

# Basic Drawing Exercises

This series of exercises is designed to get you more comfortable with some basic drawing techniques that will serve you well as you begin to grow as an artist.

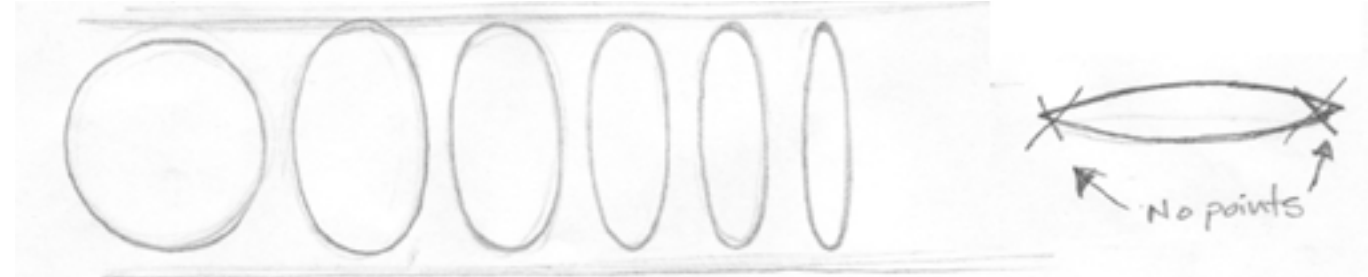
**Pencil Control** – Divide a piece of paper up into about 5 rows. Across the first row practice making short straight lines that fade from bold to light. Work in groups of about 5 lines (alternate groups horizontal and vertical). Continue each row with the following; bold-light-bold, light-bold-light, figure eights, alternating bold and light figure eights.



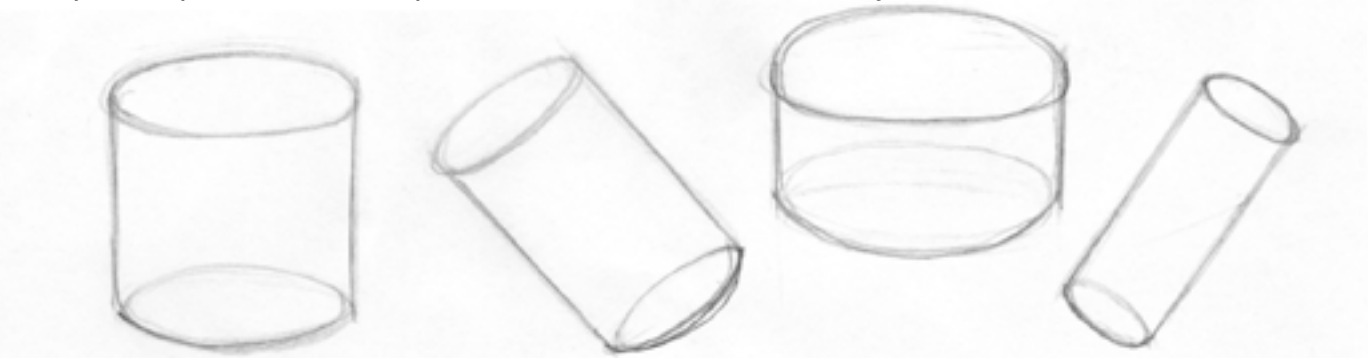
**Perfect Circles** – Fill a page with circles, lots of them. Let them overlap and draw anywhere from a quarter to tennis ball sizes. Warm up your hand by lightly making a circular motion then commit to one clean line.



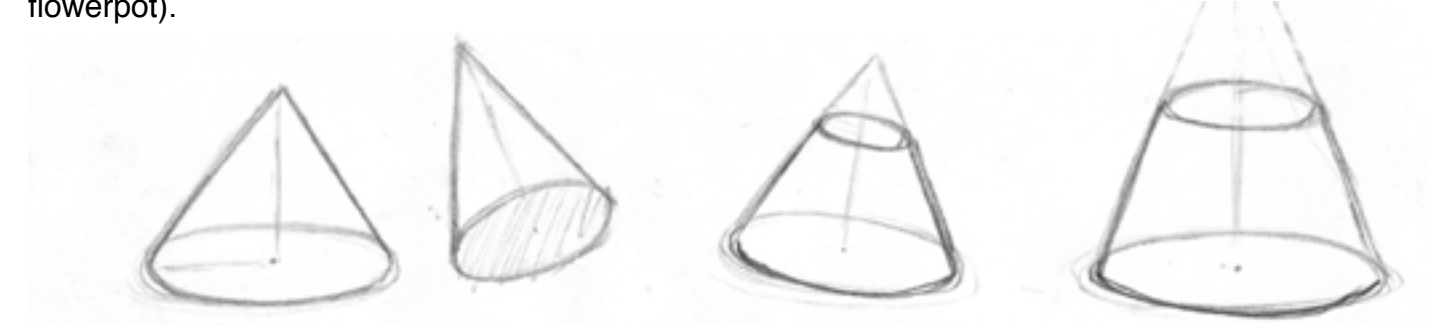
**Ellipses** – An ellipse is basically a circle seen from an angle. Draw a row of “perfect” circles at the top of your page. Below each circle you draw 4-5 ellipses that get more and more narrow each move toward the bottom of the page. The ellipses should get “flatter” but the width of each should stay the same as the original circle.



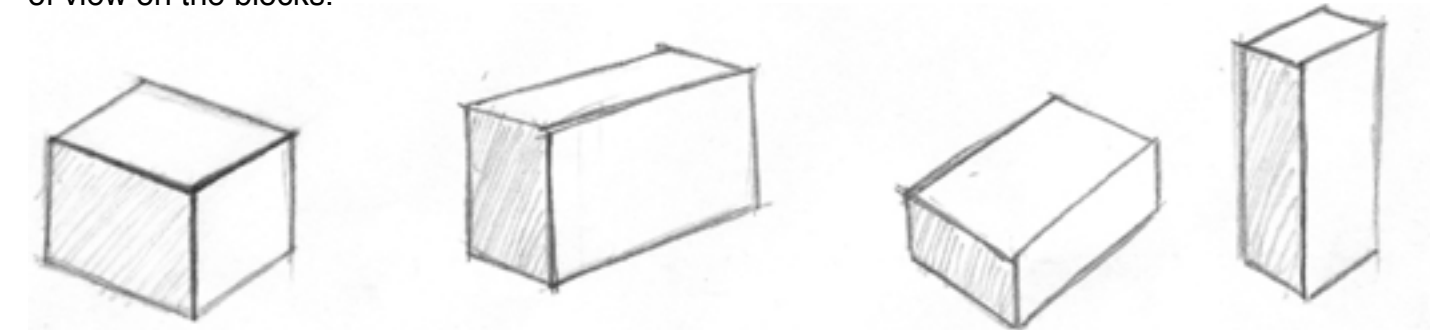
**Cylinders** – In a two-dimensional drawing a cylinder is essentially two ellipses connected by parallel lines. Practice drawing a variety of cylinders. Some can be wide, narrow, tall, short, etc, but remember to keep the top and bottom ellipses similar for each individual cylinder.



**Cones** – Cones are made from an ellipse and lines from each side that meet to form the point of the cone. Repeat the cylinder exercise with the cone form. If you’re feeling confident try “cutting off” the top of some of the cones to create a shape that is in-between a cone and a cylinder (ex. lampshade or flowerpot).



**Cubes and Rectangles** – Draw a page of rectangular blocks in a variety of sizes and proportions. Experiment with the angles you use to create the sides. Notice how these angles determine your point of view on the blocks.



**Combining Forms** – Many everyday objects are made of these basic forms. It takes some practice to train your eye to “see” them within complex objects, but it will be extremely helpful once you learn it. Start with some simple everyday objects (ex. soda can, textbook, bottle etc), and then work up to objects that are more challenging (ex. lamp, chair, pepper mill, etc.). Start sketching the objects with the forms you’ve just practiced and then add details to make them look like the actual object.

