Anyone Can Learn to Draw Video Course

1 Semester Suggested Schedule

The course is broken up into Sections (sometimes called modules), which are further broken up into Lessons. I will abbreviate each with the first letter. (For example, "S1-L1" refers to "Section 1, Lesson 1.")

Before You Start

- Look over the course curriculum
- Read through the Section 1, Lesson 1: "How to Get the Most from This Course"
- Watch the Section 1, Lesson 1 "Drawing Supplies" video
- Gather your supplies
- Optional: Experiment a bit with your supplies

Week 1	Day 1	☐ **Watch the S1-L3: "Mindset" video**. ☐ **Watch the S2-L1: "Mark Making" video** ☐ Practice Mark Making drills 1 and 2
	Day 2	☐ Practice Mark Making drills 3 & 4 ☐ Do Mark Making activity 1 (Pattern Filled Scribble)
	Day 3	☐ Practice Mark Making drills 5 & 6 ☐ Do Mark Making activity 2 (Contour Line drawing)
	Day 4	☐ Practice Mark Making drills 7 & 8 ☐ **Watch the S2-L2 "How to See Like an Artist" video** ☐ **Watch the S2-L3 "The Progression of Drawing Activities" video** ☐ Practice the Replicating Lines drill
	Day 5	☐ Practice Mark Making drills 9 & 10 ☐ Practice the Replicating Lines drill
Week 2	Day 1	☐ Practice a Mark Making drill and a single Replicating Lines box ☐ **Watch the S2-L4 "Seeing and Marking the Basic Shapes of Trees" video** ☐ Draw some trees! Remember to only focus on big basic shapes
	Day 2	☐ Practice a Mark Making drill and a single Replicating Lines box ☐ Draw the 2nd set of trees on the "More Trees" PDF. Remember to only focus on big basic shapes.
	Day 3	☐ Practice a Mark Making drill and a single Replicating Lines box ☐ **Watch the S2-L5 "Seeing and Marking the Basic Shapes of Birds" video** ☐ Draw some birds! Remember to only focus on big basic shapes

 © Julie Abels 2026 - RidgeLightRanch.com

	Day 4	☐ Practice a Mark Making drill and a single Replicating Lines box ☐ Draw the 2nd set of birds on the "More Birds" PDF. Remember to only focus on big basic shapes
	Day 5	☐ Practice a Mark Making drill and a single Replicating Lines box ☐ Look around your home for pictures of trees or birds and draw one. Remember to only focus on big basic shapes
*Going forward, always start your art time with some kind of warm up drill or exercise!		
Week 3	Day 1	☐ **Watch the S2-L6 "Going Big with Basic Shapes" video** ☐ Draw full page birds and/or trees
	Day 2	☐ **Watch the S2-L7 "Tracing to Improve Basic Shapes" video** ☐ Experiment with the tracing techniques and draw a full page bird
	Day 3	☐ **Watch the S3-L1 "Grid Method" video** ☐ Try out Grid drawing
	Day 4	☐ **Watch the S3-L2 "Bonus- Other Drawing Methods" video** ☐ Try out one or more of the bonus methods
	Day 5	☐ Try out one or more new bonus methods
Week 4	Day 1	☐ **Watch the S4-L1 "3D Forms" video** ☐ Practice drawing 3D forms
	Day 2	☐ **Watch the S4-L2 "Methods of Perspective" video** ☐ Go back to one of your tree or bird drawings from Section 2- look for 3D Forms. Draw the subject again, creating more depth by keeping these forms in mind
	Day 3	☐ **Watch the S4-L3 "Light and Value" video** ☐ Practice drawing and shading both flat-sided and curved forms from different light directions.
	Day 4	☐ Look around your home for simply shaped objects (mug, book, clock, globe…). Take a photo of the object on a phone and then draw it (or draw it live), keeping in mind: ○ Basic Lines and Shapes ○ 3D Forms ○ Shading
	Day 5	☐ Pick a new object from around your home and repeat yesterday's drawing exercise
Week 5	Day 1	☐ **Watch the S4-L4 "1, 2, & 3 Point Perspective" video** ☐ Draw boxes in 1-, 2-, and 3-point perspective, placing them above and below the horizon line. Try different box shapes and begin noticing how the same ideas apply to everyday sketching.
	Day 2	☐ Use the handout to draw the Parthenon replica using 1- or 2-point perspective.

 © Julie Abels 2026 - RidgeLightRanch.com

	Day 3	☐ Pick out another building to sketch in 1, 2, or 3 point perspective.
	Day 4	☐ **Watch the S4-L5 "Fabric and Folds" video** ☐ Try drawing the examples from the handouts, but keep watching for the simple idea underneath it all: where does the line stop, where does it reappear, how does it curve, and what part is in front?
	Day 5	☐ Look around your home for something made of fabric and draw it.
Week 6	Day 1	☐ **Watch the S5-L1 "Design" video** ☐ Take some time to look at some of your favorite works of art and consider each of the Principles of Design and how they play a role in that work of art.
	Day 2	☐ **Watch the S5-L2 "Composition" video** ☐ Make thumbnail sketches of the big basic shapes in each of the paintings on the Common Compositional Structures mini-poster. Then make thumbnail sketches of other paintings or photos. ☐ Next look for scenes in everyday life and create thumbnail sketches of them.
	Day 3	☐ **Watch the S5-L3 "Still Life" video** ☐ Create more thumbnail sketches using the provided still life images and line drawings as practice. Start with quick thumbnail sketches, simplify the objects into basic shapes, and notice what could be improved.
	Day 4	☐ Create your own still life: Gather 3-7 objects from around the house, place them on a shelf, table, or piece of furniture against a wall, and arrange them in several different ways. Try sketching each arrangement quickly before choosing the one you like best. As you arrange your still life, ask yourself about each of the ideas and tips on the Composition Checklist.
	Day 5	☐ **Watch the S5-L4 "Landscape" video** ☐ Using the Composition Checklist, analyze other famous landscape paintings, travel photos, or scenery around you. Create simple thumbnail sketches- keep them simple and focus on the big shapes, not details. The goal is to train your eye to see composition before spending time on a finished drawing.
Week 7	Day 1	☐ **Watch S6-L1 "Drawing Leaves" video** ☐ Draw the leaves from the handouts
	Day 2	☐ Draw leaves bending and folding ☐ Look around for leaves and draw them
	Day 3	☐ **Watch S6-L2 "Drawing Flowers & The Tulip" video** ☐ Draw a tulip.

	Day 4	☐ **Watch S6-L2 "Drawing Flowers: The Daffodil" video** ☐ Draw a daffodil. ☐ **Watch S6-L2 "Drawing Flowers: The Hibiscus" video** ☐ Draw a hibiscus.
	Day 5	☐ **Watch S6-L2 "Drawing Flowers: The Columbine" video** ☐ Draw a columbine. ☐ **Watch S6-L2 "Drawing Flowers: The Rose" video** ☐ Draw a rose
Week 8	Day 1	☐ **Watch S6-L3 "Drawing Trees" video** ☐ Draw blue gum or another clumpy tree
	Day 2	☐ Draw 2-4 small trees from the 6 reference images or from your local area.
	Day 3	☐ **Watch S6-L4 "The Texture of Plants" video** ☐ **Watch S6-L4 "The Texture of Plants: Tree Bark" video** ☐ Draw 2-5 bark texture squares.
	Day 4	☐ Draw 2-5 bark texture squares.
	Day 5	☐ **Watch S6-L4 "The Texture of Plants: A Shiny Leaf" video** ☐ Draw several shiny leaves.
Week 9	Day 1	☐ **Watch S7-L1 "Drawing Dogs" video** ☐ Draw the dog in the video (on the first page of your handout)
	Day 2	☐ **Watch S7-L1 "Drawing Dogs 2" video** ☐ Draw the corgi dog in the video (on the second page of your handout)
	Day 3	☐ **Watch S7-L1 "Drawing Dog Portraits" video** ☐ Draw the German Shepherd dog in the video
	Day 4	☐ **Watch S7-L2 "Drawing Birds" video** ☐ **Watch S7-L2 "Drawing Birds— The Steller's Jay" video** ☐ Draw the Steller's Jay
	Day 5	☐ Draw a bird from the handout or your local area
Week 10	Day 1	☐ **Watch S7-L3 "Drawing Lizards" video** ☐ **Watch S7-L3 "Drawing Lizards— Spiny-tail Iguana" video** ☐ Draw the lizard.
	Day 2	☐ Draw another lizard from the handout
	Day 3	☐ **Watch S7-L4 "The Texture of Animals" video** ☐ Draw 3-5 texture squares of fur.
	Day 4	☐ Draw 3-5 texture squares that are not fur.
	Day 5	☐ Draw your favorite animal, paying special attention to the basic shapes and the texture.

 © Julie Abels 2026 - RidgeLightRanch.com

Week 11	Day 1	☐ **Watch S8-L1 "Drawing Faces (Front / Head on View)" video** ☐ Draw the front-view face guide with light construction lines.
	Day 2	☐ Draw 2 front-view faces and change one facial feature at a time.
	Day 3	☐ **Watch S8-L2 "Drawing Faces (Profile View)" video** ☐ Draw the profile grid and profile face
	Day 4	☐ Draw several profiles with different noses, chins, foreheads, lips, or hair shapes.
	Day 5	☐ Redraw a profile and improve one thing: nose shape, ear placement, neck, chin, or space behind the head.
Week 12	Day 1	☐ **Watch S8-L3 "Drawing Faces (3/4 View)" video** ☐ Draw the 3/4 head construction with curved guide lines.
	Day 2	☐ Draw another 3/4 face and improve one placement issue you noticed.
	Day 3	☐ **Watch S8-L4 "Facial Expressions and Personality" video** ☐ Practice simple cartoon expression studies by changing eyebrows, eyelids, mouth, cheeks, and head tilt.
	Day 4	☐ Translate one cartoon expression into a more realistic face. Look for eyebrow angle, eyelid shape, mouth tension, and cheek lift.
	Day 5	☐ Draw a small expressive portrait study. Focus on placement first, then expression.
Week 13	Day 1	☐ **Watch S9-L1 "Drawing People— Forward Facing" video** ☐ Draw the 8-head front-view stick figure, marking major joints. ☐ Add body thickness, clothing, and simple details.
	Day 2	☐ **Watch S9-L1 "Drawing People— Side Facing" video** ☐ Draw the profile stick figure. ☐ Add body thickness, clothing, and simple details.
	Day 3	☐ Draw one or more of the 6 reference images from the handout.
	Day 4	☐ **Watch S9-L3 "Drawing Hands" video** ☐ Draw the hand in the simple palm facing open position
	Day 5	☐ Draw one or more of the 6 reference images from the handout
Week 14	Day 1	☐ **Watch S9-L4 "Drawing Feet and Shoes" video** ☐ Draw the 2 feet from the video
	Day 2	☐ Draw 2-3 shoes from the handout
	Day 3	☐ Draw shoes on a standing figure. Make sure the feet sit on the same ground plane.
	Day 4	☐ **Watch S9-L2 "Drawing People in Action" video** ☐ Draw 5 quick gesture stick figures from action references.

 © Julie Abels 2026 - RidgeLightRanch.com

	Day 5	☐ Redraw one action pose larger. Show compression, stretch, twist, or follow-through.
Week 15	Day 1	☐ **Watch S10-L1 “Final Drawing Project" video** ☐ **Watch S10-L1 "Preserving and Presenting Your Art" video** ☐ Determine what the subject of your final drawing will be.
	Day 2	☐ Create thumbnail sketches of your drawing and choose your favorite.
	Day 3	☐ Continue the final drawing. Strengthen focal point, depth, and value.
	Day 4	☐ Add texture and details where they support the focal point. Keep less important areas simpler.
	Day 5	☐ Finish the final drawing. ☐ Take photos of the finished drawing. ☐ Compare it to your plan and write down 2 things that improved and 1 thing to practice next.