

Ten ways to draw with accuracy

- *Learn to see.* Draw what you can actually see, not what you think is there
- *Keep moving!* Develop the entire drawing at the same time, don't focus on one part for too long
- *Measured drawing.* Use a pencil at arms length to take measurements. Look for angles as well as lengths. Look for a convenient unit of measurement.
- *Plumb lines.* Extend the horizontal and vertical lines from one object to another so that you can see how they relate to each other.
- *Negative shapes.* Learn to see and draw abstract negative shapes. If the negatives aren't right, then neither are the positives.
- *Use your logic.* Wheels on a car have to be joined by a straight axle, and hands have no more than four fingers and a thumb. Always check the obvious!
- *Turn your drawing upside down.* This will give you a completely new perspective on what you have drawn, and errors are easy to spot. You can even draw your picture upside down for greater accuracy.
- *Reverse the image.* Look at your picture in a mirror and the faults will jump out at you!
- *Stand back.* View your drawing from a few feet away to see where corrections need to be made. After all, this is the distance from which most people will view your picture. Stand back often as you are drawing, don't keep right up close to the paper.
- *Take a break.* Come back to your picture after an hour, a day or even several weeks to see it through fresh eyes.

Finally, remember that if you are drawing for fun, or are learning a new technique, the process is more important than the finished picture. So enjoy the process, and however your picture turns out you will have succeeded!

To find out more about these ten steps, take my online drawing course at www.learntodo.co.uk