

# THE SECRETS TO DRAWING

## VIDEO COURSE

### Video 2: Line

**Line** is one of the seven elements of art. In terms of art, line is a moving dot. Line has a variety of uses and functions. It can be used by artists to create the illusion of movement, show where objects begin and end, create the illusion of value and shadow, and create the illusion of form. Understanding line and its uses in drawing is the first step to drawing better.



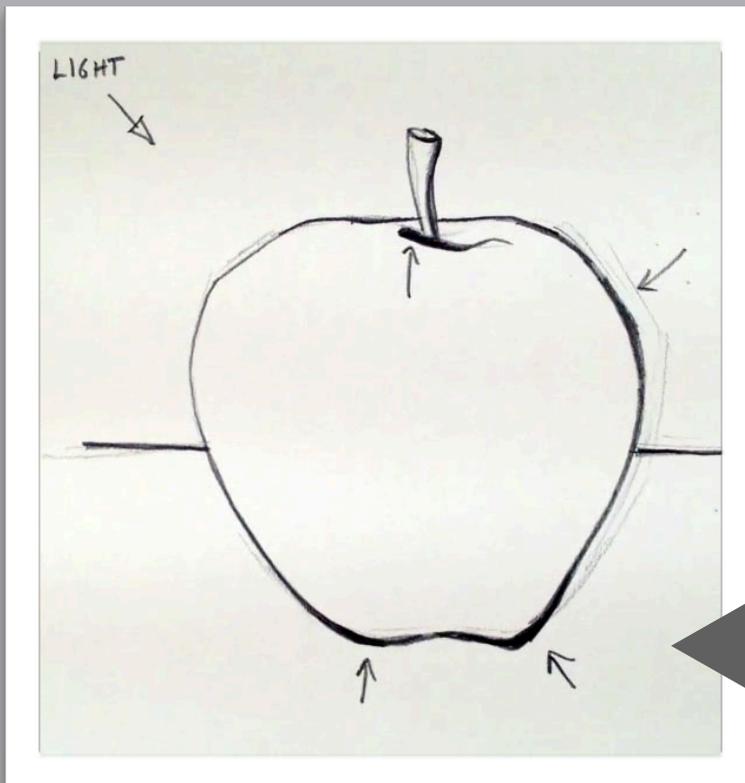
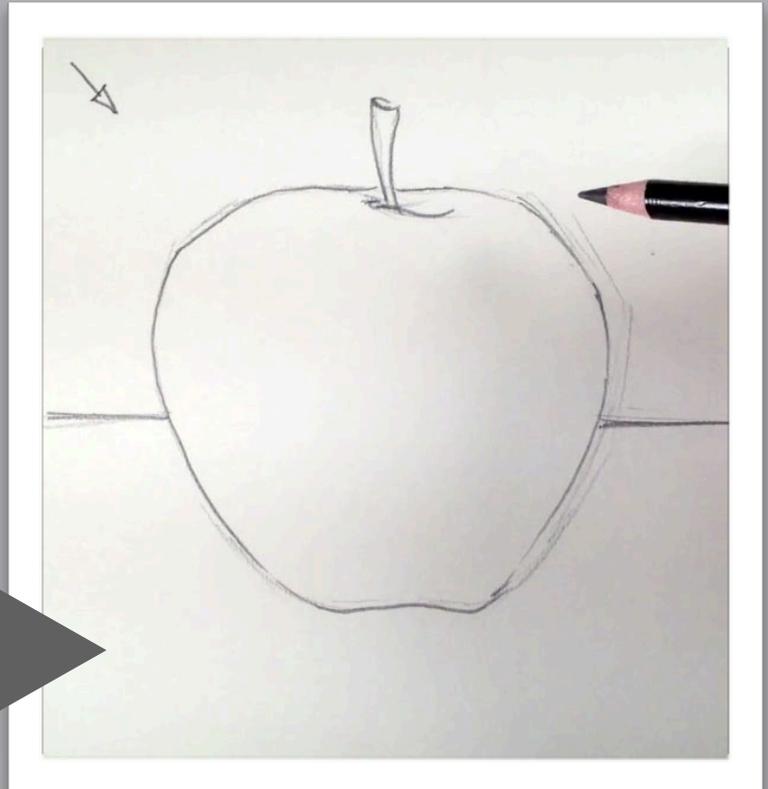
Begin experimenting with line by simply making as many different lines as you can think up using a drawing pencil. Hold the pencil in different ways and use the side of the pencil to create unique marks.

# Using Line in Drawings

A line has many functions. One of its primary functions in drawing is informing a viewer where an object begins or ends. It can also inform us of details that may exist on that object. These lines are called contour lines.

**Contour lines** are the outlines of an object. These include the lines that may exist on the inside of the object. Contour lines are usually actual observed lines, but can also be lines that are perceived because of a contrast in value.

A drawing that is created using only the outlines of an object is called a contour line drawing.



Line drawings become more interesting and informative when we use a variety of lines and line widths. **Line quality** refers to the thickness or thinness of a line.

By varying the line quality, we can create the illusion of form and shadow. If we make the contour lines thicker in areas of shadow, or where our object gets wider, we can create this illusion.

Adding line quality to a drawing also adds some variety to the drawing. Variety adds interest to an image and makes it more engaging to viewers.

**Blind Contour Line Drawing** - A blind contour line drawing is created by drawing an object's contour lines (outlines) while looking at the object 100% of the time. The artist uses one continuous line to complete the drawing. It is best to start at a location on the object with your eyes and slowly move your pencil at the same speed that you move your pencil over the drawing surface. Blind contour line drawings will improve hand-eye coordination.



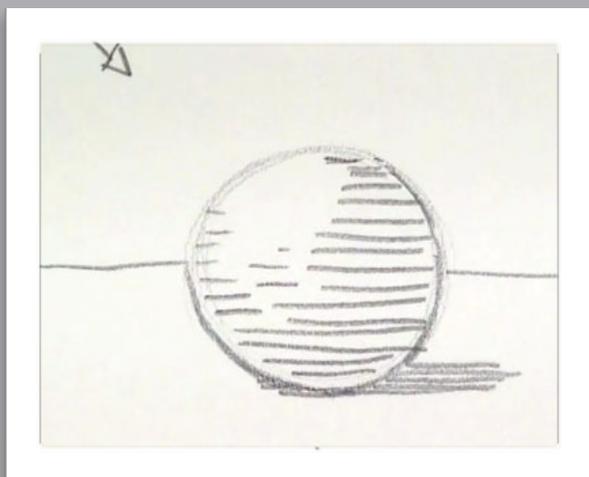
**Contour Line Drawing** - After some practice with blind contour line drawing, you are ready to draw the contours of the same object by observing the object 50% of the time. Remember - "Drawing is at least 50% observation". Move your eyes back and forth from the object to the paper, and record the information that you observe on your object in your drawing. Use only contour lines in this exercise.



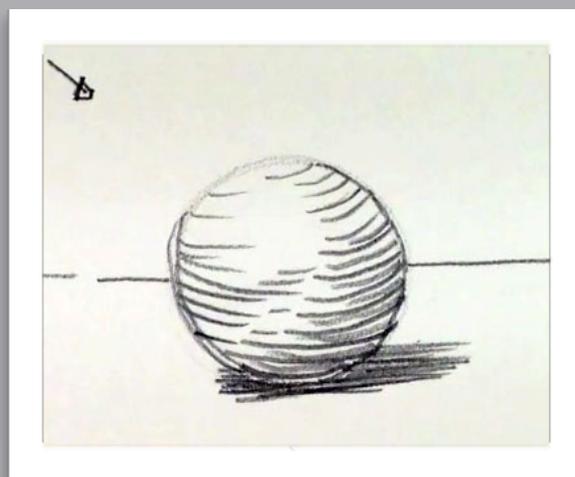
**Enhance the Line Quality** - Now pay special attention to areas on your object where the object may become thicker or may have areas of shadow. On your contour line drawing, enhance the line quality by making the lines in these areas thicker. Doing this will make your drawing more interesting by creating the illusion of form and value and add a bit of variety to the image.



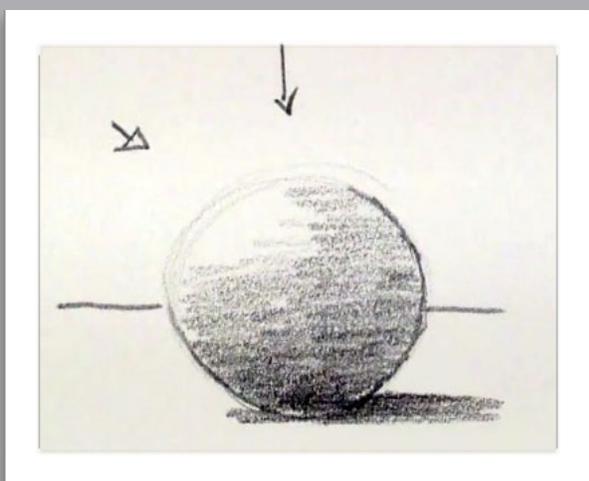
**Cross contour lines** are real or implied lines that follow the form of the object. Cross contour lines are important in drawing because they help artists understand the direction that strokes should be made when applying material. Cross contour lines can be used to indicate shadow and create the illusion of form.



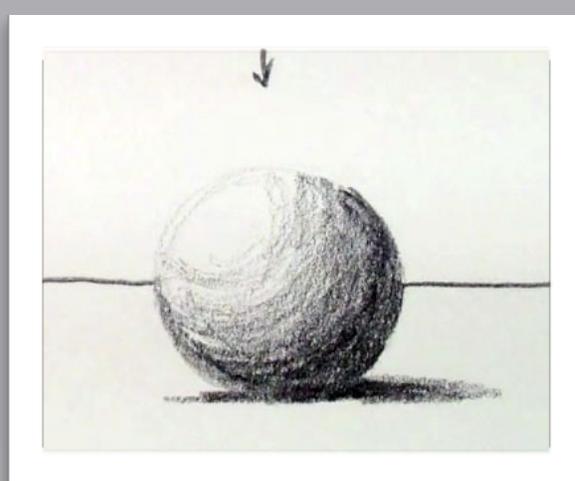
In the example above, no consideration is given to the cross contour lines. Although the hatching in the drawing is describing the shadow and light, it is doing little to describe the form of the object.



In the example above, the cross contour lines have been considered and the hatching marks conform to the form of object. In this case, the hatching in the drawing is describing the shadow, light, and form.



Above, the blending is added using straight strokes. Although it informs us of the shadow and light. The illusion of form could be improved.



By adding the blending with consideration to the cross contour lines, the illusion of form is improved.