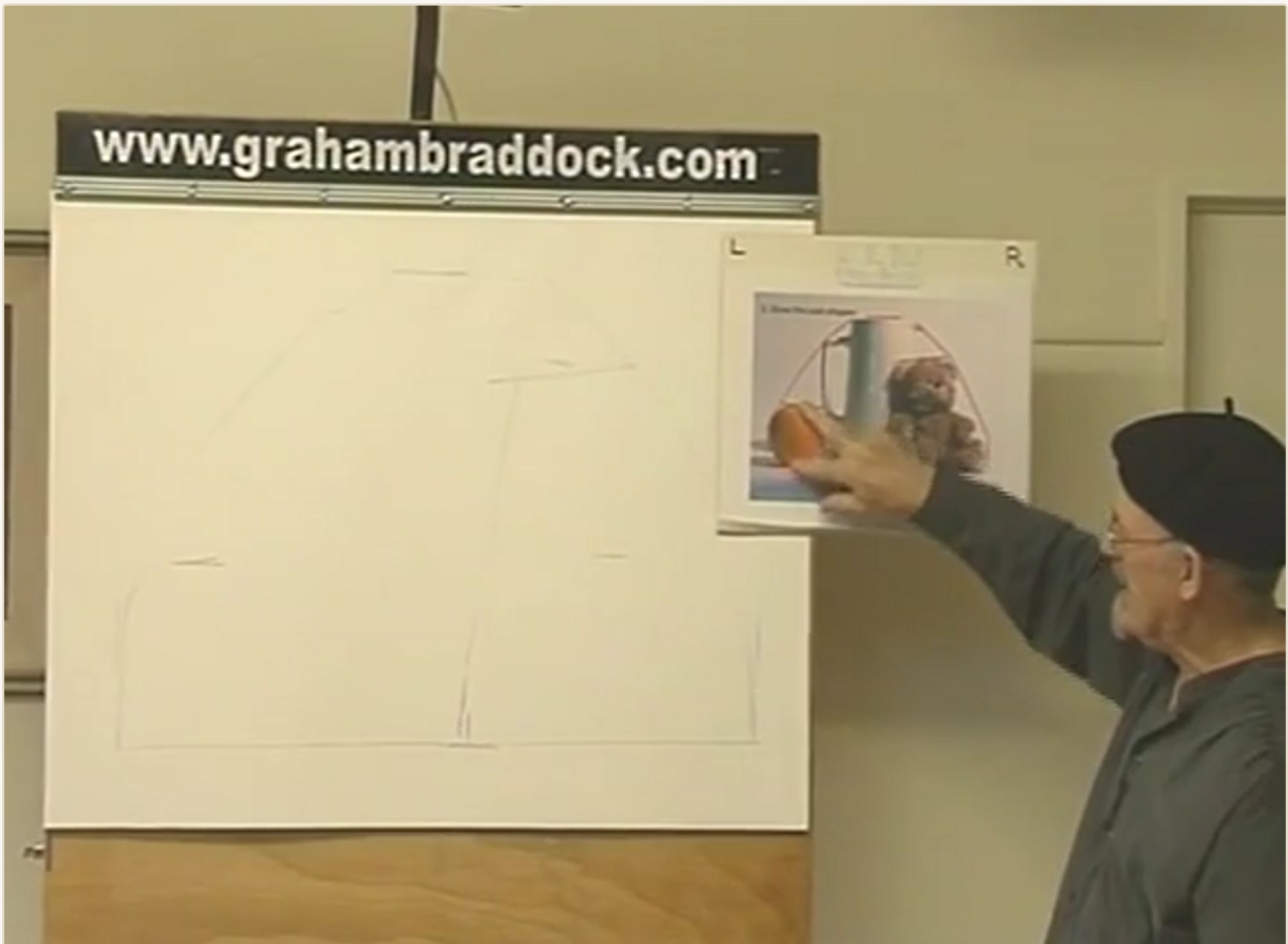
Draw the Sub-shapes

Observe how the teddy slopes and draw this sub-shape lightly. Next, measure the height of the orange as half the height of the teddy. Mark this halfway point and use it to draw the orange's height, ensuring it aligns with the neck of the teddy.

PRO TIP

Measure each new element against the shapes you've already drawn to maintain proportion and accuracy.

6 Drawing the Orange



Draw the Orange's Outline

Sketch a square to represent the orange, ensuring it is as high as it is wide. This square will serve as the guide for your round orange.

Position the Jug

Estimate the space between the jug and the orange, noting that the space between the jug and the teddy is larger. Draw the jug slightly sloped, not straight up and down, to capture its angle.

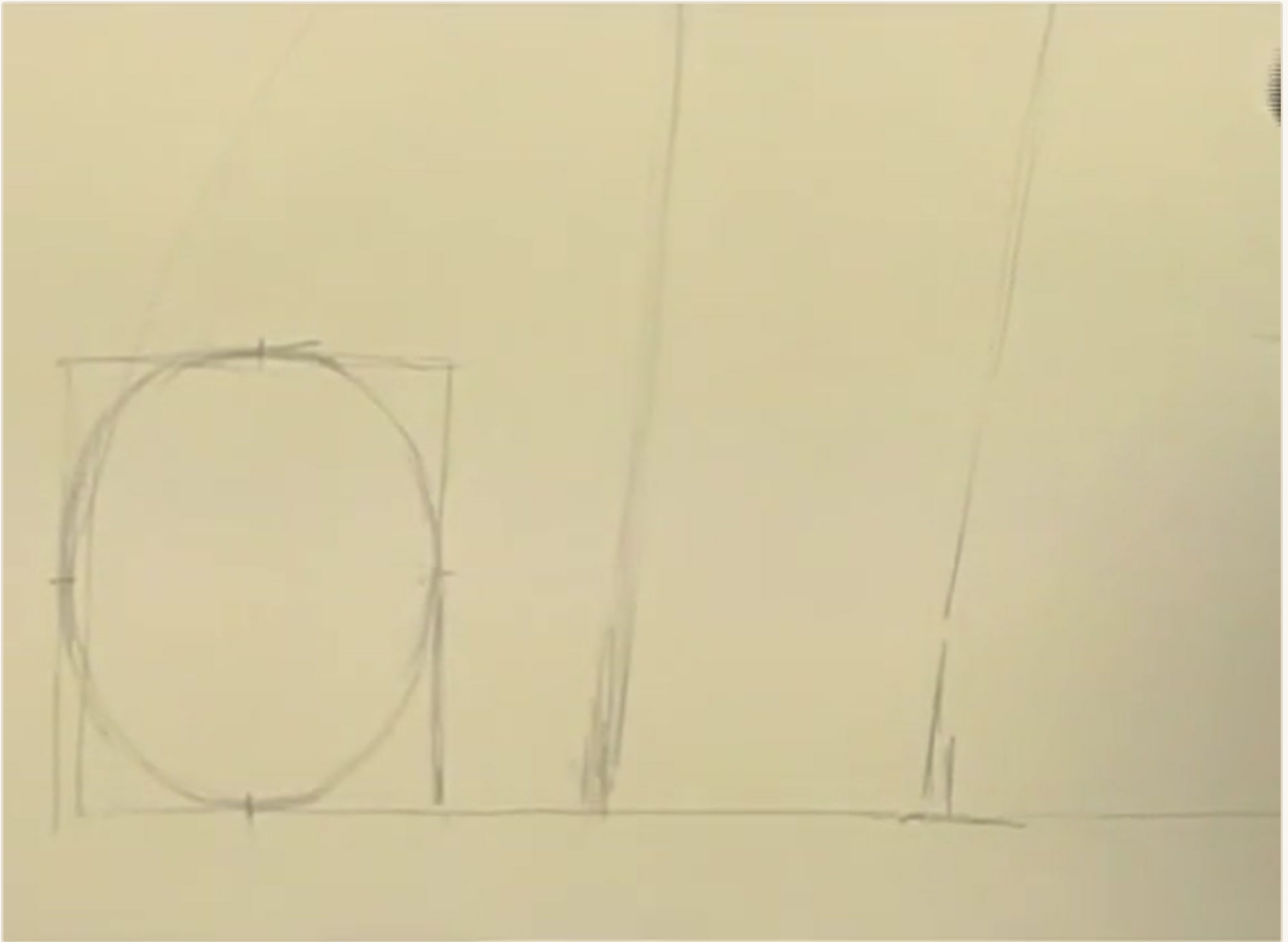
Transform the Square into a Circle

Mark halfway points on each side of the square. Then, make marks at the top and bottom centers. Use these marks to guide your curves, drawing a circle that touches the bottom and passes through the marks to form a smooth, round shape.

PRO TIP

Use halfway marks on each side of the square to guide your curves for a perfect circle.

7 Drawing the Teddy Bear



Draw the Teddy Bear's Head

Start by sketching a square for the teddy bear's head, slightly angled. Ensure the head is a bit wider than it is tall. Adjust your square to achieve this proportion.

Transform the Square into an Oval

Find the middle of each side of the square. Use these points to guide you in drawing large, flowing curves to form an oval shape for the head.

Draw the Teddy Bear's Body

Sketch a line from the head down to the tummy, angling it slightly. Draw a large circle for the leg, ensuring it extends above halfway between the chin and the table. Add a smaller circle for the arm, aligning it with the head and leg.

Add the Face Details

Position the face slightly off-center. Draw a central line down the face. Place the eyes in the middle, slightly sloping, and add a large, round nose below the midpoint.

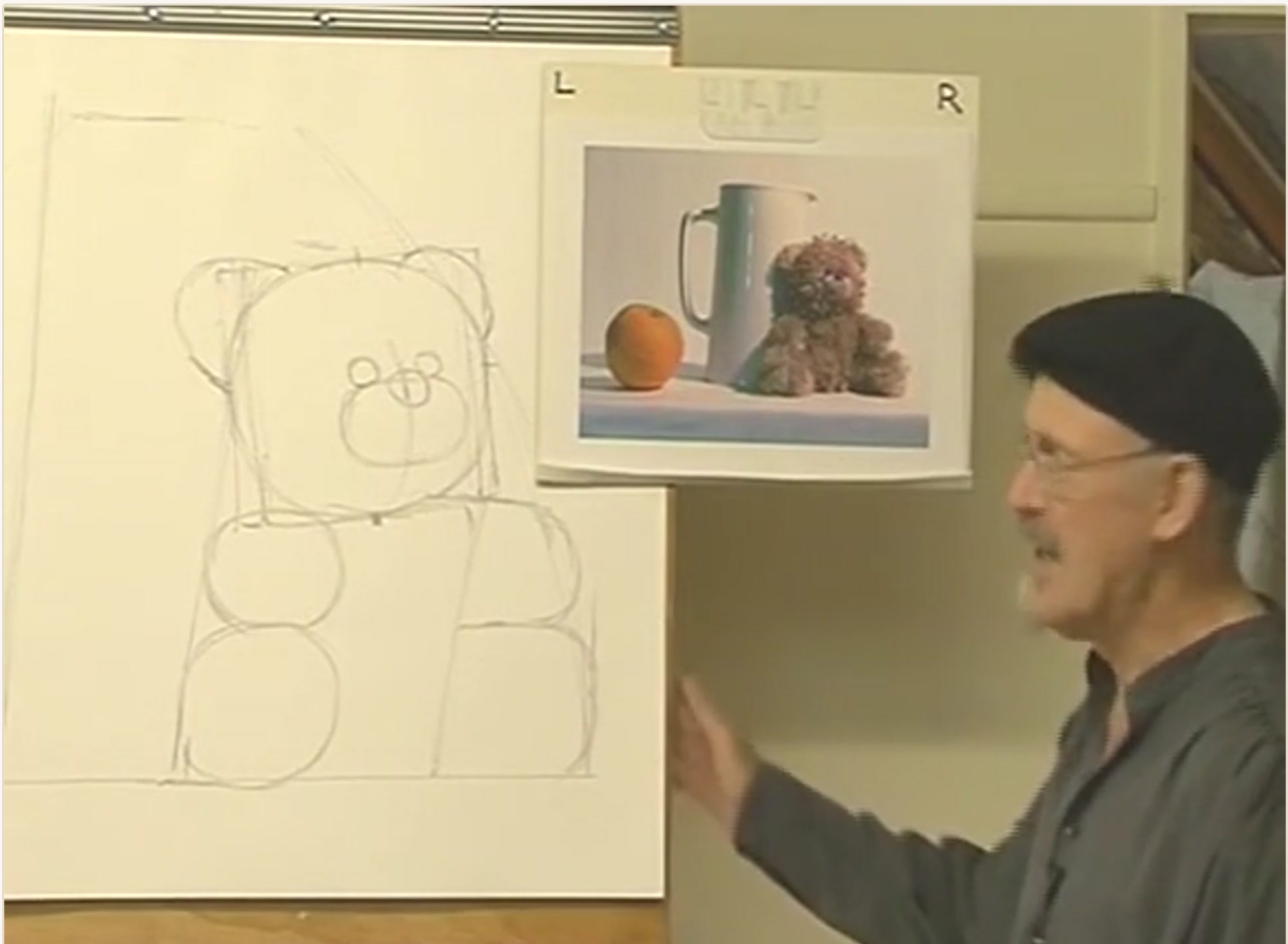
Draw the Ears

Sketch the ears, with one ear extending slightly beyond the head's edge and the other tucked around the far side, appearing skinnier.

PRO TIP

Bold outlines enhance the drawing, but ensure layout lines are drawn lightly.

8 Drawing the Jug



Draw the Top of the Jug

Begin by sketching the flat top of the jug. Observe carefully and align it with the edge of the teddy bear's ear. Notice the slight slope on one side and draw it accordingly. Curve the top part of the jug down and around to complete the shape.

Position the Handle

Locate the handle slightly below the top of the jug. Measure about half the distance from the top of the teddy bear's head to the top of the jug. Draw a flat line for the top of the handle, ensuring it sticks straight out.

Draw the Handle's Length

Check how close the handle comes to the orange, ensuring it cuts into the corner slightly. Draw the handle extending lower than the top of the orange, with a slight curve as it descends.

Shape the Handle

Sketch the outside of the handle with a consistent width, avoiding variations from fat to skinny. Make the top corner of the handle rounded, not sharp. Draw the inside of the handle similarly, maintaining a solid appearance.

Refine the Jug's Curves

Add small curves to the handle where it meets the jug. Ensure the top of the jug slopes slightly downward at each end, creating a gentle curve. Look closely at these shapes to ensure accuracy.

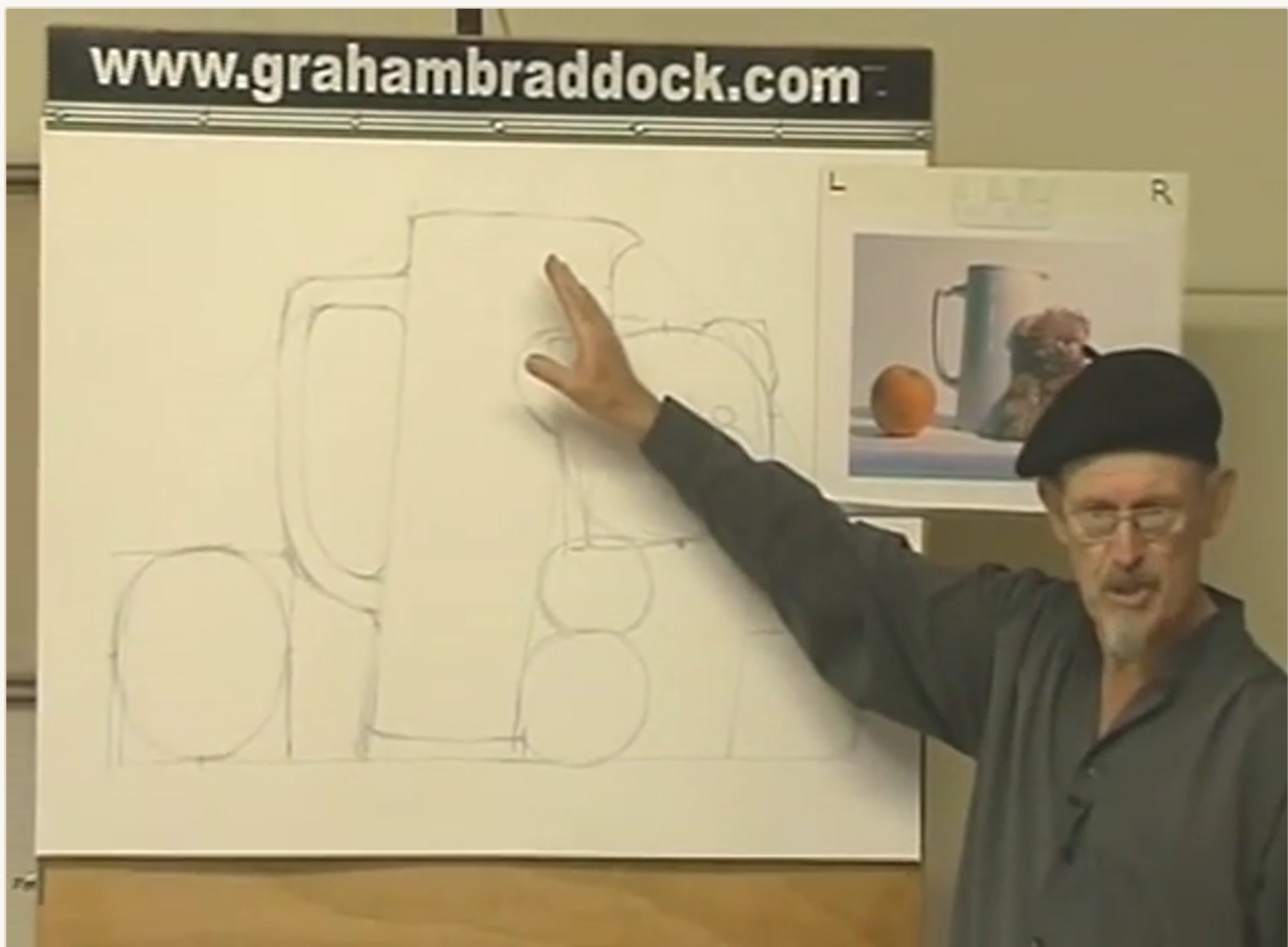
Position the Jug

Determine the jug's position relative to the teddy and the orange. Start the jug a little higher up on the table, as it's further away. Draw the bottom of the jug with a slight upward curve, indicating its position further back on the table.

PRO TIP

Draw lightly and use multiple lines to refine shapes, allowing for easy adjustments.

9 Reviewing Proportions



Draw the Handle's Center Line

Observe the jug and notice the line running through the center of the handle. Carefully draw a line that curves as it follows the handle's shape. Ensure it is centered and draw lightly to maintain accuracy.

Add the Orange's Stalk

Identify the position where the orange's stalk would be, slightly off-center near the top. Draw it as an oval shape rather than a circle to represent the stalk's attachment point.

Sketch the Foot Pad

Draw the pad of the foot, which is visible on the underside. Position it close to the bottom and note that it lacks fur. Add a small portion of the pad visible on the opposite side.

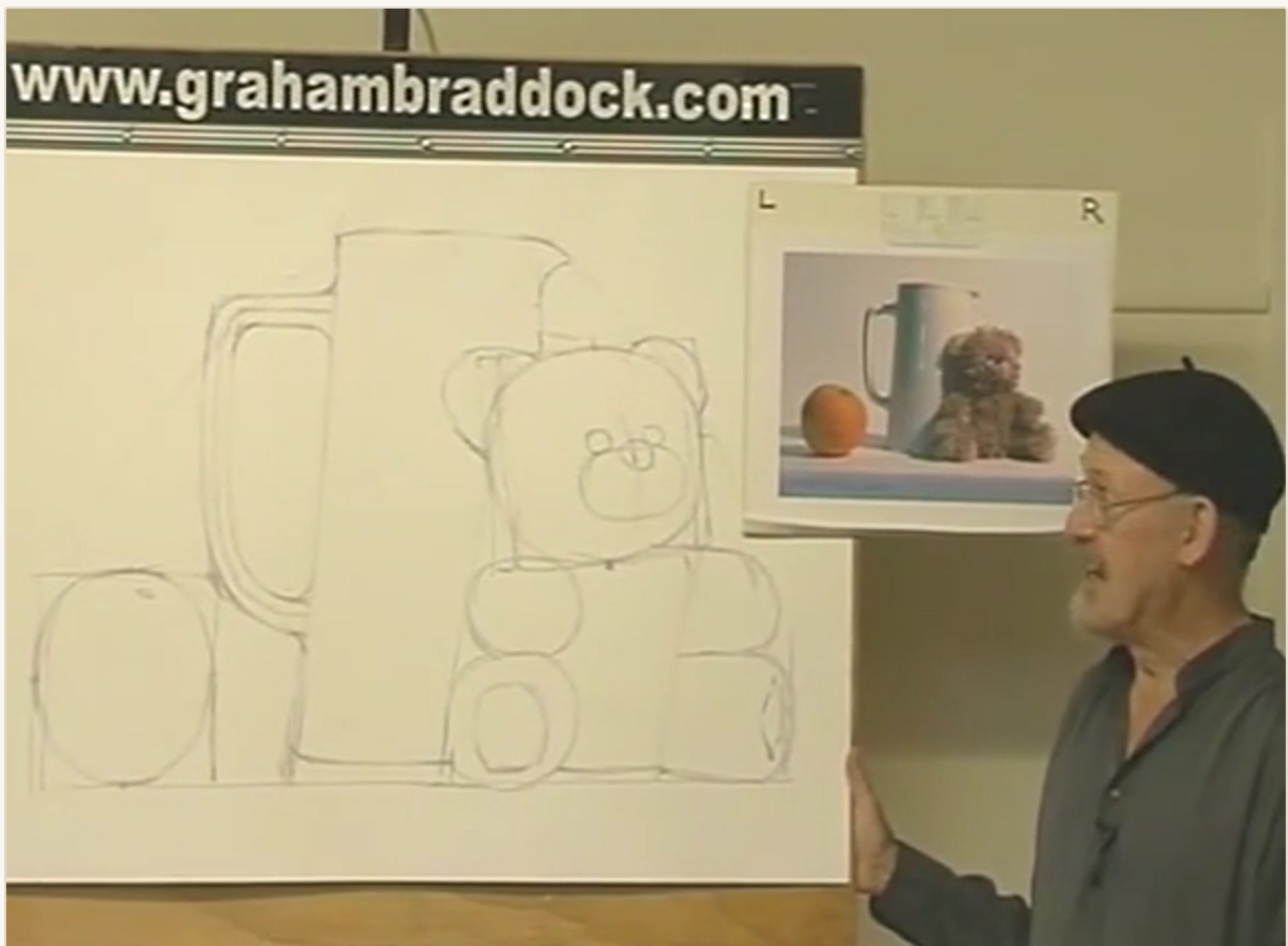
Adjust the Tummy Line

Notice that the tummy is slightly higher than the foot. Draw a line that slopes downhill from the tummy to the foot on the other side, ensuring it is just a tiny bit higher.

PRO TIP

Draw lightly to make adjustments easier and maintain accuracy in your proportions.

10 Adding Details to the Teddy Bear



Draw the Eyes

Use your sketching pencil to draw the eyes of the teddy bear. Press quite hard and draw a small circle for each eye. Add a sparkle by drawing a small square of light near the top of each eye. Leave a little moon shape of light at the bottom to create a shiny effect.

Add the Nose

Draw the shape of the teddy bear's nose, making it appear shiny by adding a small shiny patch on top. Curve the nostril down and leave a bit of light on the underside to suggest light bouncing off the table.

Create Fluffy Cheeks

Use a back-and-forth line technique to draw the slightly fluffy cheeks. Angle the lines outwards to give a fluffy appearance.

Draw the Head and Ears

Identify where the light is coming from and draw lines flicking upwards on the top of the head. Make these lines long and varied in length with spaces in between. As you move into shadow areas, draw lines closer together. For the ears, leave spaces at the top for light and darken the bottom for shadow.

Add Fur Details

Draw little furry lines around the eyes without covering them. Add fur poking out from the arm and front paw. Draw the foot with spaces for light and flatten the fur at the bottom where it sits on the table.

PRO TIP

Leave spaces between lines in areas where light hits to create a sense of lightness and texture.

11 Adding Details to the Jug



Capture the Feel of the Jug

Focus on drawing the feel of the jug, aiming for a shiny and smooth appearance. Avoid using a big black line on the top; instead, draw lightly with thin lines and leave spaces to suggest light.

Draw Smooth Lines

Create smooth lines under the lip of the jug, leaving small spaces to indicate light. Follow the shape carefully, ensuring the line is smooth and free of bumps.

Align the Jug's Side

Draw the side of the jug, aligning it with the top. Keep the line straight and crisp, avoiding any bumps or irregularities.

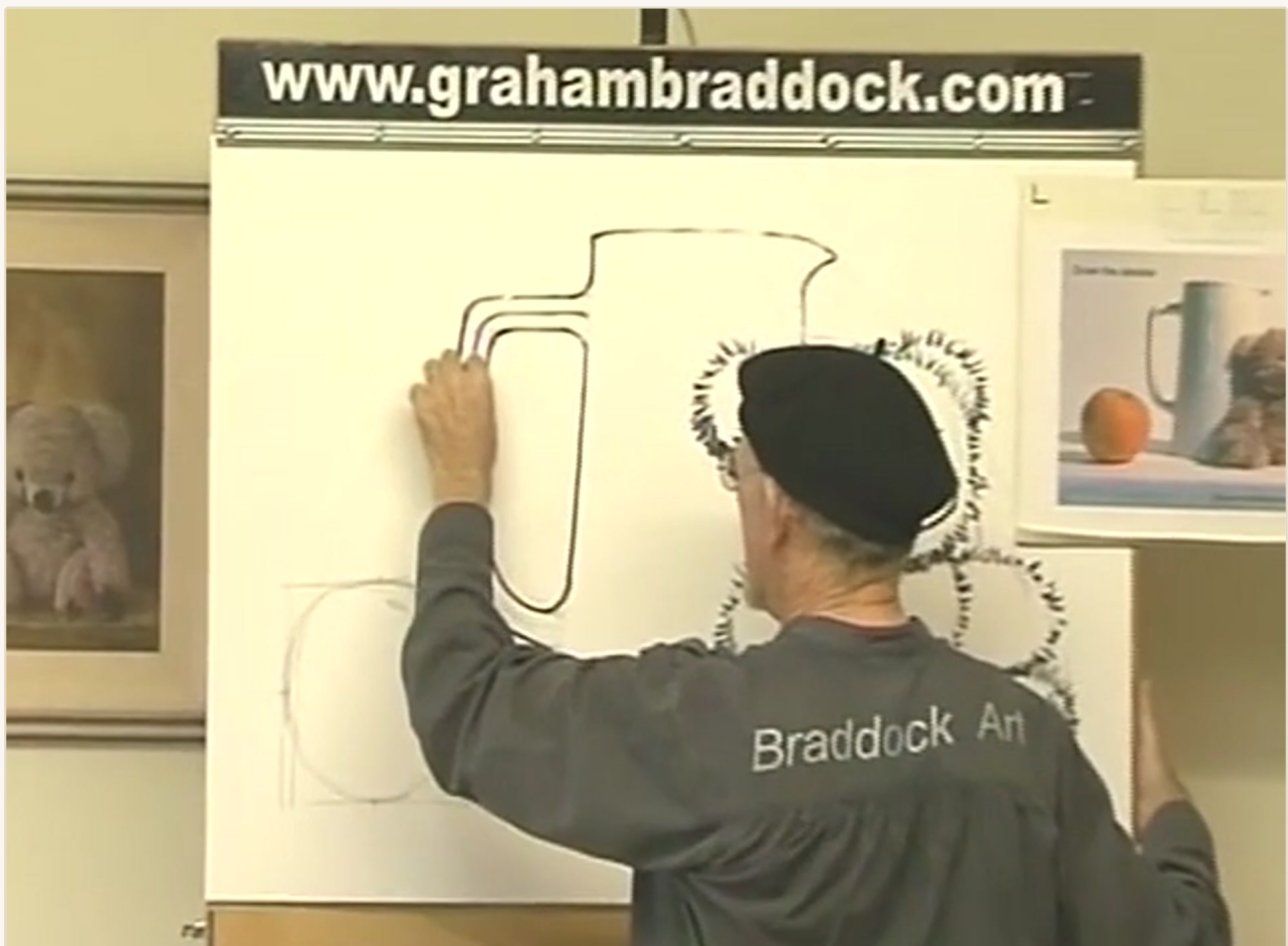
Finish the Bottom of the Jug

Line up the bottom of the jug with the side above, ensuring consistency in thickness. The jug should not appear thick in one area and skinny in another.

PRO TIP

Leave small spaces in your lines to suggest light and enhance the jug's shiny appearance.

12 Adding Details to the Orange



Draw the Handle Center

Carefully draw the center of the handle, keeping it in the middle. Ensure precision to avoid mistakes.

Add the Stalk

Draw the small knobby bit representing the stalk poking up. Imagine it as a rocket or an alien ship for a fun perspective.

Create Bumpy Texture

Draw lines back and forth to give the orange a slightly bumpy texture. Avoid making it a perfect circle to maintain the natural look of an orange.

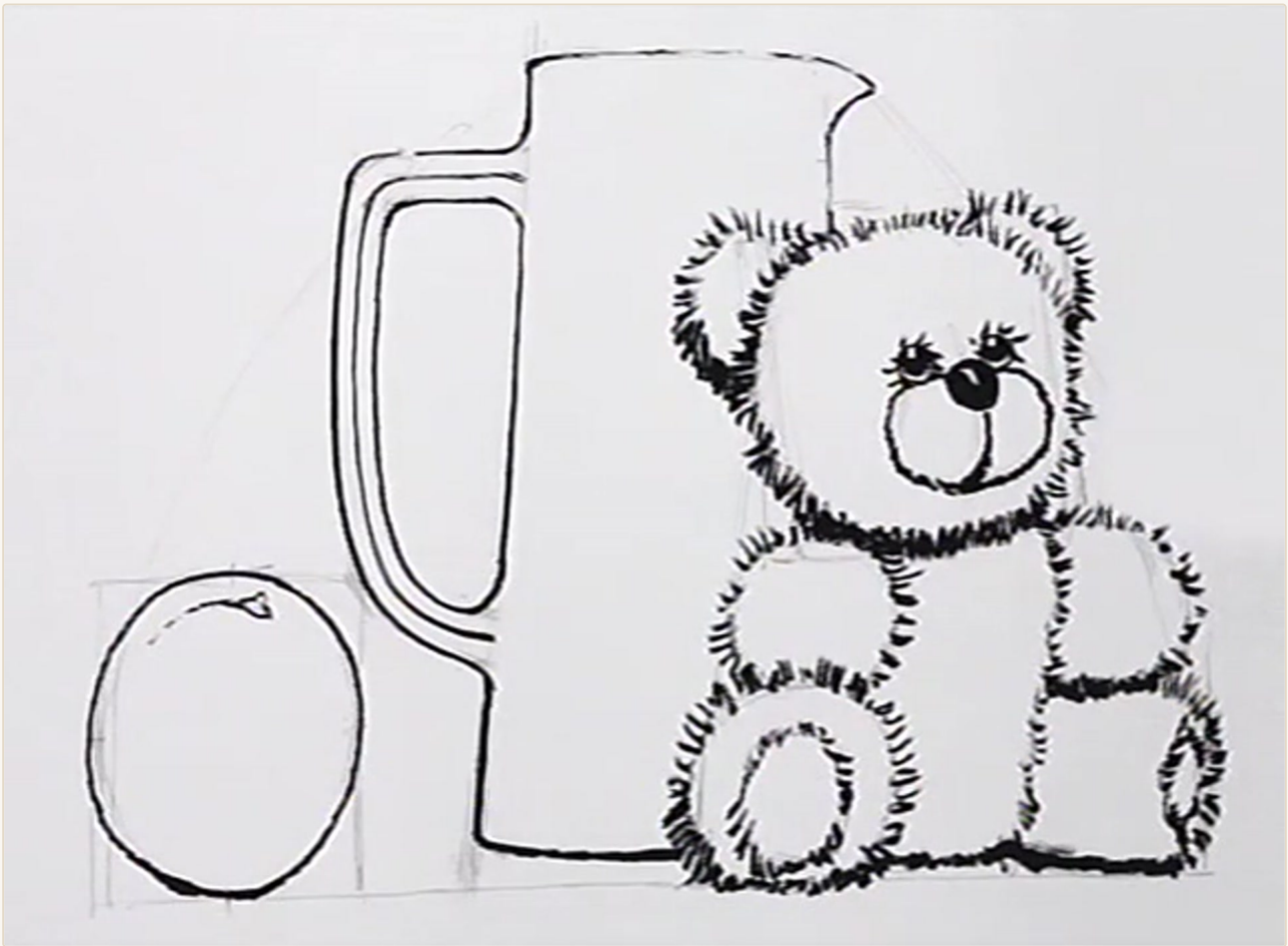
Add Crease Details

Include a small line extending from the bottom to show a crease in the orange's skin. This adds realism to the drawing.

PRO TIP

Avoid perfect circles to ensure the orange looks natural, not like a ball.

13 Adding Shadows and Final Touches



Add Fur Texture

Use the point of your 6B pencil to draw the fur. Press lightly and let the fur strokes point outwards from the face towards the outside of the head. Add shading on the underside, but don't press too hard; you can always add more later.

Shade the Ear

Focus on the lower side of the ear. Use the point of your pencil to add a few lines, keeping the shading light and subtle. This adds depth to the ear.

Use the Side of the Pencil

Turn your pencil sideways and use the side of the lead for broader shading. Apply very light shading, keeping it slightly away from the bottom edge to create a soft transition.

Create Shadows on the Jug

For the jug, use the side of your pencil to create smooth, shiny shadows just in from the edge. Keep the shading light towards the bottom as light reflects off the table. Avoid making the shadows too wide or dark.

Add Cast Shadows

Identify and add cast shadows, such as the teddy's shadow on the jug. The darkest part of the shadow should be right next to the object casting it. Use the side of your pencil and keep the pressure light.

Shade the Orange

Add a dark shadow at the bottom of the orange where it rests on the table. Leave a small space for the light reflecting off the tablecloth. Use light pressure and avoid shading the top.

Finalize with Cast Shadows

Look for additional cast shadows, like the teddy's shadow on the table. Use the side of your pencil to create these shadows, keeping them light and extending them behind the orange.

PRO TIP

Use the side of your pencil for smooth, broad shading and the point for detailed lines.

Summary & Key Takeaways

Embark on your artistic journey by honing your foundational skills with pencil work. Begin by mastering shapes, proportions, and textures, and gradually incorporate light and shade to bring your drawings to life. As you progress, introduce color to your pencil drawings to express emotion and character, and experiment with pen, wash, and pastels for added depth and detail.

Warm-up exercises are essential to train your hand-eye coordination and build confidence. Start each session by practicing simple patterns, focusing on accurate replication and proportion. This preparation will enhance your control and precision as you move on to more complex subjects, such as still lifes and detailed compositions.

As you refine your drawing, pay attention to the big shapes and sub-shapes within your subject. Use light lines to sketch and adjust proportions, and gradually add details and textures. Remember to incorporate shadows and highlights to enhance the three-dimensional quality of your work. With practice and patience, your drawings will become more expressive and realistic.

LESSON POINTS TO REMEMBER

- Start with pencil to build foundational skills.
- Always begin with a warm-up exercise to improve control.
- Use your fingers to measure consistent distances.
- Measure new elements against existing shapes for accuracy.
- Use halfway marks to guide curves for perfect circles.
- Draw lightly to allow for easy adjustments.
- Leave spaces between lines where light hits for texture.
- Avoid perfect circles to maintain a natural look.