



HOW TO DRAW CARTOON PEOPLE - 4

Body Proportions

When drawing cartoon people, correct human proportions are not necessarily that important. In fact, you can throw all the rules out of the window to create bizarrely shaped people to suit the characters you are creating.

But remember our definition of Cartoon is:

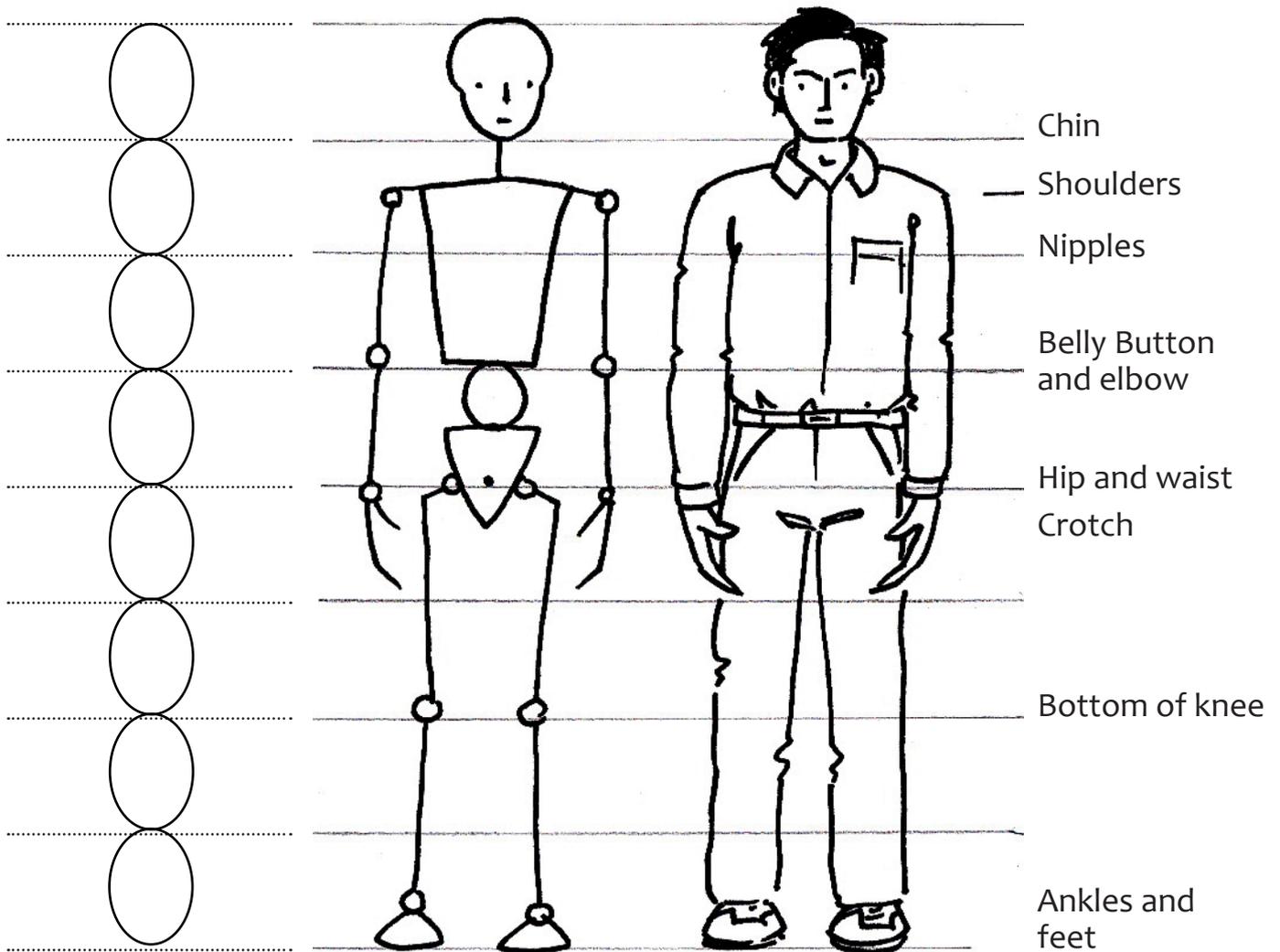
A simple, two dimensional drawing.

That means we can draw representational, life-like people as well as weirdly proportioned characters.

The classic proportion set out by the Ancient Greeks and Romans is 9 heads in the height of the body. Their statues tended to be of Gods, Emperors and Heroes and they were trying to impress the plebs and their enemies.

Superman and other modern heroes tend to be on the 9 heads scale too.

Mortal adults are generally about 8 heads high.



Adult Male
8 head units

8:1 proportion.



Remember that the measurements are proportional.

An adult male the same height as a 14 year old boy will still be about 8 heads high while a 14 year old will be about 7.5 heads high - They would be the same height but made up with different proportions.

Adult women are generally shorter than men, but they still follow the average 8 heads rule. Different height, but the same proportions.

Some adults can have very large heads in proportion to their bodies and vice versa. The 8heads to one proportions are not rules they are guides for average adult bodies.

When planning your drawing, you can decide on the size of head you want in your drawing and build the body “downwards” or choose the space that you have and split it into eight. Half, half and half again.

Realistic or Caricature?

Cartoon drawing is often thought to be caricature, but idea of a “Simple, Two dimensional drawing,” can be applied to realistic drawings too. Cartoon drawings can follow human body proportions for realism, or the rules can be thrown out in favour of Caricature.

Caricature or character drawings put the emphasis on drawing out the character of the person in the drawing, so they may have enormous long arms or a giant head and small body. All the proportions are elastic - almost anything goes.

If you want to do character drawing, some time spent drawing and understanding realistic proportions with pay dividends in the long run.

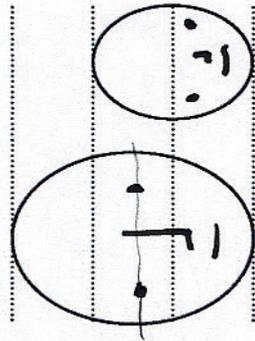
Maybe look out for a local Life Drawing class or find a good book on anatomy for artists.

Over leaf is a copy of the drawing in the video and a blank sheet for you to print out.

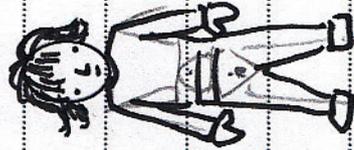
Have fun working this out. The more you practice these proportions, the more they will come naturally to you and you won't have to work them out each time.

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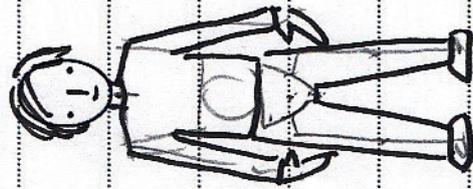
Rough Body Proportions - These are the drawings in the accompanying video



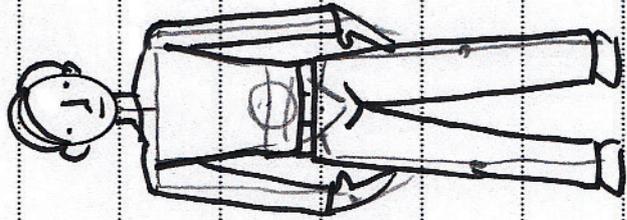
15 Years - 1 year



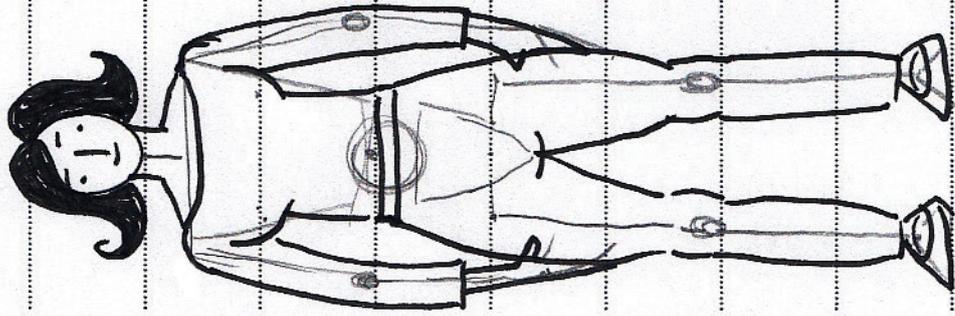
1 Year +
4 units



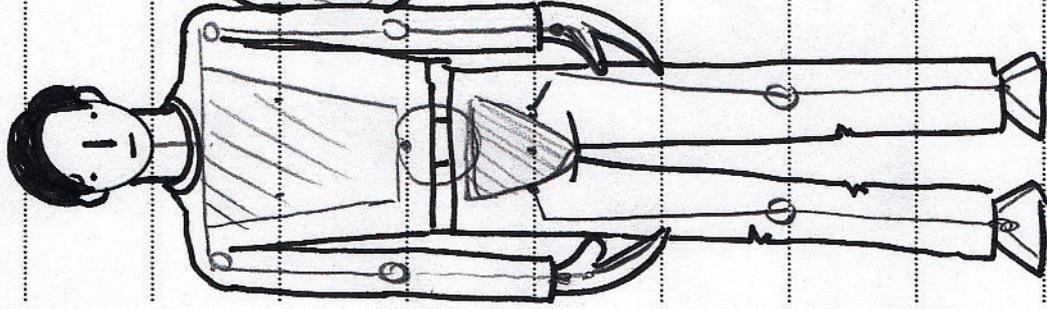
3 Years +
5 units



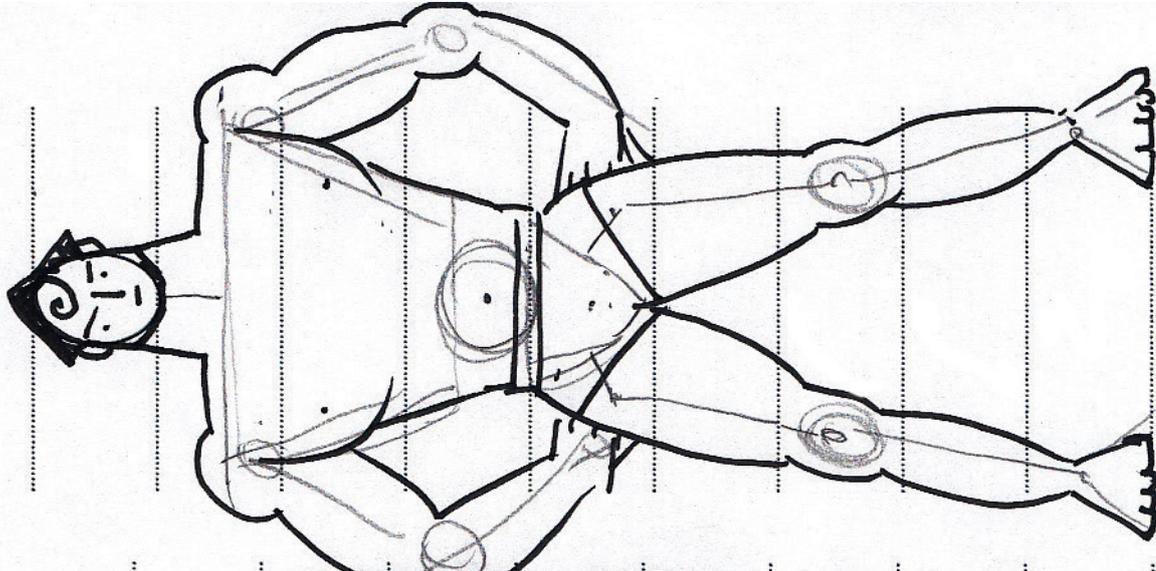
5 - 10 years
6 units



Female
8 units



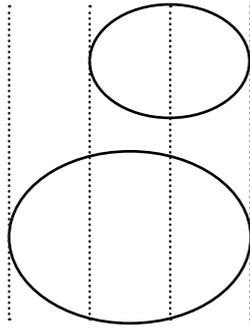
Male
8 units



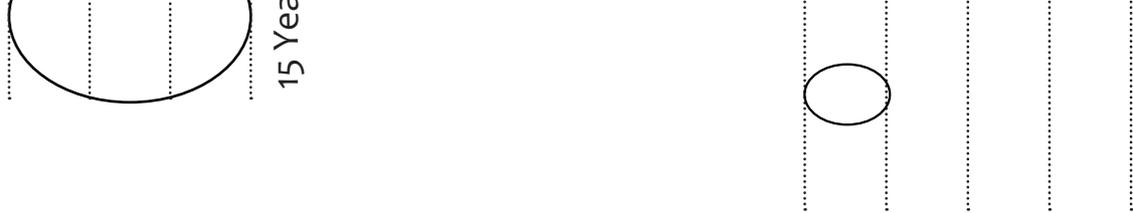
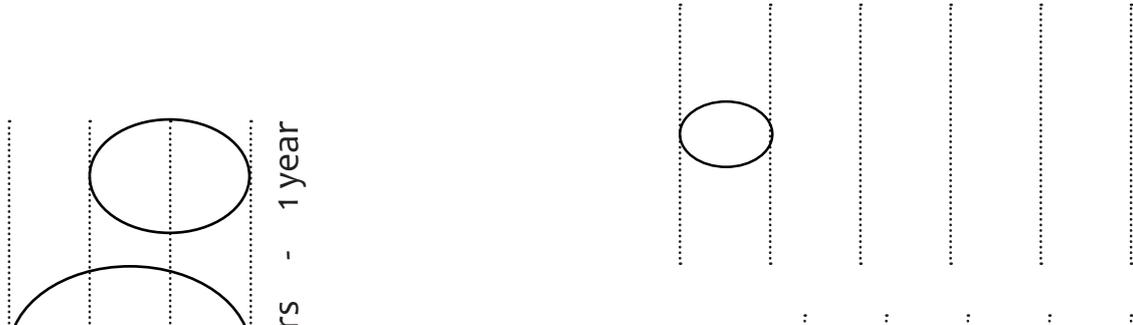
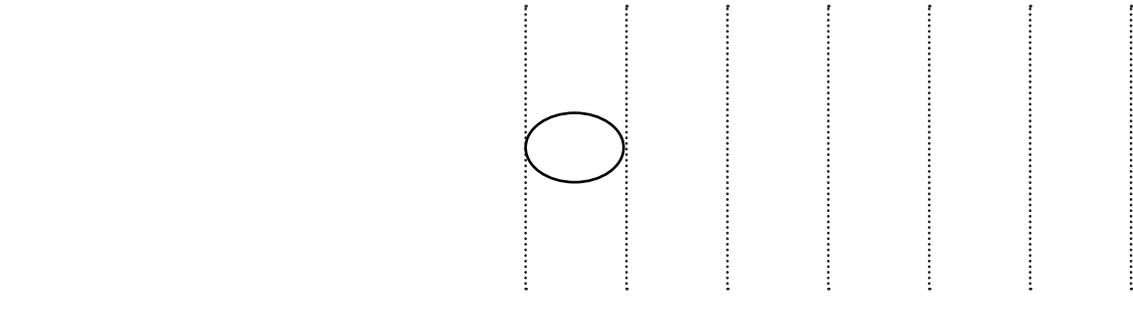
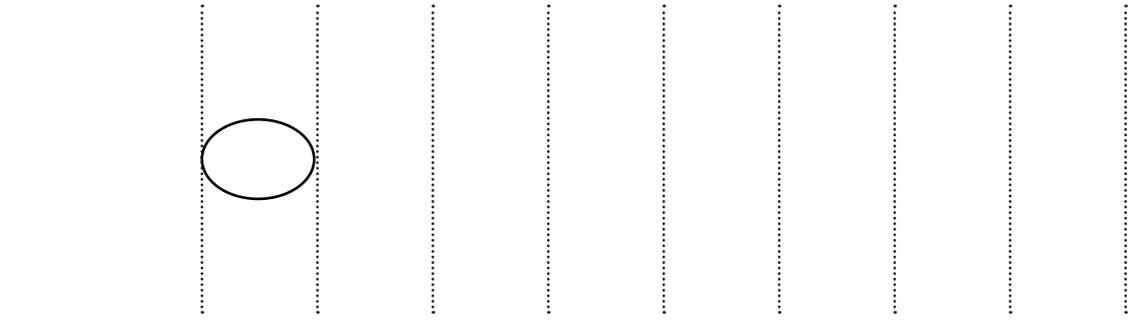
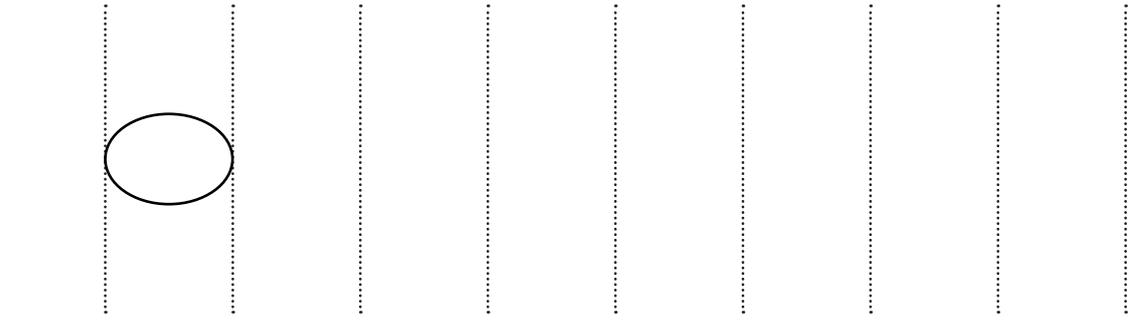
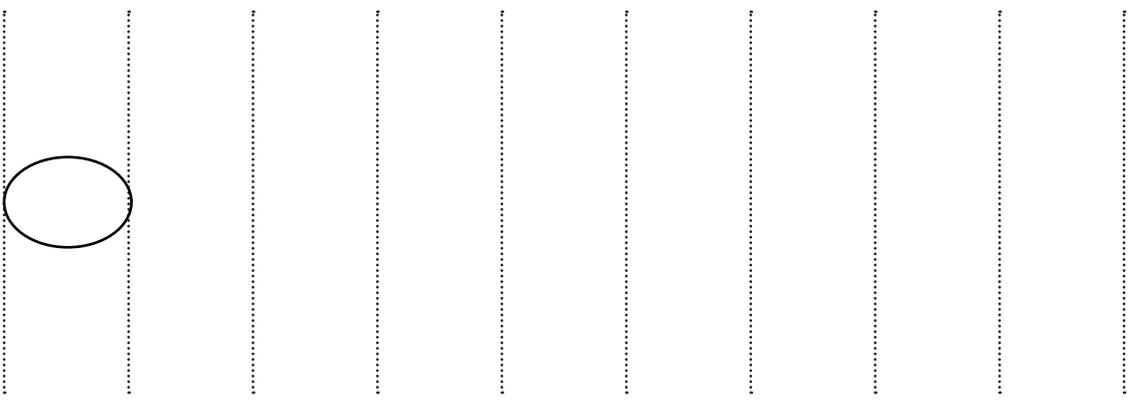
Superhero
9 units

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Rough Body Proportions - Practice Drawing Sheet



15 Years - 1 year



1 Year +
4 units

3 Years +
5 units

5 - 10 years
6 units

Female
8 units

Male
8 units

Superhero
9 units