



Drawing Portraits INSET

By
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Drawing Faces

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Aim

- To provide an overview of how to teach the key points of drawing frontal portraits.

Objectives

By the end of the session participants will be able to:

- Describe the steps required for composing a drawing of a face.
- Support children with drawing facial features.
- Model a drawing of a face with more confidence.



Why is this important?

- Many art activities in primary schools involve portraits and the key compositional skills for drawing portraits need to be taught if children are to make progress. Often children can become frustrated at their attempts to draw faces because they do not know how to compose a face.
- The skills outlined in this training session are essential basic skills to create portraits.
- Portraits and the human figure are important themes within the world of art.

Developing the skills in this course should be practiced in children's sketch books.



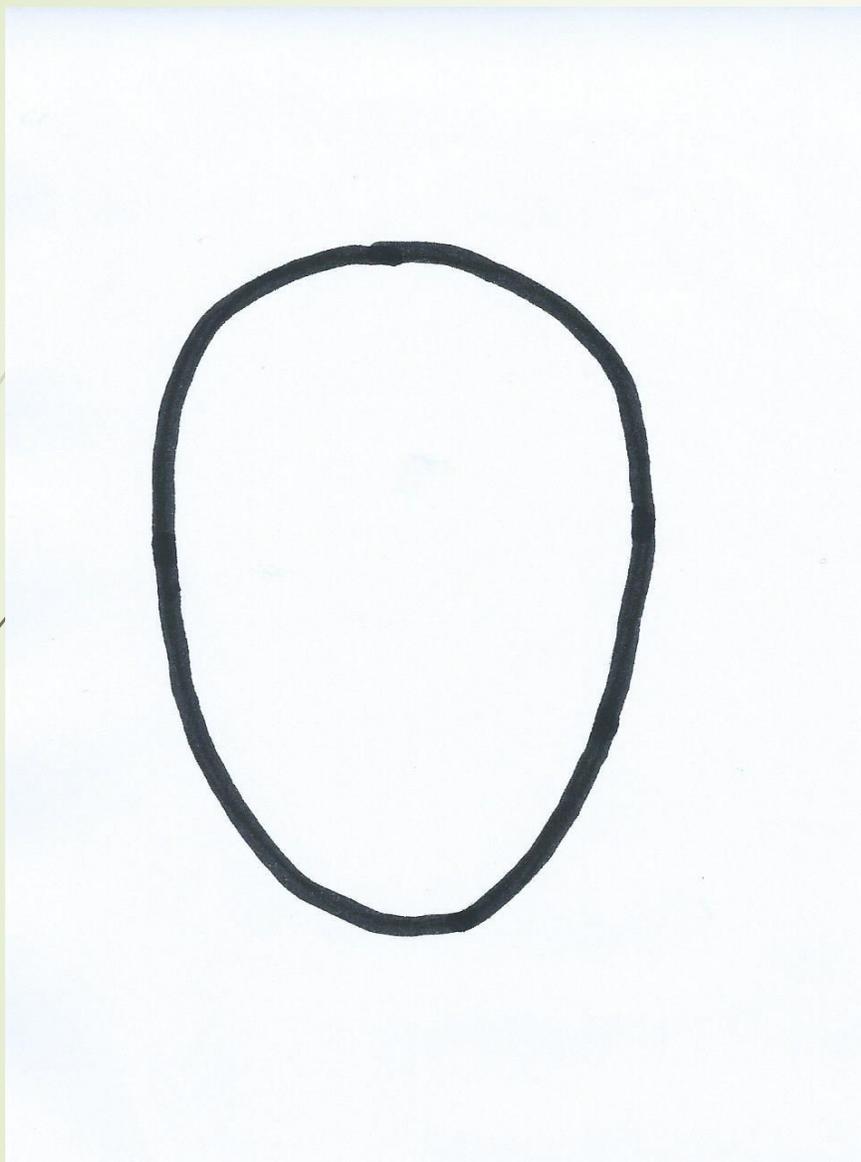
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Having a good understanding of the proportions of a basic face is essential if portraits are to be successful. Proportions refers to the relationships in size and placement between one facial feature and another. Proportion is the most important aspect of drawing a face.

The following slides outline the basic formula or principles of a human face. Of course all faces are slightly different and the proportions can vary but the basic formula is here to help us build up confidence and skills that we can vary later.



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This training focuses on frontal portraits.

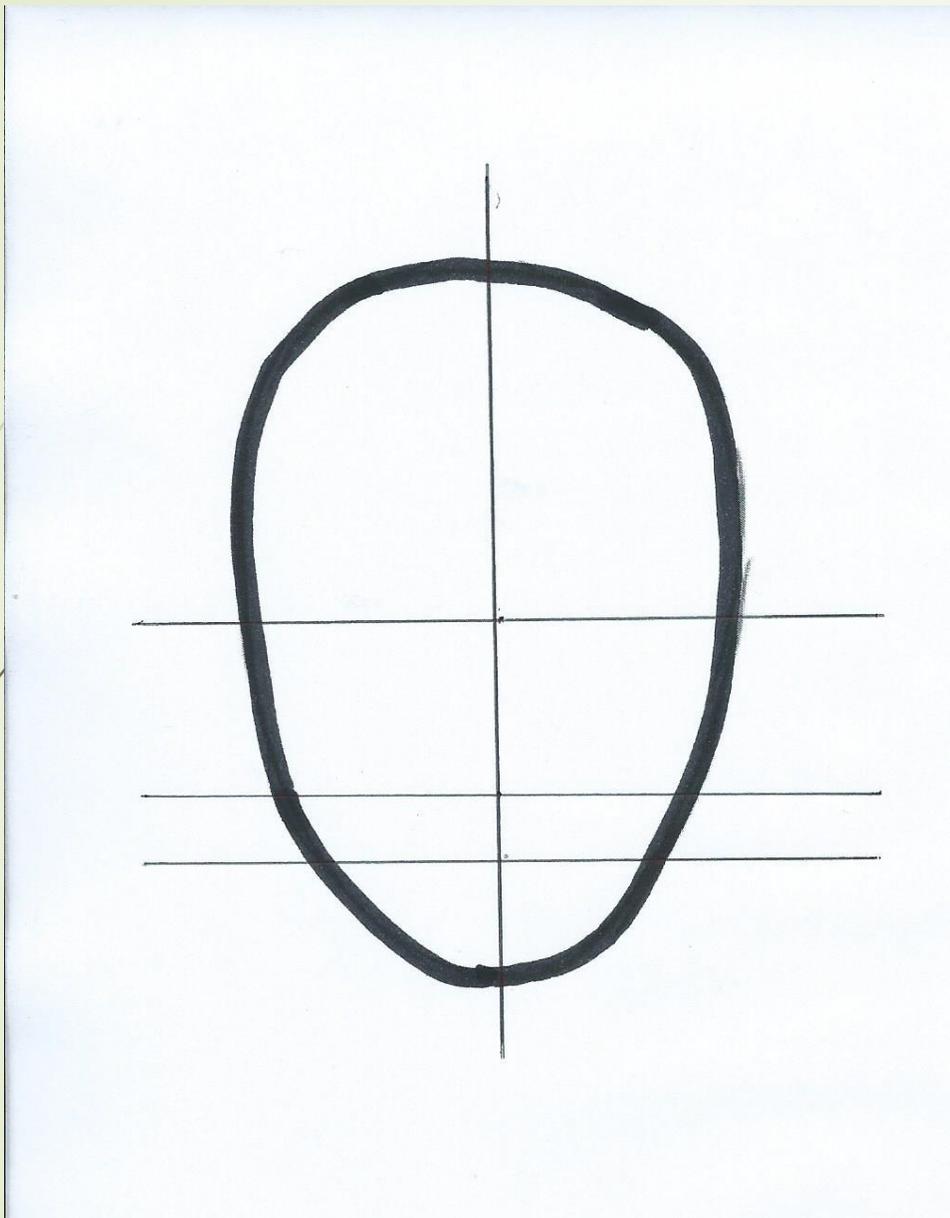
Making a drawing of a face can be broken down into small steps.

Drawing a head shape.

Draw an oval slightly wider at the top than bottom. This is the basic head shape. (Men usually have a more defined jaw line but for the basic principle an oval a good start).



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Marking out key guidelines

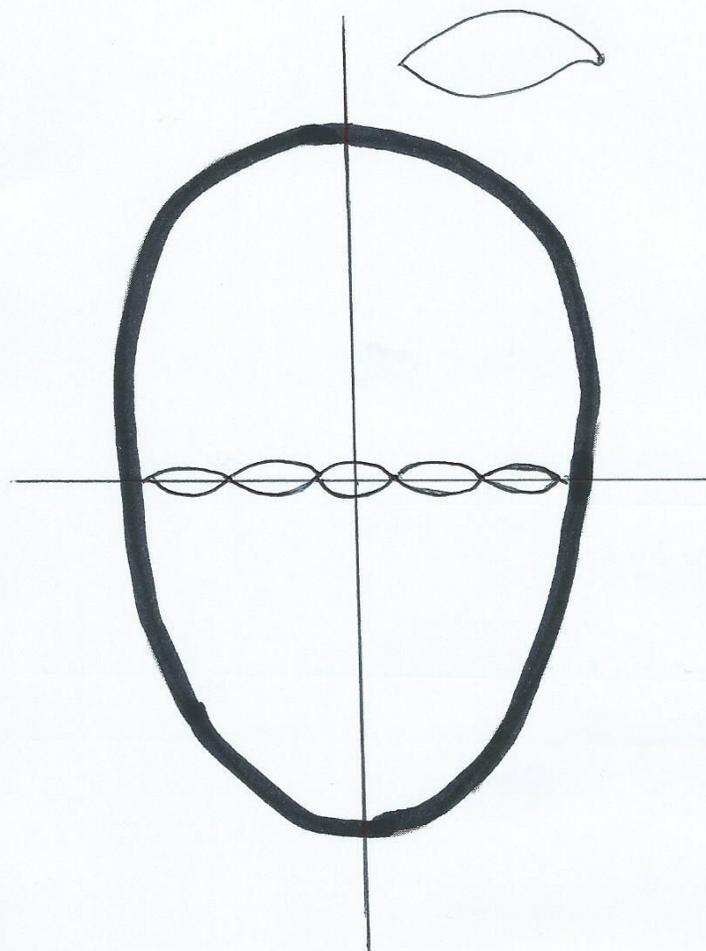
Draw a light vertical line down the centre, then draw a horizontal line halfway between the top and bottom of the oval. This line will give you the eye positions.

Divide the remaining space below in half. This will be for the base of the average-nose.

Divide the space below that into thirds. The mouth will be at the top of those thirds, the rest will be the chin.

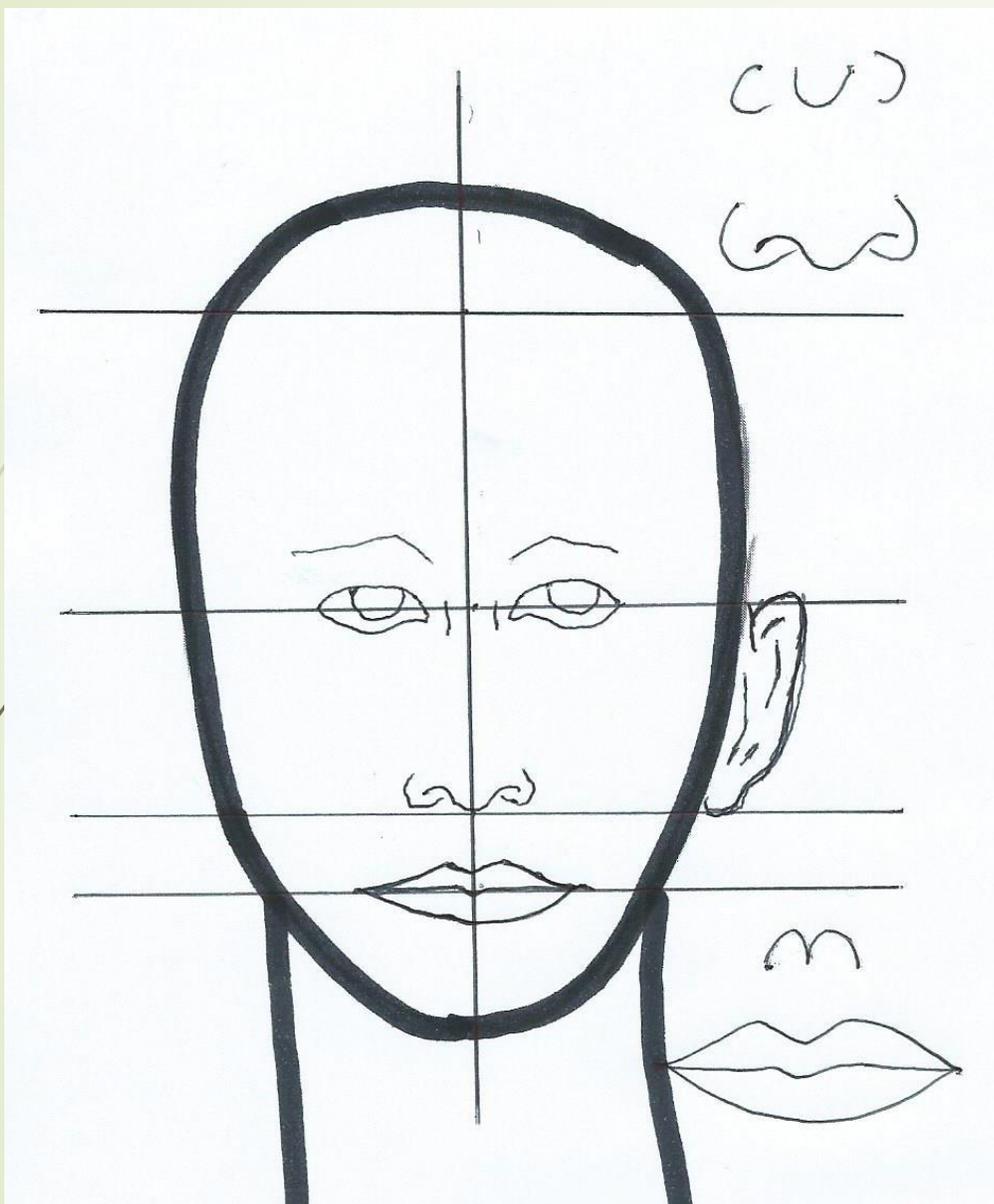


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Drawing eyes

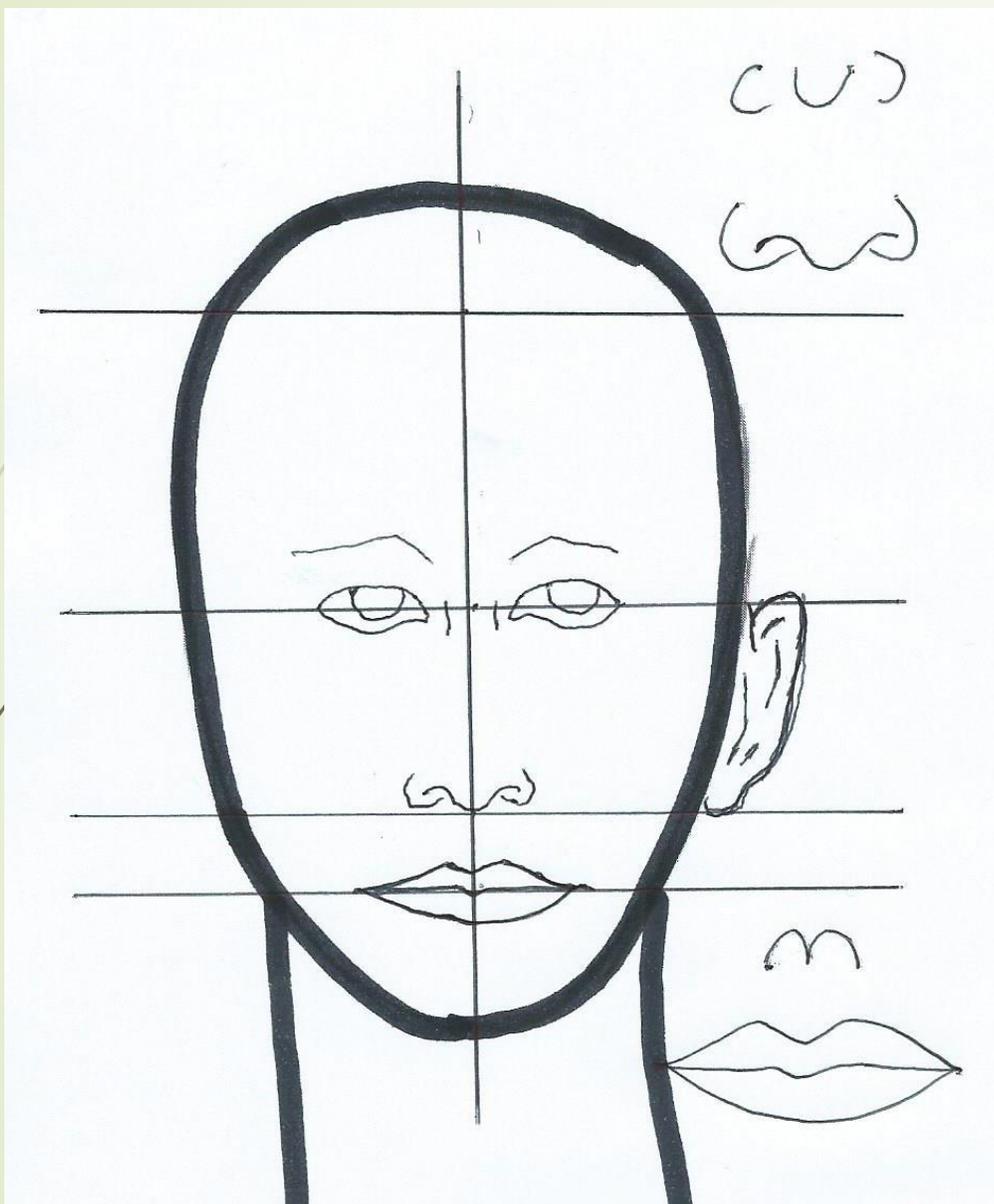
The basic eye shape is an almond shape with a slight downward point near the nose. The space between the eyes is one eye length. Five eye lengths fit across the average face.



Drawing the nose

Half way between the eye line and bottom of the face is the bottom of the nose line. The basic nose shape is a slightly flattened U shape and a letter C shape and a backwards letter C shape.

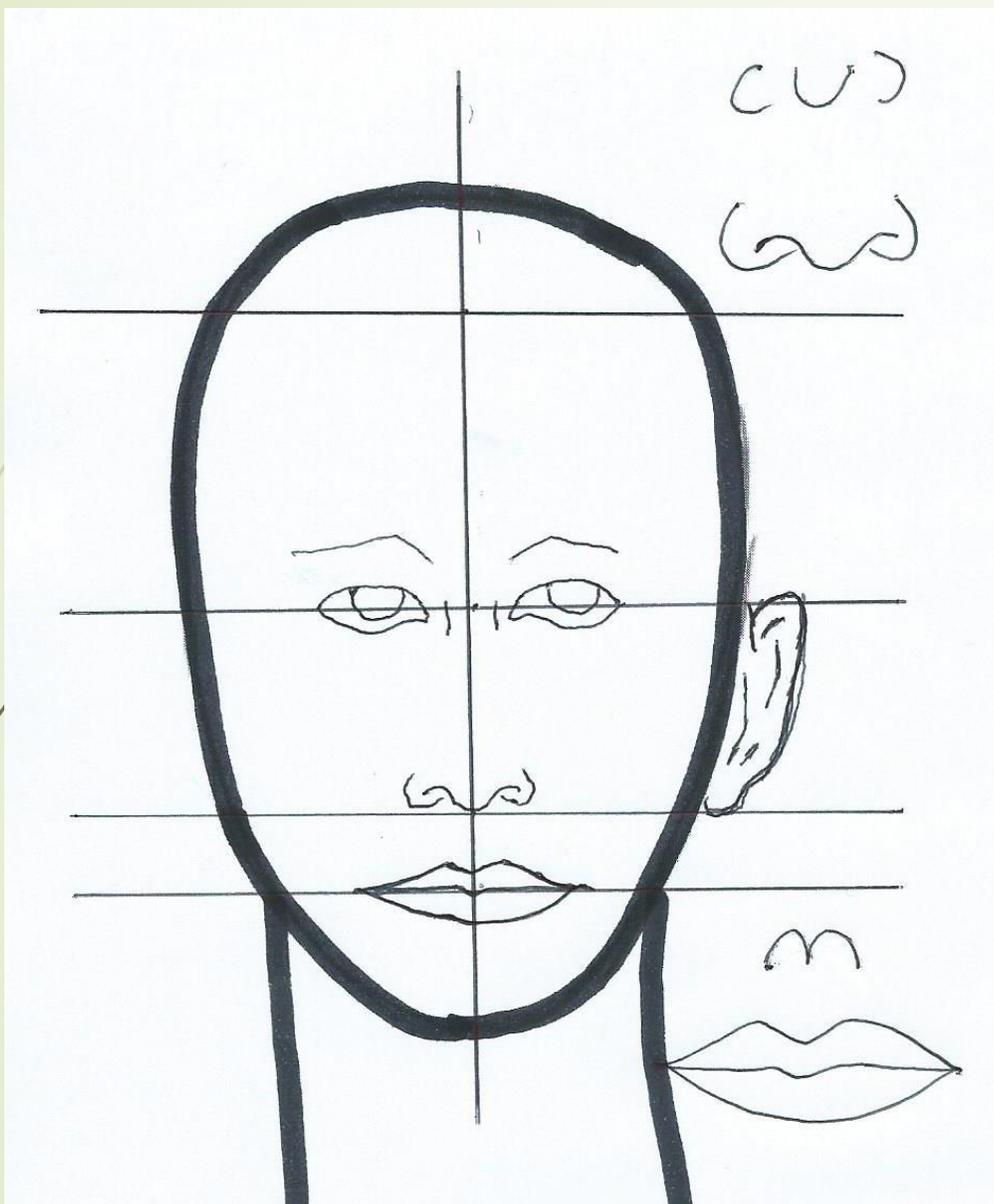
The width of the nose extends a little beyond the corners of the eyes. Noses do vary a lot between individual so this is just a guide.



Drawing the ears

The ears are drawn between the eye line and the nose line and consist of a letter C shape or backward C shape.

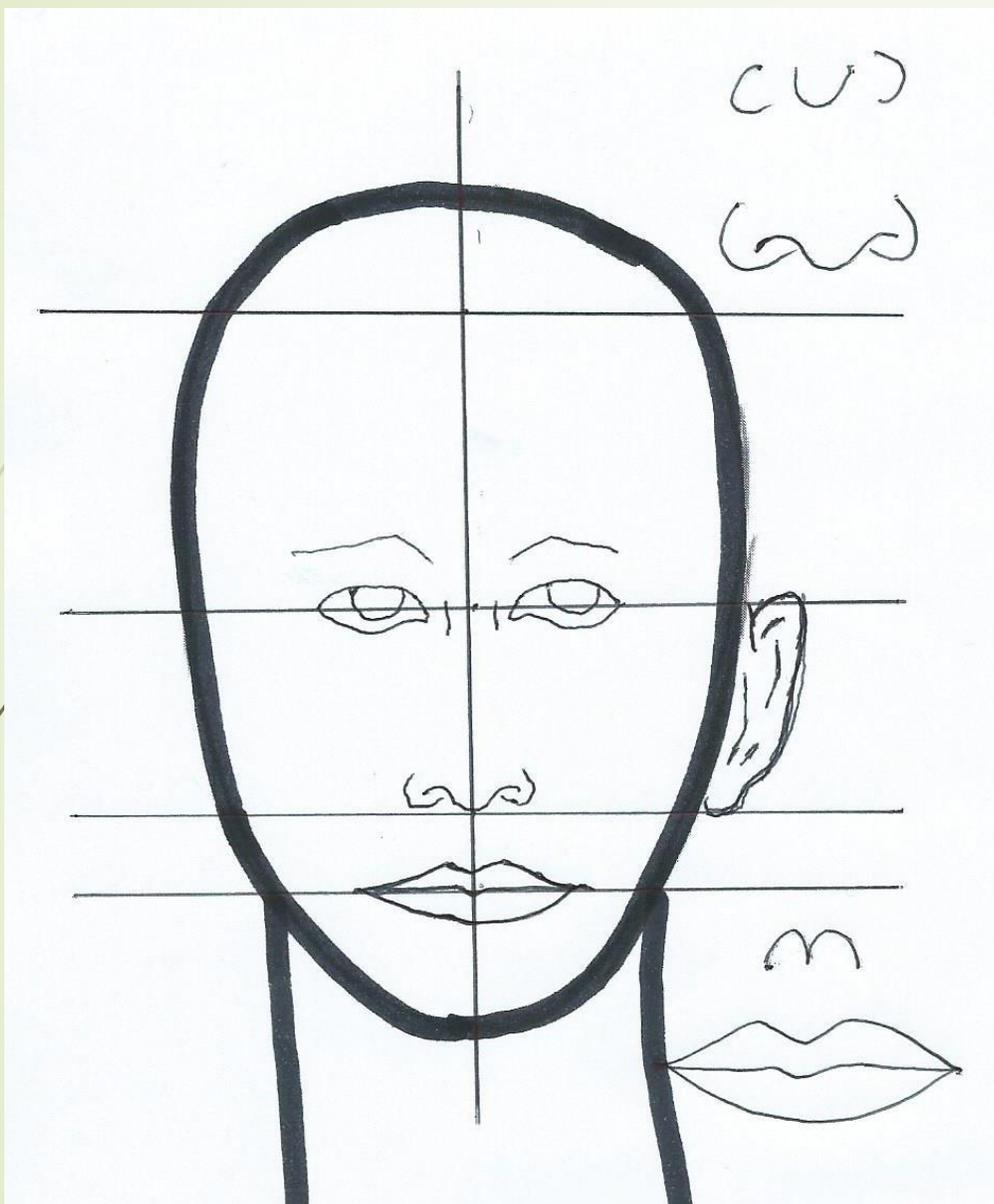
Ears are wider at the top and come in towards the face at the lobe.



Drawing the mouth

The mouth line is either drawn a third of the way down from the nose line to the chin or half way from the nose to the chin. I have chosen to use a third of the way down. This means the centre line between the lips sits on the third line with the top lip above and the bottom lip below touching the half way line approximately.

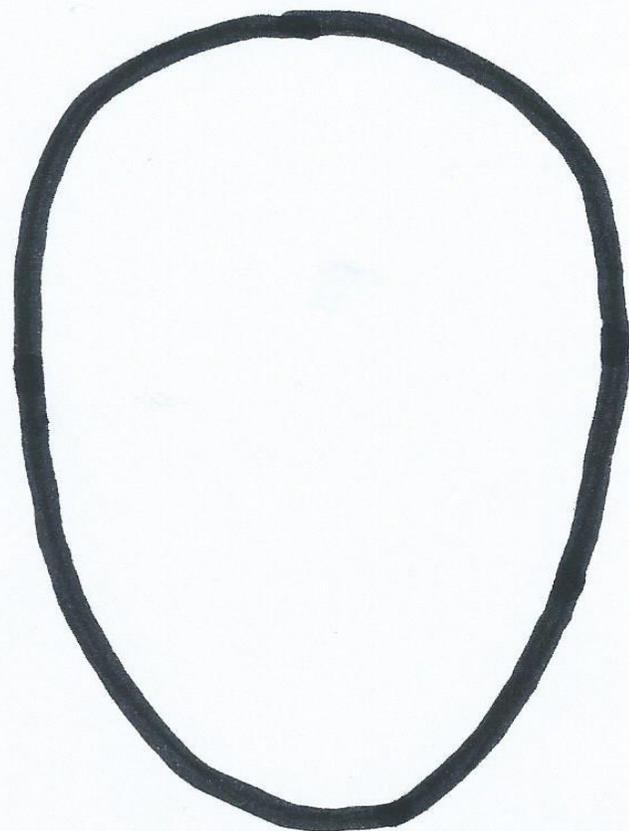
The corners of the mouth line up approximately with the pupils of the eye.



Drawing the neck and hairline

The neck is usually as wide as the jaw line (approximately the bottom lip line).

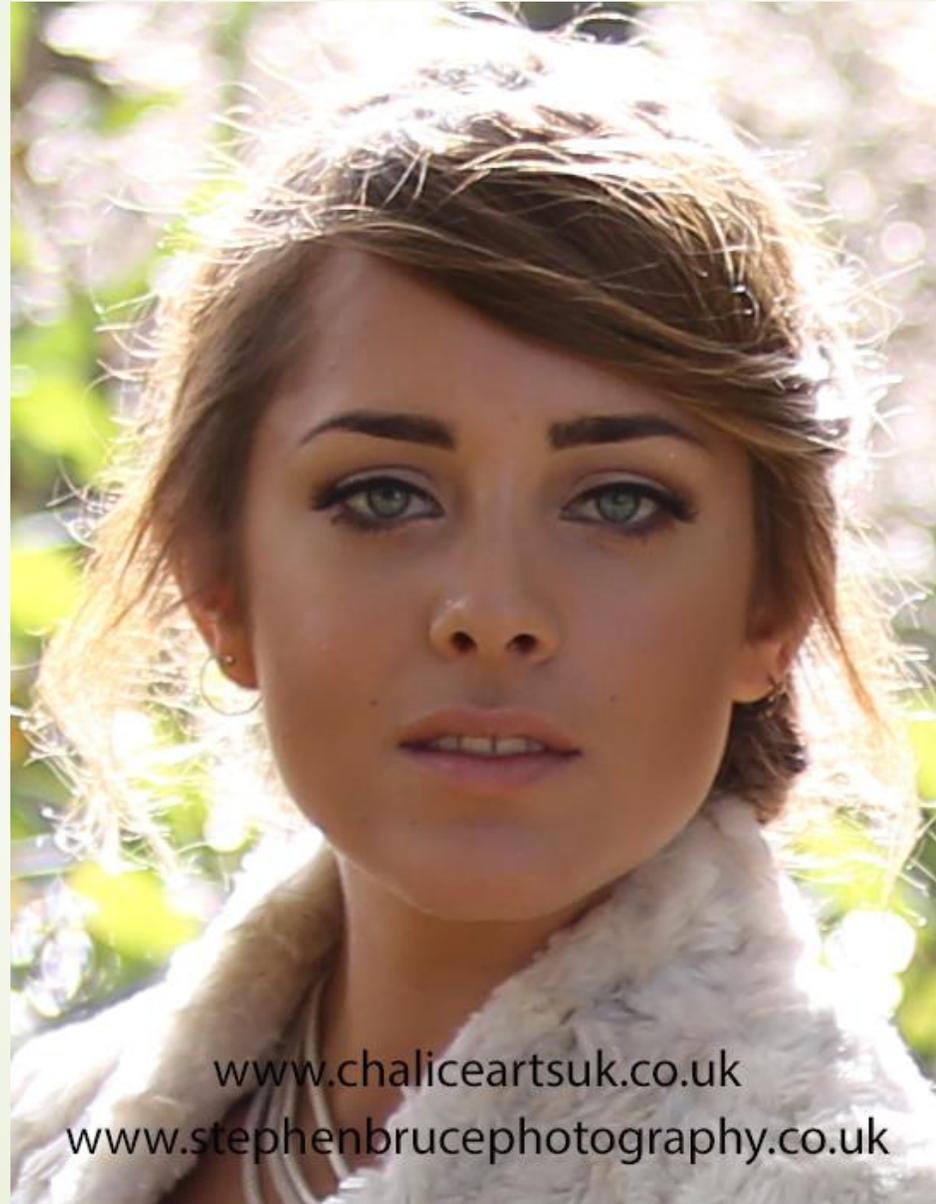
The hair line is approximately one quarter or one third from top of the head to the eye line. The hair itself usually extends above the top of the head depending on hairstyle.



Activity 1: Practice marking out the guidelines.

Activity 2: Use a separate piece of paper and practice drawing eyes, noses, ears and mouths

Activity 3: Put the features on a face.



www.chaliceartsuk.co.uk
www.stephenbrucephotography.co.uk

Profiles

Profiles follow the same formula/ principles as the front portrait.

