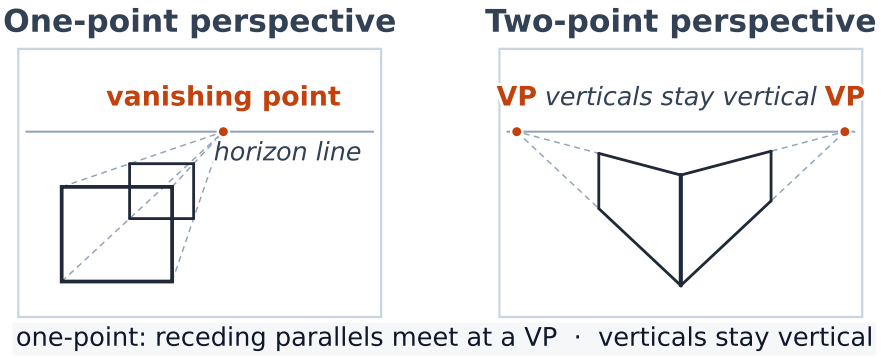
Exercise walk-through

3.4 Foreshortening

AP Drawing

What we will cover

1. Measuring & sighting
2. One-point perspective
3. Two- & three-point
4. Foreshortening
5. Atmospheric perspective
6. Composition
7. Figure & portrait



one-point: receding parallels meet at a VP · verticals stay vertical

Foreshortening

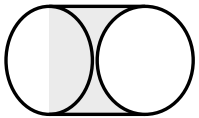
Foreshortening is perspective applied to a single form pointing toward you – lengths compress dramatically.

- a pointing arm may appear one-third of its true length
- draw the apparent shape, not the length you know
- overlap is the key signal: hand over forearm, forearm over upper arm
- think in **cross-sections** – rings around the form

> Memory lies, observation tells the truth – measure foreshortened lengths by sighting.



side on: full length



pointing at you:
one-third the length

Exam tips

- **Perspective errors are the easiest mistakes for a scorer to spot** – check every depth line actually aims at its vanishing point before you render.
- **Include one strong observational space** (an interior, a stairwell, a street) in the portfolio: it demonstrates the *space* skill the rubric names, unmistakably.
- **Foreshortening is high-value evidence.** One convincing foreshortened limb or object tells scorers you draw what you see, not what you remember.
- **Crop like a designer.** Before starting, test three viewfinder crops and pick the one with the strongest negative space – composition is judged at first glance.
- **Use atmospheric perspective in graphite too**, not just paint: softening far edges with a kneaded eraser is quick and reads as skill.

Exercises 2.1·2.2

2.1 A strongly foreshortened pointing arm may appear about [1]

- **A** nine-tenths of its length
- **B** one-third of its length
- **C** double its length
- **D** exactly half, always

2.2 Why does a correctly foreshortened form often look ’too short’? [2]

Exercises 2.1·2.2

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- **A** nine-tenths of its length
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- **D** exactly half, always

2.1 B

- compression is dramatic and angle-dependent

2.2 Why does a correctly foreshortened form often look ’too short’? [2]

2.2

- the eye expects the known length; real compression along the view axis makes it much shorter than memory expects

Exercise 2.3

2.3 Name the key depth signal in a foreshortened limb. [1]

3 Studio & portfolio tasks

3.1 Make a **foreshortening study** of a limb or object pointing at you.

(a) Draw the apparent compressed shape, using overlaps between parts. [3]

(b) Add light cross-section rings to show how it turns toward you. [1]

3.2

() Draw a figure or object seen end-on (e.g. feet-first), measured by sighting. [2]

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Full solution on next slide

Full solution 2.3

2.3

- overlap between the parts

3.1

- clear compression; overlaps read as depth; cross-section rings describe the turn; the form points convincingly at the viewer

3.2

- strong end-on foreshortening; proportions measured, not guessed