

College Guild
PO Box 696, Brunswick, ME 04011

FUNDAMENTALS OF DRAWING

Unit 1 of 4

Everyone Can Draw!

Welcome to College Guild's Fundamentals of Drawing course with the focus on the “fun” in fundamentals. As the title suggests, this is all about your imagination, so there are no right or wrong answers. Obviously it’s challenging to teach a basic drawing course without real demonstration, though we hope we’ve done well enough that you can follow each section. Volunteer "readers" will be giving you specific feedback.

Guidelines for all College Guild courses:

- 1. **Answer all the questions that are in bold print, using black or blue ink or dark pencil if possible.** After we receive and review your completed Unit, we will send you feedback from your reader along with your original work and the next Unit. You don't need to return the questions – it saves us both postage.
- 2. There is no **specific deadline** to complete any Unit, but we would get concerned if we hadn't heard back from you after two months.
- 3. Remember how often the mail service loses things. **If you don't hear back from us after a month, please write to make sure we received your Unit** and sent out the next one.

Let us know if you need a dictionary, free to students who complete the first unit.

Have you always enjoyed sketching and doodling, but maybe haven't tried your hand at real drawing techniques before? If you answer “yes” to that, you're among the vast majority of people. Most people draw as soon as they can hold a crayon and then continue drawing enthusiastically throughout their childhoods. Somewhere along the way, however, far too often something occurs which gives them a strong message that “I can't draw”. This course intends to radically change that self-perception if it's yours.

Drawing well is something anyone can learn with basic instruction and lots of practice. You'll feel a great sense of accomplishment when you see how quickly your abilities can develop. You may be surprised to discover that after you learn some of the basics of drawing, you can apply those concepts to draw just about anything.

To get the most from this course, we encourage you to try to lose your “perfectionist” mode and enter the “practice” mode. While practice may not make perfect, it will definitely improve your results.

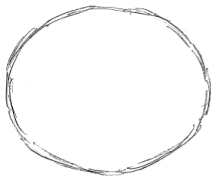
Drawing is much more than creating a good product. It's a healthy and fulfilling experience in itself. Drawing is satisfying on so many levels – mentally, physiologically, emotionally and socially. When you draw, you have the opportunity to physically recreate what you see.

In this course you'll discover strategies you can use to transform three-dimensional objects into believable two-dimensional illusions. You'll find out how to use shading to render light and shadow as they move across objects to create a complete and balanced drawing with a convincing sense of depth. You'll learn how to use the guidelines of perspective to accurately create the images you see.

What's usually called "talent" when it comes to drawing is actually a heightened sensitivity to visual facts, which, luckily for you, is something anyone can develop. "Seeing" well and accurately is far more essential than what you end up doing with the pencil in your hand. If you know how to see and make comparisons, you have what it takes to draw.

Let's start by learning about the difference between drawing and "sketching". Sketching is the process of making many little or small lines, the opposite of drawing one line without stopping.

Exercise #1: Try to draw a perfect circle on your paper without lifting your pencil. Finished? It's likely that your circle isn't perfect at all, because this is really difficult. Now try to draw a circle with many small lines. They can be overlapping, they can be really messy. They might look something like these:

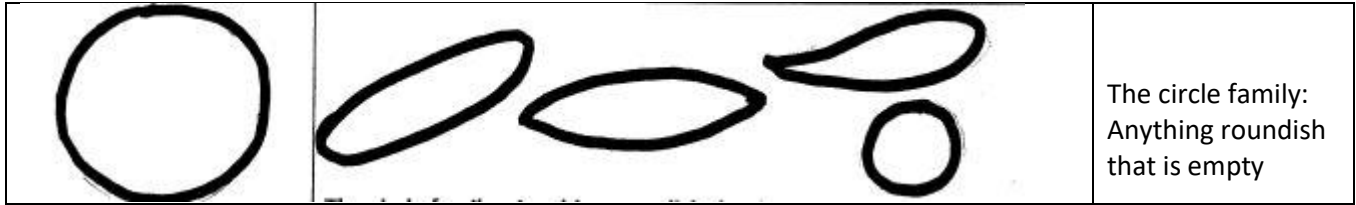


Once you've sketched the basic shape, you can "refine" your drawing of the circle by making the right shape darker and then erasing those little lines that aren't within the actual circle. Sketching requires you to let go of your need for perfection. You need to get used to messy lines and just have a bit of fun with it.

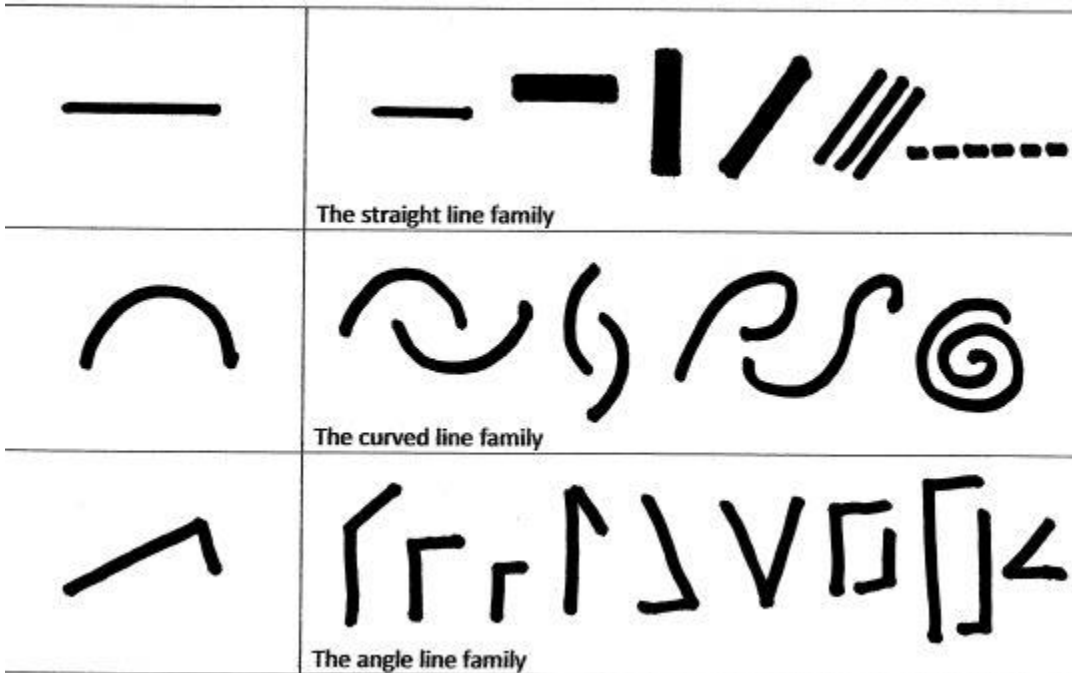
It's worth repeating that drawing well is all about seeing accurately. When you're about to begin a drawing, it helps to visually look for basic shapes within the object you're drawing. How many basic shapes would you guess there are? Good news – there are only five! Let's see what they are:

THE DOT AND CIRCLE FAMILY

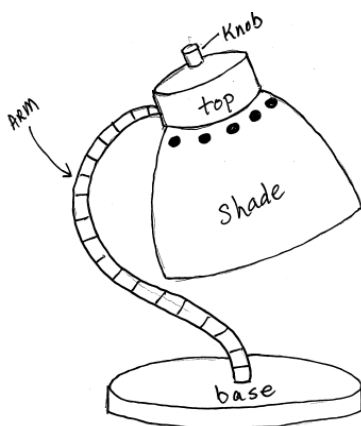
		<p>The dot family: Anything roundish that is colored or filled in</p>



THE LINE FAMILY



Now let's look at the drawing of a goose-neck lamp and see if we can discover the five basic shapes within it.



Exercise #2: Without looking ahead quite yet, write down all the basic shapes you can find in this drawing on your paper.

Here are some that you might have found:

Dots: Base of the lamp, the holes at the top of the shade

Circles: Opening of the lamp shade

Straight line: Line from silver knob to the lamp, line from the top of the base to the bottom, each line on the arm

Curved line: Arm of the lamp

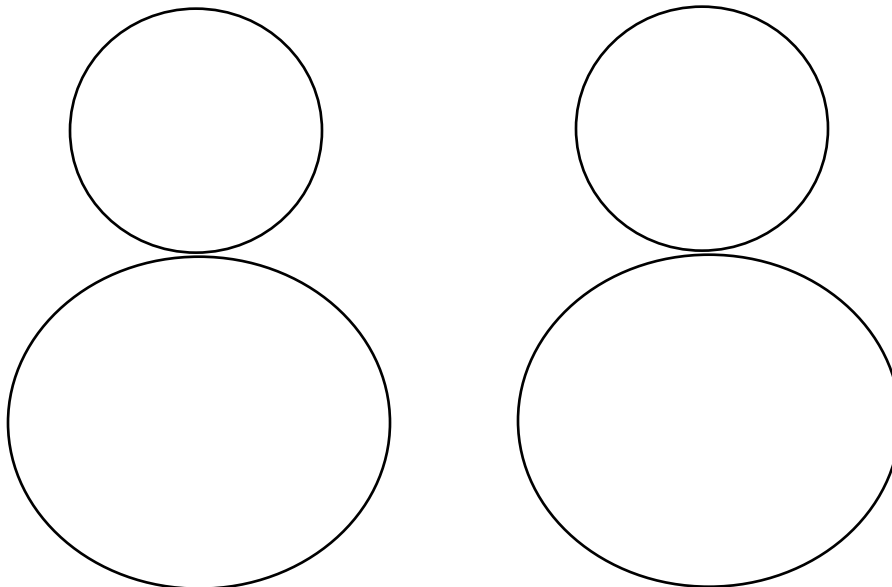
Angle line: Silver knob to the top of lamp, arm to base

As you can see, all five shapes are in this lamp.

Exercise #3: Sketch this goose-neck lamp by imagining it in another position. While you sketch it, think about each of the five basic shapes. Once you've completed your sketch, refine your drawing by erasing any lines that you don't like, and then go over the lines you're more satisfied with and darken them a bit.

Exercise #4: Look at your surroundings and try to find something that contains as many of the five basic shapes as you can. It might be a piece of clothing. It could be a clock or maybe your toothbrush. Once you find it, identify the five shapes, take it apart mentally, and then try to sketch it, focusing on those shapes. After sketching it, list all of the five basic shapes you identified.

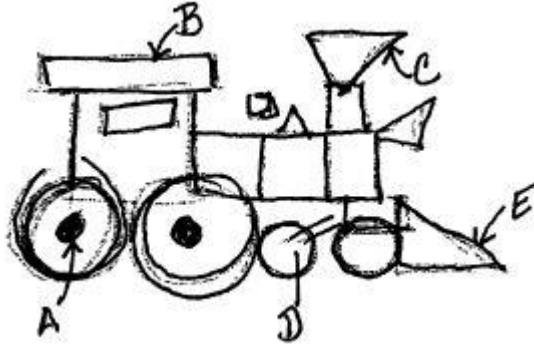
Ultimately every drawing is some combination of one or more of these shapes. For our next exercise, let's think about a piece of fruit, in this case a pear. Notice in this drawing we've broken it down into two circles, two curved lines that make up the stem and a short straight line that makes up the top of the stem.



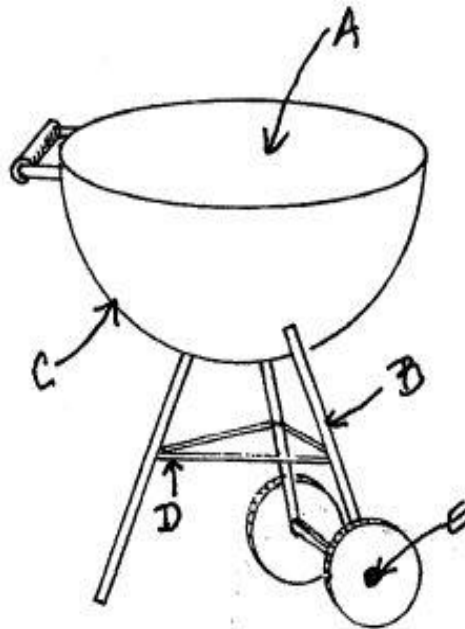
Exercise #5: Sketch (don't draw!) the two circles you see above, as well as the stem. Once you've finished, and "refined" the sketch by erasing the short lines you don't think are working well, then combine the elements by drawing the outline and erasing the interior lines. Look what you've drawn – a pear!

Exercise #6: For each drawing below, identify the basic shapes that are identified with a letter from A to E. Then name them (for example, the wheel of the train) and list them on your paper as the basic shape each one is.

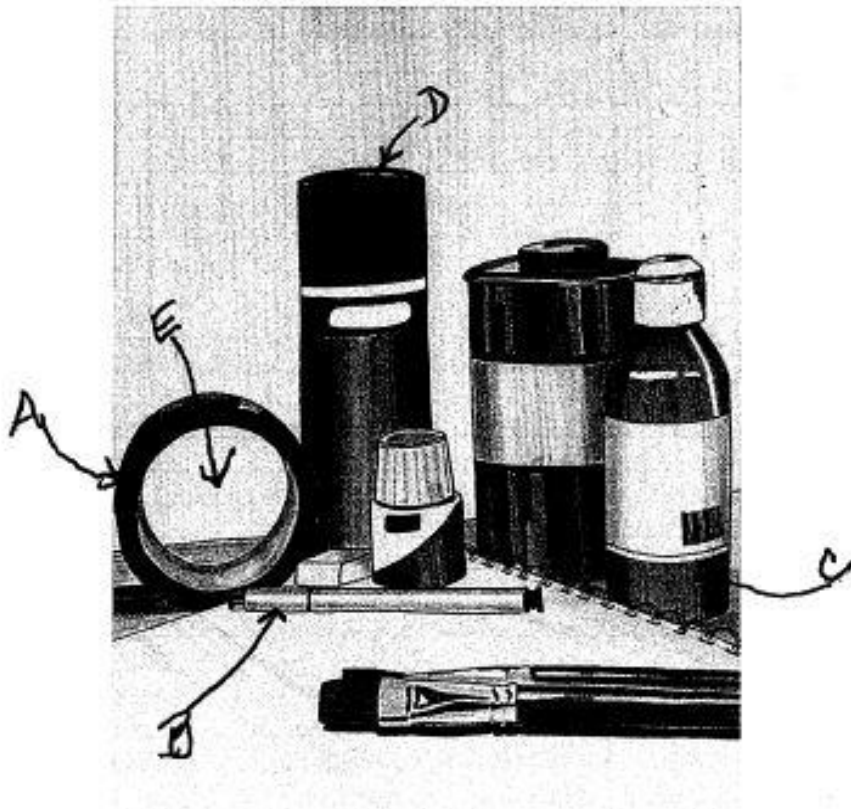
Drawing #1 (We'll start with an easy one!):



Drawing #2



Drawing #3: By following the arrows in this assortment of makeup items, you'll see that we've labeled some of the shapes with a letter from A to E. On your paper beside each letter, identify what basic shape each is:



References:

1. Drawing on the Right Side of Your Brain, 2012, Betty Edwards
2. Drawing for Dummies, 2011, Jamie Combs and Brenda Hoddinott
3. Drawing for Older Children and Teens, 1991, Mona Brookes

Remember: First names only & please let us know if your address changes