

## HOW TO SKETCH A CAT IN 30 SECONDS

How do you sketch a cat from life in 30 seconds? The answer is.....sketch a cat for 30 seconds. If however you really want to be able to sketch for 30 seconds and end up with something that looks remotely like your cat – even if he or she moves – read on!

How to sketch a cat in 30 seconds so that it looks like a cat is simple –if you follow my four key points and five tips outlined below.

- 1) **Keep a sketchpad handy.** I keep a sketchpad or a sketchbook and pencil next to my armchair and another next to my desk. These are dedicated to sketching cats, thumbnails and working drawings. I have a go at sketching Cosmo, the perennial poser, whenever I see him sat on the table surveying the world at large though the window or sleeping on a chair - anywhere where I can clearly see his form.
- 2) **Don't give up sketching cats because cats move.** Lots of times one or the other of my cats moves just as I start. I have sketchpads FULL of half a head, a bit of paw etc. This is why I started practising getting an outline down in 30 seconds.
- 3) **Focus on looking at the whole cat.** Five tips for drawing a believable outline of a cat you know include:
  - a) DO NOT DRAW DETAIL. DO NOT DRAW THE FACE. *This is big picture/whole cat drawing.*
  - b) Focus on really looking at what that cat looks like - as a whole. If you're focusing properly you're probably looking for at least 15 seconds and drawing for 15 seconds. The more you look the more you notice and the better your brain gets at remembering shapes as you draw.
  - c) Identify shapes which make the cat believable, mentally measure the size of shapes, notice changes in form.
  - d) Once you've got your outline contour down in 30 seconds you can then start to add values, volume and markings.
  - e) Don't be afraid about restating a line without erasing - it adds to the character of the drawing - just look at Cosmo's ears in the drawing on the right!
- 4) **Practice.** For some skills the only way you make progress is to just practice - again and again and again. As with most things, you improve your skills the more you do it. As you get better, you'll be drawing without looking at the page – plus you'll find the regular practice improves your ability to observe and your ability to sketch generally. Seriously!



If you'd like to see more of my cat drawings (and my cats), you can see them in the [catnapping gallery](#) on my website - although these took a teeny weeny bit longer than 30 seconds! More like 2-3 minutes!!

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