



## Drawing with lines and shapes

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## Pages

1. Introduction
2. Getting Comfortable with Lines
3. Lines in Different Directions
4. Broken Lines
5. Describing Lines with words
6. Shapes
7. Describing Shapes
8. Directions
9. Describing Relationships
10. Repeated Patterns
11. Directions for Patterns
12. Complex Directions 1-6

## Introduction

This booklet focuses on the foundation drawing, lines and shapes. Lines can be used in many ways, to create shapes, for shading and show depth, to make patterns, and much more. Different types of lines can be used to convey different emotions. For instance smooth round lines are often calming and jagged zigzag lines feel more active and anxious. Similarly, how thick or thin lines are can dramatically change how a drawing is interpreted. Throughout this booklet we will cover many types of lines and shapes, and the vocabulary to describe them. We will also consider how different descriptions of lines can be interpreted in different ways.

Students will develop vocabulary around lines, shapes, and simple drawings. They will become comfortable creating drawing, and composing pictures and patterns. They will also develop skills about how to describe their drawings and communicate what makes up their pictures. There is also a focus on how verbal descriptions can be interpreted in many ways depending on the participants own subjectivity.

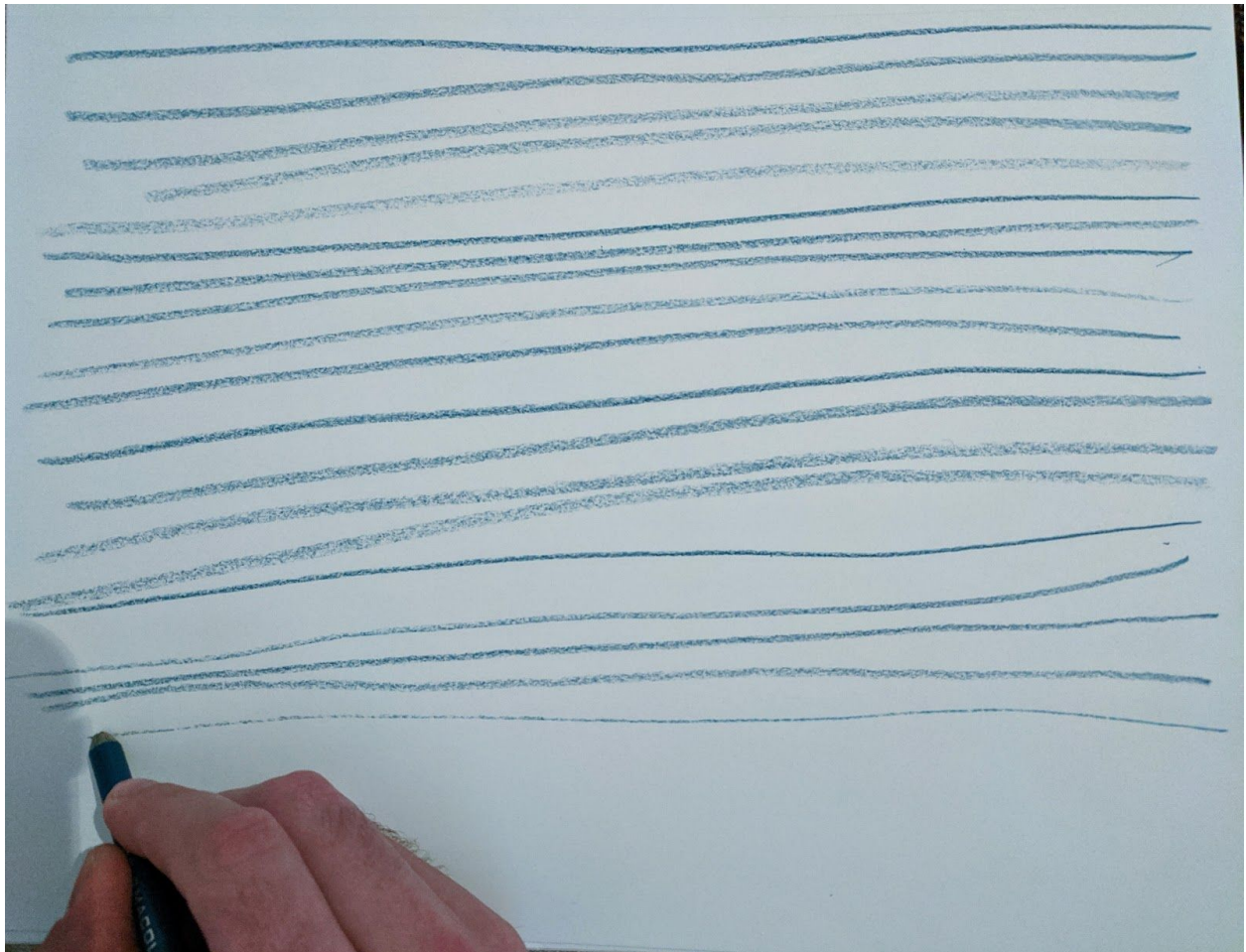
It is best to do these assignments in a small group, but it can be done alone.

For these assignments, all you need is a pencil, and several pieces of paper. If you have large paper like 18" by 24" pieces that is best. You can also print out this booklet and draw in the space provided or on the back.

## **1 Getting Comfortable with Lines**

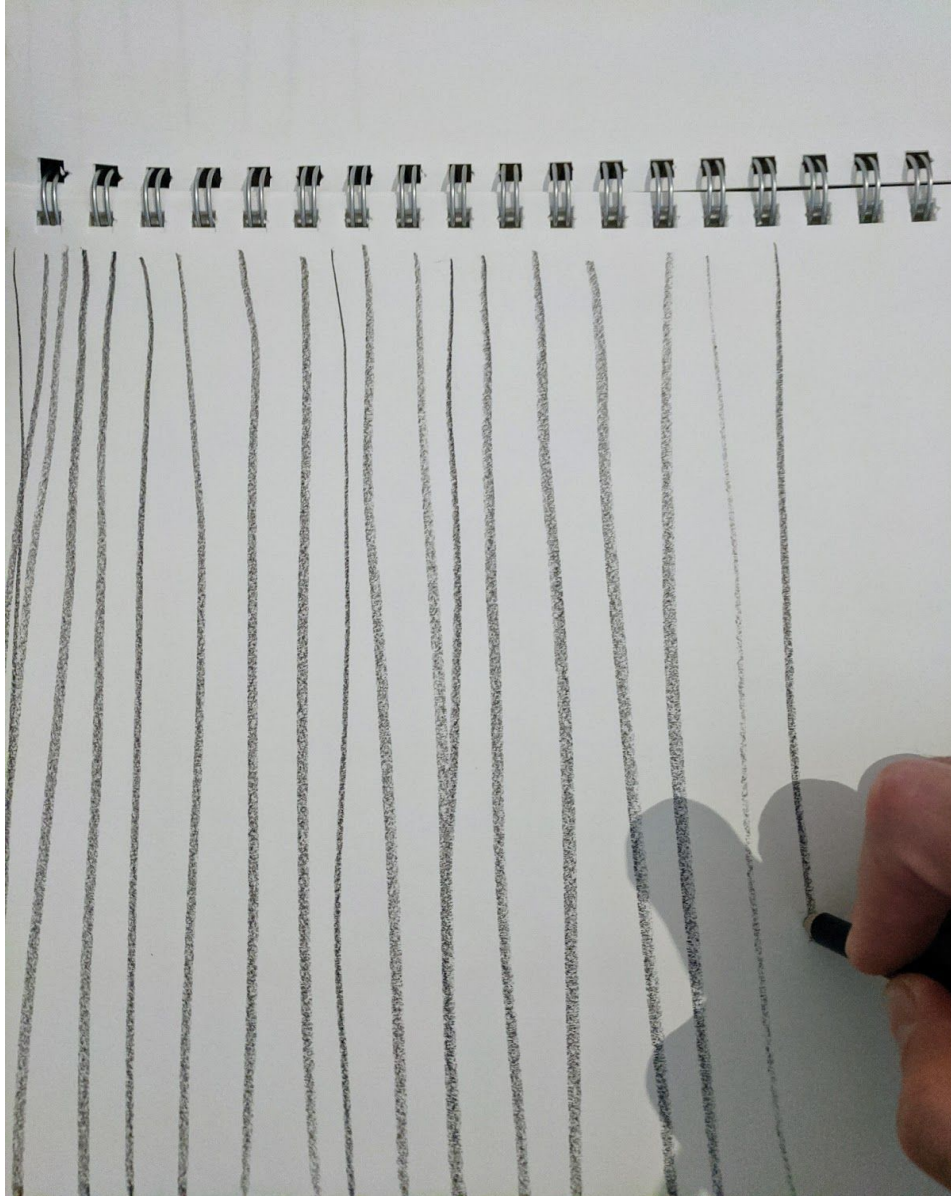
To get warmed up, draw straight lines from left to right across. Start at the top of the page, and work your way down. Try different speeds of drawing. Experiment with making one straight line as slow as you can, and one as fast as you can. Try different ways of holding your pencil. Think about using your whole arm, up to your shoulder. Figure out what is the most comfortable way for you to draw with control.

After you have filled the page, reflect on the subtle differences between your lines. Do you have a favorite? How did how you were holding the pencil affect your marks?



## 2 Lines in Different Directions

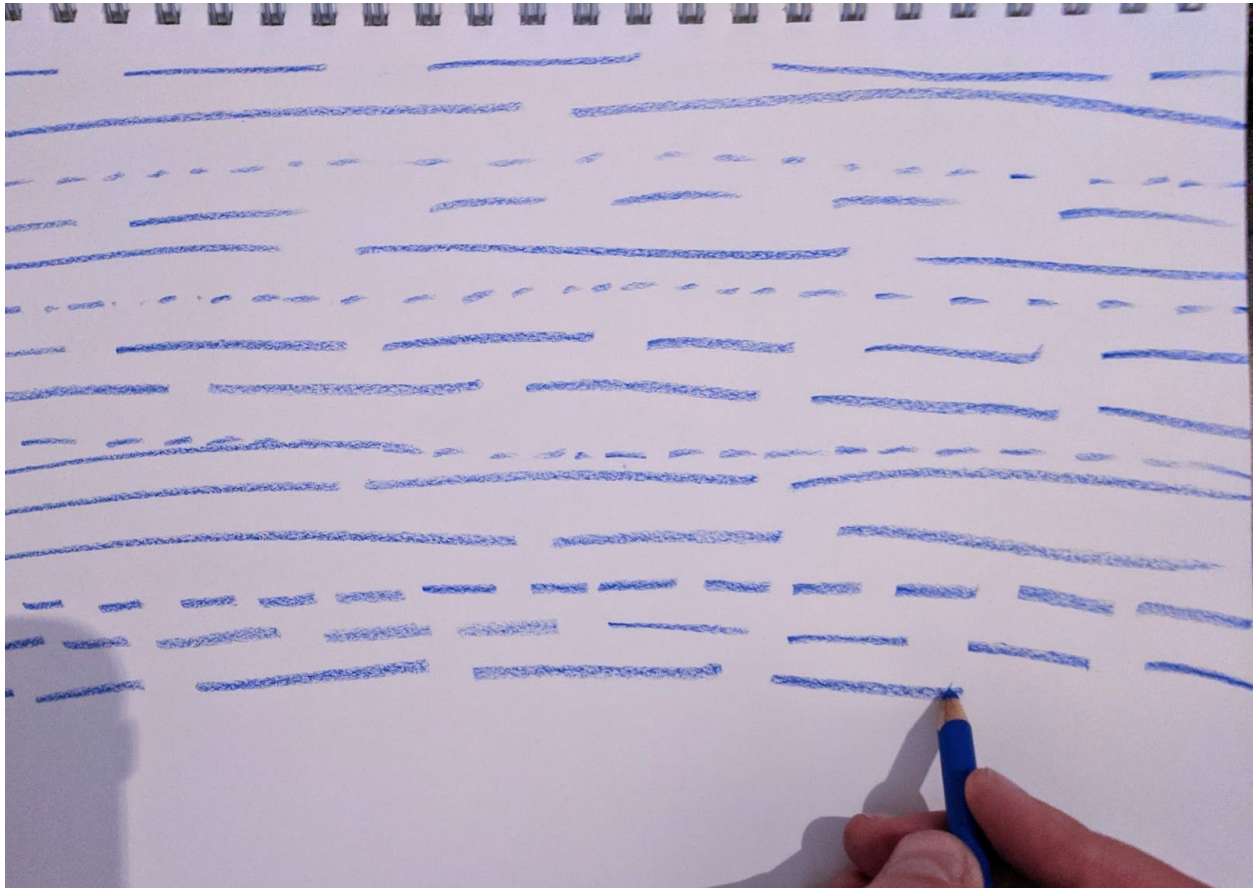
On a new page, repeat the same exercise but this time, try drawing from the top of the page down to the bottom. Then try drawing a page of lines from left to right, and bottom to top. Look at all the pages together and compare the differences in how your hand created these lines.





### **3 Broken Lines**

Try making broken lines by picking up your pencil at different lengths. You can make broken lines with dots, dashes, and other marks, going in the same direction or different directions. Try making these marks small, big, and different sizes. Fill up a whole page with broken lines.



#### **4 Describing Lines**

Look back and reflect on all the different lines you drew. In the space below, make a list of words that could describe them. Are some straighter or more wavy than others? Lighter or darker? Try to think of as many words as you can to describe your lines, and think about what characteristics make these words fitting for some lines more than others.

If you are in a group, compare your list of descriptions with others, and discuss why you feel the words are appropriate for each line you assigned them to. Are there different words that others would use to describe your lines?

## **5 Descriptions**

On this page you will find a long list of descriptive words to describe different lines. Pick out 15-20 of your favorite words and represent each of them with 3 lines each on the back of this page.

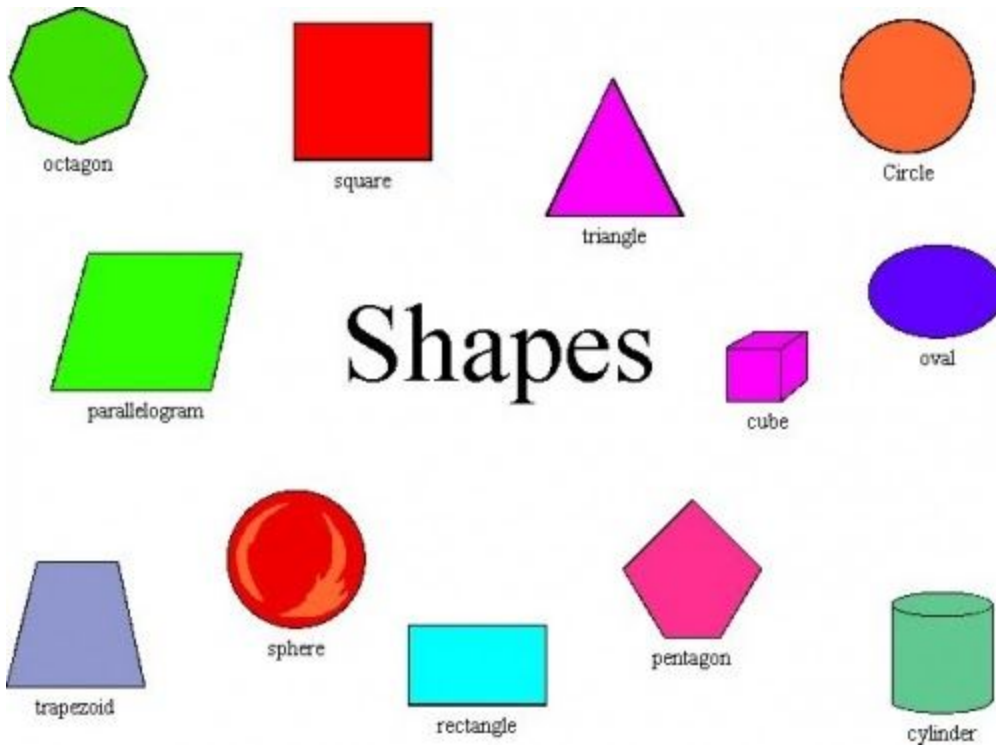
If in a group, compare and reflect with others, and discuss what makes the lines feel more or less connected to different descriptions. Keep in mind some people might have different opinions about which descriptions are most fitting for different lines. There is often not one answer, but it can be interesting to see what characteristics bring up different words for different people.

Active	Busy	Modern
Jagged	Cheerful	Prickly
Thick	Zany	Wavy
Thin	Electric	Dark
Smooth	Jubilant	Light
Bumpy	Faint	Sketchy
Electric	Bold	Jagged
Calm	Fine	Sharp
Energetic	Glamorous	Bouncy
Angry	Wandering	Loopy
Lazy	Wild	Curved
Rough	Organized	Straight
Clean	Mathematical	Swerving
Bent	Organic	Rounded
Loopy	Mechanical	Vertical
Angeled	Graceful	Horizontal
Fast	Hand made	Diagonal
Sad	Puffy	Fat
Happy	Zig-Zagged	Spiraling
Soft	Dotted	Beautiful
Flexible	Important	Hairy
Bored	Ichy	Smooth
Broken	Nervous	Thick

## 6 Shapes

When we combine different lines together and they hold volume, they create shapes. On a new page, or the back of this one, draw at least 20 shapes.

Here are a few examples of shapes:





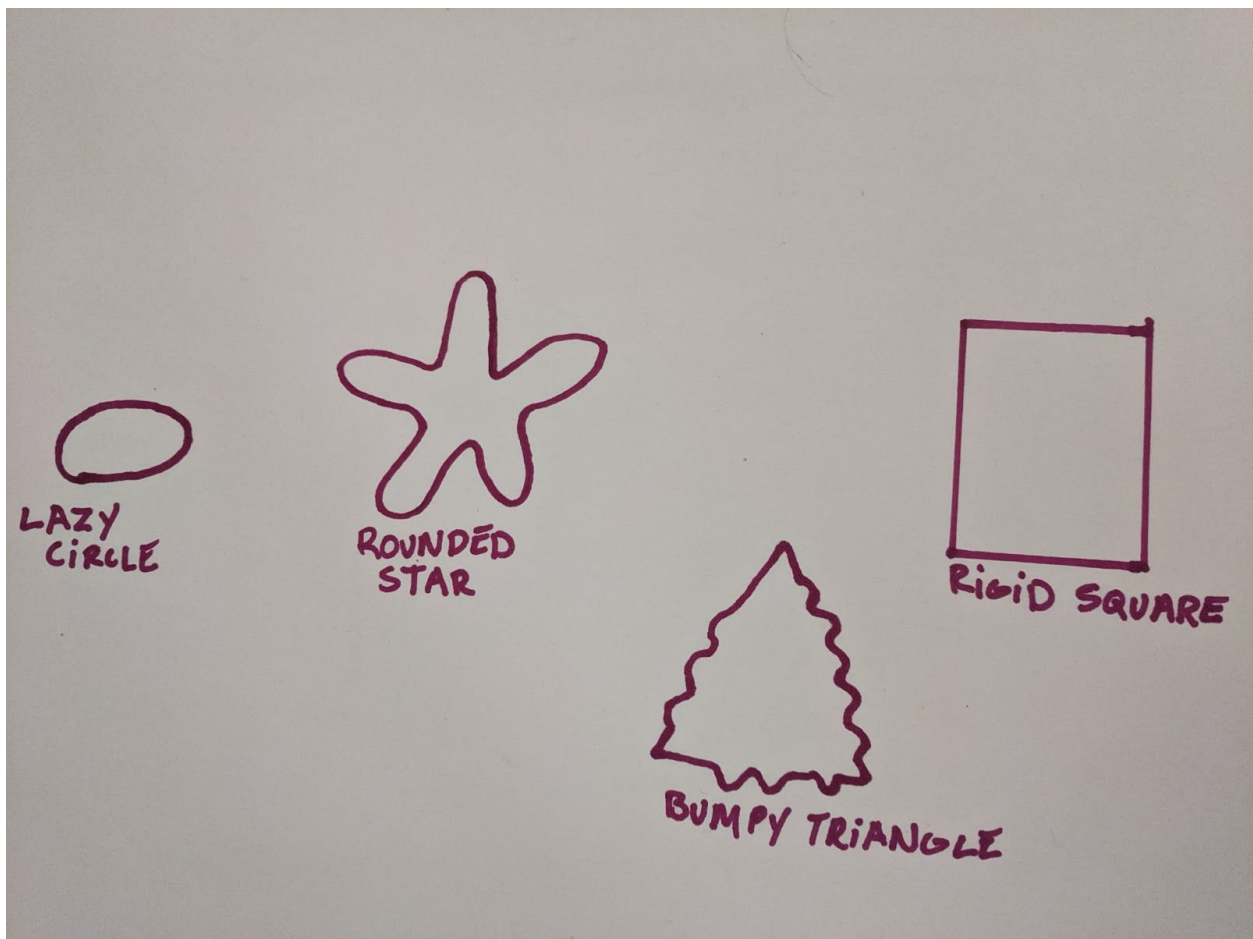
## 7 Describing Shapes

Now look back at the list of descriptions for lines on page 4 and pick 10-15 of them, and on the back draw shapes fit with your descriptors.. An example might be a lazy circle, a rigid square, a bumpy triangle, or a rounded star..

Make a list of the description words you chose as you go.

Reflect on which descriptions are most fitting for different shapes and why.

If in a group, trade your list and page of shapes and see if they can connect the descriptions with the shapes.



## **8 Directions**

Using your description words, make a set of simple instructions (3-5 steps) to create a drawing with shapes and lines in the space below and on the back.

Here is an set of example instructions:

1. Make a large circle
2. Put a curved line in the bottom half of the large circle
3. Make 2 small shapes that are equally spaced apart in the top half of the large circle
4. Add a triangle in the middle that is not touching any of the other shapes or lines

If you are in a group, share these instructions with your partner(s) to do a drawing. Take turns realizing and writing each other's descriptions.

If alone, try following your instructions and see how you can make a different drawing while still following the directions.

## **9 Describing Relationships**

It will be helpful to use words that put your shapes and lines in relation by describing the distance or proximity between two or more parts. These words are often called prepositions, or prepositional phrases. Here is a list of words and phrases you can use to describe relationships between the different parts of your picture, but there are many more. How many other examples can you think of for words that describe the relationship to two or more lines or shapes? See how many you can add to the list below

Example:

The wiggly triangle is **above the zig zagging line**

A bent dotted line **to the left of** the sad circle

Above

Bellow

Beside

Next to

To the Right of

On the left side of

Near

Far

Parallel to

Perpendicular

Mirroring

Touching

Inside

Outside

Around

Under

Away from

Between

Beyond

Through

Within

In the middle

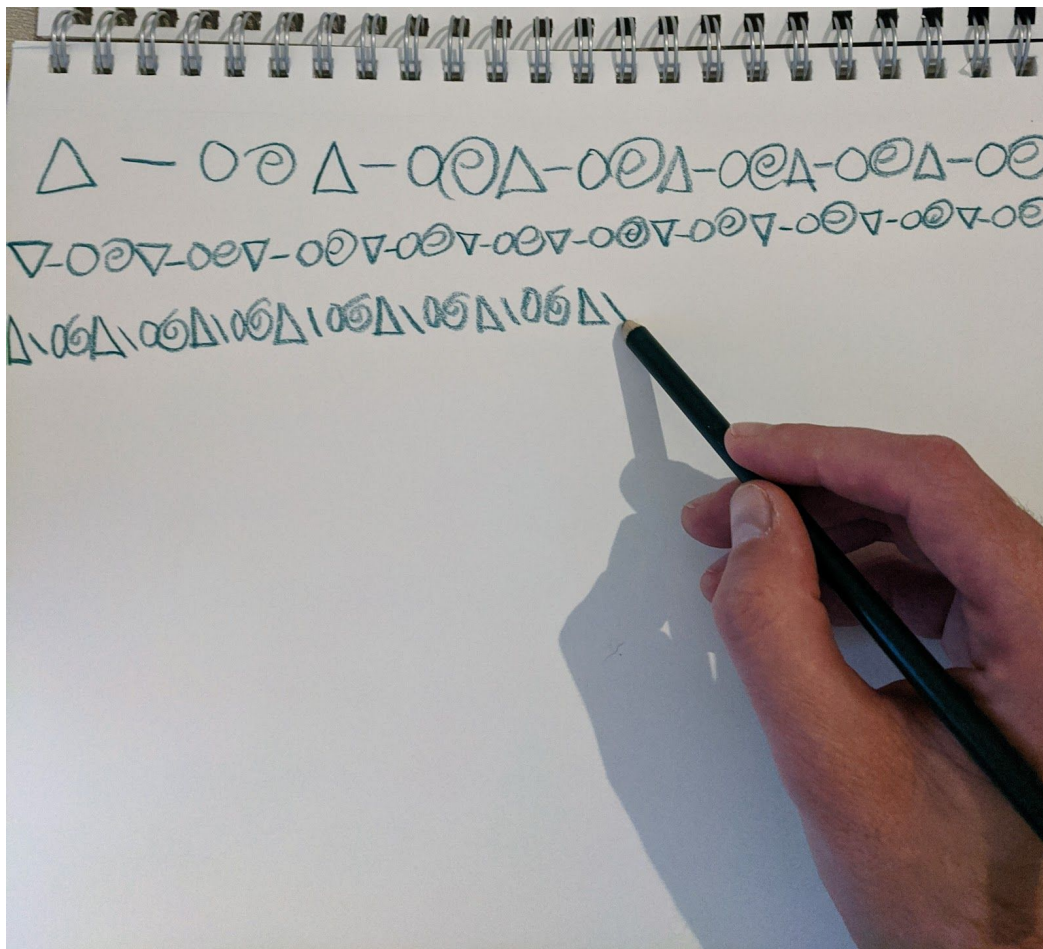
On top of

Crossing

## 10 Pattern

A pattern is a repeating sequence of shapes and lines. Make patterns using 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 sets of shapes or/and lines.

The example below uses 4 shapes and lines (triangles, dashes, circles, and spirals) but there are countless components you can use to make your patterns



### **11 Directions For Patterns**

Pick any one of your patterns and write directions for someone else to make it. Use the space below to draw out some of your directions, and directions other people write for you

If in a group, give someone else the directions, and see how similar or different their patterns end up coming out.

If alone, see how many different patterns you can produce that follow your own directions.

## **12 More Complex Instructions**

The next 6 pages have more complex sets of instructions for drawings. Below them, or the back, try drawing the different instructions multiple times and seeing how the same directions can be followed to make different drawings based on how you interpret them.

### **Complex Instructions #1**

1. Coming out of the bottom of the page, make a shape of your open hand using dotted lines.
2. Erase where the tips of your fingers would be, and replace them with a simple shape.
3. Fill the inside of the hand with a repeating pattern that consists of the 5 different shapes from you placed at the ends of the fingers.
4. In each of the corners, draw diagonal lines that connect the perpendicular sides of the paper.
5. Repeat step 4 as many times as possible, increasing the size of the lines, but never crossing on top of the central section.
6. Color in any three sided shapes on the perimeter of your page.



**Complex Instructions #2**

1. Divide your paper into 6 sections.
2. Fill the top left section with circles and squares
3. Fill the bottom left section with a pattern of repeating lines going in different directions.
4. Write a word in an empty section and an organic shape in a different section
5. Cross out some part of your drawing and recreate it in a different section than the one it was in before
6. Make a spiral in any of the sections
7. Fill in any of the remaining sections with dotted lines

**Complex Instructions #3**

1. Draw a squiggly line in the middle of the page.
2. All around the squiggly line make a dashed line.
3. All around the dashed line, make small dots.
4. Radiating out away from the dots, make at least seven triangles.
5. In between the triangles, put bent lines pointing outward.
6. Put small squares colored in at the tip of every bent line and triangle.
7. Around the edge of the paper, make a repeating pattern of dashed lines, dots, triangles, bent lines, and squares.

**Complex Instructions #4**

1. Divide your paper into 6 sections.
2. Fill the top left section with circles and squares
3. Fill the bottom left section with a pattern of repeating lines going in different directions.
4. Write a word in an empty section and an organic shape in a different section
5. Cross out some part of your drawing and recreate it in a different section than the one it was in before
6. Make a spiral in any of the sections
7. Fill in any of the remaining sections with dotted lines

**Complex Instructions #5**

1. Draw a small straight line
2. Now draw two longer lines connecting to your first line, creating a triangle.
3. Put a rounded shape coming out of the small side of the triangle.
4. Repete the rounded shape, as many times as necessary in the same direction till it reaches the edge of the paper.
5. Make smaller teardrop shapes shooting off the rounded shapes.
6. Draw the first letter of your names.
7. Make several small straight lines on one side of the letter, to make it look hairy.
8. Make zigzag lightning bolt shapes radiating away from the letter.
9. Add two more sets of lightning bolt shapes, each smaller than the first.

**Complex Instructions #6**

1. Draw a spiky shape in each corner of the page.
2. Draw a loose shape with curved edges in between each of the spiky shapes.
3. Connect the spiky shapes with thin sharp lines.
4. Connect the curved shapes with fat wavy lines.
5. Add diagonal lines in alternating directions in any interior shapes that were created by the lines from steps 3 and 4.
6. Fill in any remaining empty shapes with dotted lines.