

Exercise walk-through

1.1

**Line**

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AP 2-D Art and Design

# Line – a moving point the eye follows

The **elements of art** are the visual building blocks. The first is **line**.

- it has **length and direction**
- it has **quality**: thick/thin, smooth/rough, continuous/broken
- **contour** traces edges;  
**gesture** captures movement
- **implied lines** are suggested, not drawn



*Expressive line quality carries feeling*

# Line varies in weight and character; shapes

## Line qualities



AP Art 2-D · Elements · line qualities + geometric vs organic shapes

## Shapes: geometric vs organic



geometric — regular, mechanical



organic — free, natural

Line varies in weight and character; shapes are either geometric (regular) or organic (natural)

# A line has length and direction

## Straight

Rigid and stable; verticals feel upright and formal, horizontals calm.

## Curved

Flowing; the eye follows it, so a curve carries movement across the page.

## Angular

Sharp changes of direction – energy, tension, sometimes conflict.

## Freeform

Irregular and organic, closer to how things grow than how they are built.

Every line has **length and direction**. In a written response, name the type *and* say what its direction does to the viewer's eye.

## Direction carries feeling



**calm**

horizontal



**strong**

vertical



**active**

diagonal

Artists use line to build shape, shade **value** (hatching), imply **texture**, and **lead the eye**.

## Exercises 2.1·2.2

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**2.1** Quick, loose lines that capture a figure's movement are

[1]

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**A** contour lines

**B** gesture lines

**C** implied lines

**D** cross-hatching

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**2.2** Explain how cross-hatching creates darker values.

[2]

## Exercises 2.1·2.2

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**2.1** Quick, loose lines that capture a figure's movement are

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**A** contour lines

**B** gesture lines

**C** implied lines

**D** cross-hatching

**2.1 B**

- loose movement-capturing lines are gesture lines

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**2.2** Explain how cross-hatching creates darker values.

[2]

**2.2**

- crossed sets of parallel lines are layered; the denser the lines, the darker the area appears

## Exercise 2.3

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**2.3** State one way varying line weight helps a drawing. [1]

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### 3 Studio & portfolio tasks

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**3.1** Make a small **line study** of a single object (e.g. your hand or a cup).

(a) Draw a **contour** version using one continuous edge line. [2]

(b) Draw a **hatched** version building at least three values. [2]

**3.2** Plan a line-based idea for your portfolio.

(a) Write one sentence on the mood you want the line quality to create. [1]

(b) Sketch a thumbnail showing varied line weight. [2]

## Exercise 2.3

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**2.3** State one way varying line weight helps a drawing.

[1]

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### 3 Studio & portfolio tasks

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**3.1** Make a small **line study** of a single object (e.g. your hand or a cup).

(a) Draw a **contour** version using one continuous edge line.

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**3.2** Plan a line-based idea for your portfolio.

(a) Write one sentence on the mood you want the line quality to create.

[1]

(b) Sketch a thumbnail showing varied line weight.

[2]

### 2.3

- it leads the viewer's eye / suggests depth or emphasis

## Full solution 2.3

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### 2.3

- it leads the viewer's eye / suggests depth or emphasis

### 3.1

- Look for: a controlled continuous contour that follows the true edge (2); clear light/mid/values built only from hatching density (2)

### 3.2

- Look for: mood named and matched to described line quality (1); thumbnail shows deliberate thick/thin variation leading the eye (2)