

1. It is fine to draw from your imagination or to copy other people's pictures.

It is perfectly OK to do cartoon-like drawings. I have no problem with that.

Lots of people think a picture is good only if it looks like a photograph.

But the trouble with a photo is that it shows everything there is as well as what particularly interests you.

If you want to draw what you see with your own eyes you need to know how to look. Because, actually, it's impossible to draw accurately something you can't see accurately with your eyes.

So knowing how to look carefully before you draw is very important.



2. Take a look at this elephant ..... Look at his tusks. Are they lighter darker than the grass behind them?..

How many people say lighter?.....How many say darker?

But look at the bottom of his legs... are they darker ? or lighter than the water behind them?.....Who says they are darker? I agree with them. To my eye they look darker at that point.

Now look at the top of the elephant's back... Can you see it because it is lighter or darker than the blue sky?... That's easy, the back is lighter.

But why can you see the edge the elephant's stomach? Is it darker or lighter than what is behind it?

But now look at the side of his ear.Is that bit darker or lighter than the ear's shadow? What about the top of his tail, Lighter or darker?





3. Now look at this camel. Look at the top of his neck... Is it darker ? or lighter than the blue sky behind it?

And now the bottom of his neck... is that darker or lighter than what's behind it?

Are the top of his back legs lighter or darker than the sand behind them?..... What about the bottom of his back legs ... Darker or lighter than the sand?

**So you see, the reason you can see the edge of things is because they are either darker or lighter than what's behind or next to them.**

So when you run your eye along an object it is often darker in some places than what's behind it and sometimes lighter.





4. Look at this photo of a lioness. You can't see her legs because they are deep in the long grass so you wouldn't draw them because you can't see them.

And what you can see of her isn't really very much because her fur in a lot of places is practically the same colours the grass

.... the top left of her head between the ears,....just behind her dark shoulders the same. Her back haunches ... no contrast in all these places. They look to me to be about the same tone.

If there is no contrast there you shouldn't put a line in your picture to indicate something you can't actually see.

This often happens. That's how things really often look.





5. Look at this Polar bear. You can see a contrast at the side of his face on the left...

but what about his bottom on the right. is there a contrast there?

I can't see much contrast between his back legs so don't draw a line there just because you know he must have two legs.

So the rule for drawing a true picture is only put in lines where you can see a contrast.

If there are bits where there is no contrast don't put it in. Leave it out.







6. Look hard at this Rhinoceros.

Which bits are darker than what's behind him?

.. and which bits of him are lighter?

Which bits, if any, are pretty well the same colour as what behind him?

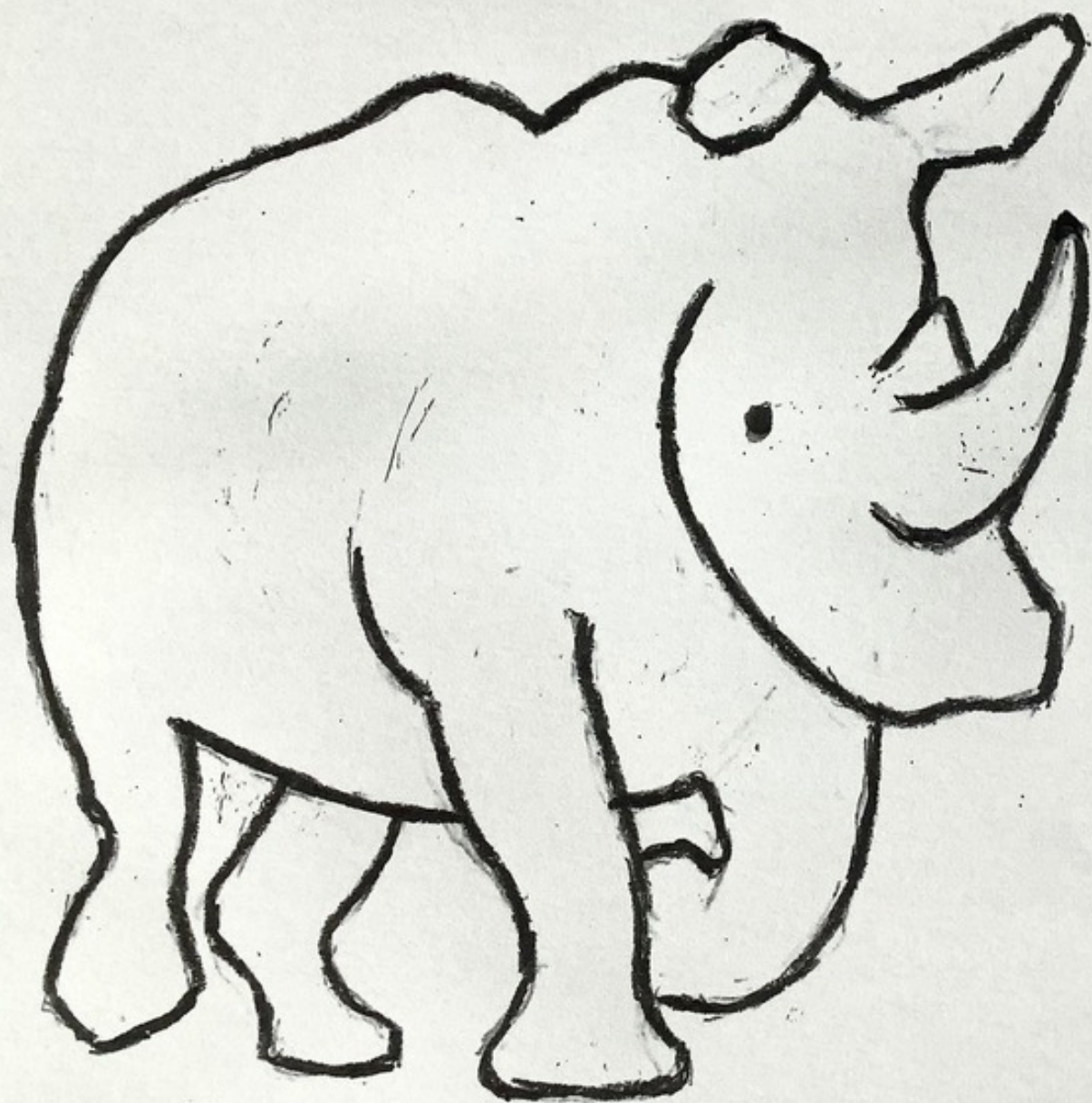
To my eye there doesn't seem to be on the left of his back leg

And there doesn't seem much contrast between above his eye and the dust behind.

Let's look at two ways of drawing a rhinoceros.

First a continuous even outline all around him. (show card 7 line only)





7.

Now compare this continuous even outline to the next drawing which uses thick lines of shading to indicate the points of great contrast very thin marks, or none at all, indicating where there is little or no contrast.





8.

...how much livelier it looks to me.

I believe this is a much truer record of what the eye actually sees.

**So in reality there are no lines around things in nature we see everything as bits appearing as either dark against light or light against dark.**

What do you think?

Here is a drawing tip....



9.

It is often difficult to shade with a pencil as on the left.... and much easier to use a soft black crayon like an oil pastel ..as shown on the right....which makes shading much quicker.

You can use the very edge of the crayon to easily make lines thick or thin to indicate the strength of a contrast you can see.

**Now look around the room we are in and check that indeed everything you look at is either darker or lighter than what is behind it.....**

If you can manage to sort the contrasts out in whatever you are trying to draw **your drawing will be really true to life.**





