

# STILL LIFE

## *Drawing Ellipses*

### GOAL

Learn to observe and recognize different ellipses in a still life and accurately recreate them.

### TECHNIQUE

Block-in Shapes

### INSTRUCTION

An **ellipse** is a circle at an angle. We see ellipses constantly in cups, bowls, vases, jars and other round containers.

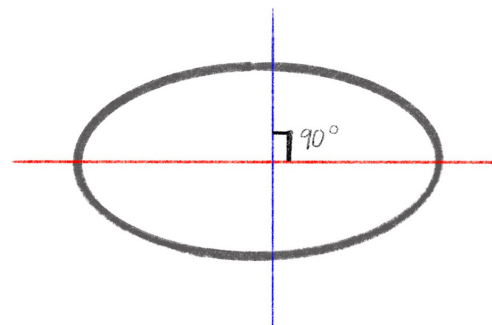
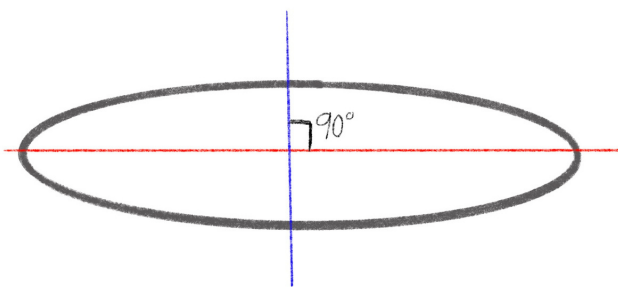


An ellipse is a tilted circle.

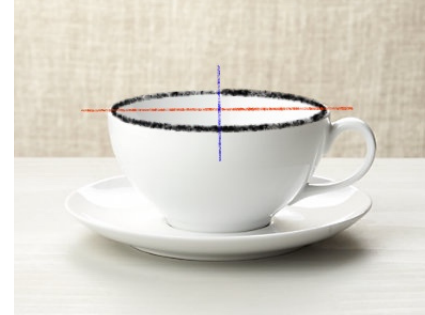
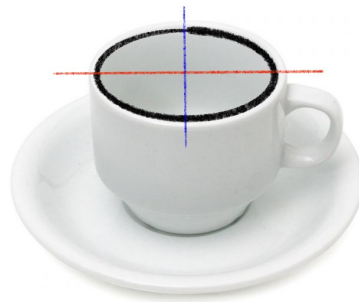


These are **NOT** ellipses.  
An ellipse is not pointed at the ends like an eye and is not a rounded rectangle.

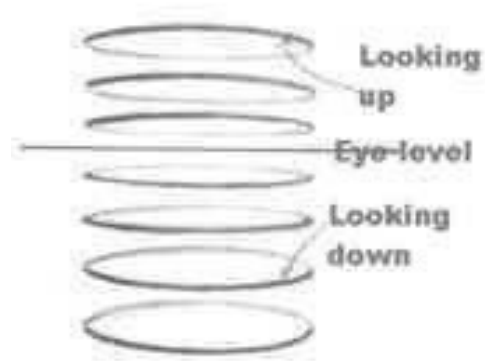
An ellipse has two axes: a **major axis** and **minor axis**. The major axis divides the ellipse on the long side while the minor axis divides the ellipse on the short side. (Think: Major is long & Minor is short) The two axes always cross each other at a 90 degree angle.



The angle and shape of the ellipse changes according to your eye level to the object. At bird's eye, the top of a cup is a perfect circle, however, as your eye level moves, the circle changes to an ellipse.



*Example of a perfect circle at eye level and ellipses depending on eye level.*



*Examples of ellipses based on eye level.*

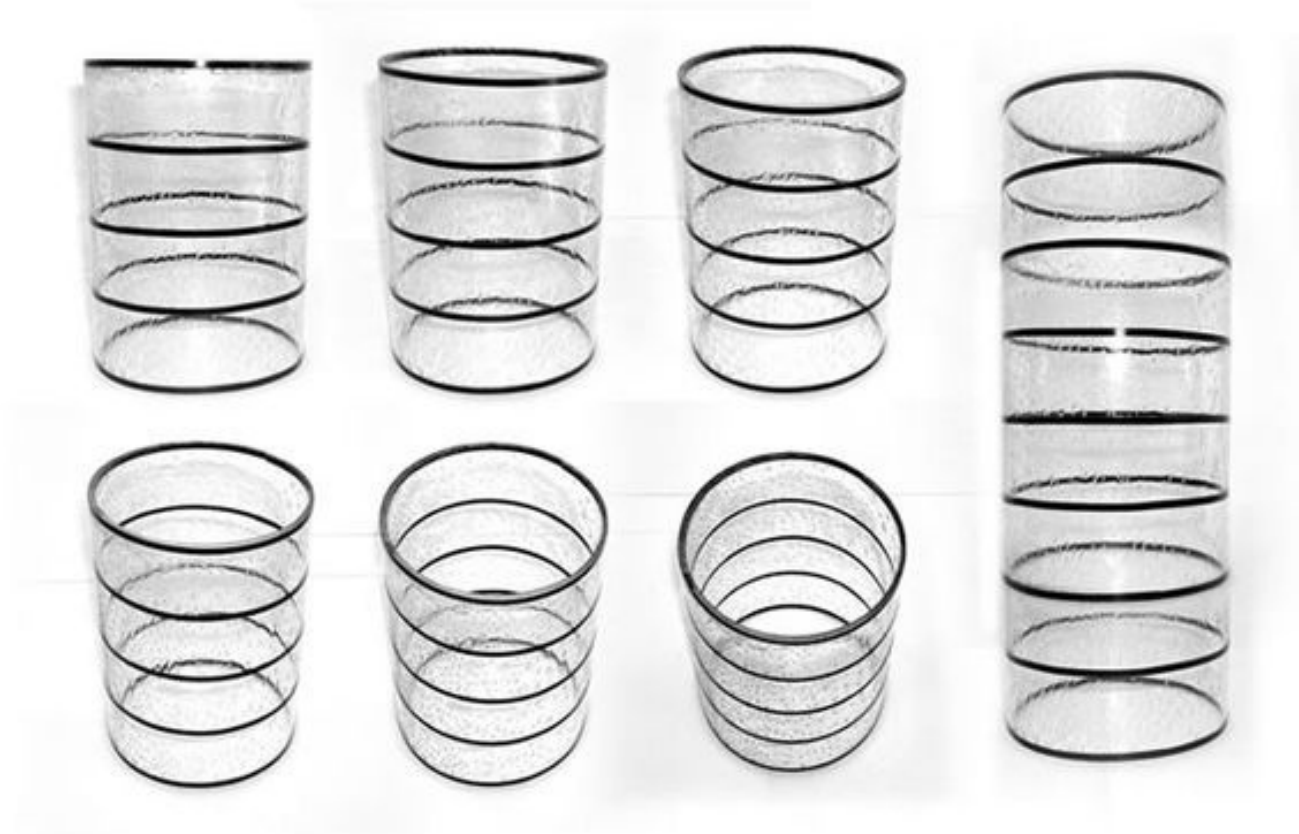
To **draw an ellipse**, begin by blocking in the general shape of the ellipse. Then draw the **major** and **minor** axis. Finally, draw the ellipse. Remember that an ellipse is a tilted circle and should not have points at the end.



*Example of how to draw an ellipse. Notice that the **minor axis** follows the center line of the bottle.*

## PRACTICE

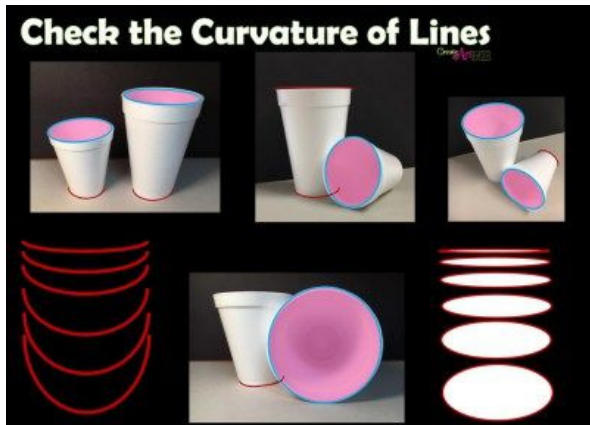
Practice drawing the different ellipses. Pay attention to how the ellipses change based according to eye level.



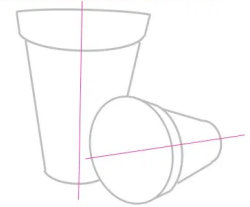
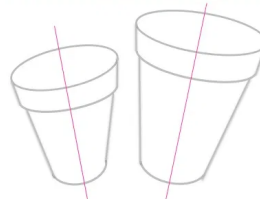
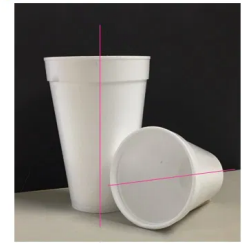
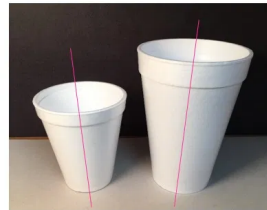
## PRACTICE

Use what you have learned about blocking in shapes and drawing ellipses to draw the following images of cups.

Don't forget to check the curvature of your lines and the symmetry of objects.



### Symmetrical Objects... Draw Line of Symmetry



*Examples of curvature of lines and symmetry.  
Remember: the line of symmetry is also the **minor axis** of the ellipse.*



## PRACTICE

Use what you have learned about blocking in shapes and drawing ellipses to draw the following images of cups.

Don't forget to check the curvature of your lines and the symmetry of objects.



## RESOURCES

<https://www.artistsnetwork.com/art-mediums/drawing/drawing-lesson-an-ellipse-step-by-step/>

<http://userwww.sfsu.edu/trogu/420/reference/perspective/tutorials/ellipses.html>

[gavrilovart.ru](http://gavrilovart.ru)

<https://carlisleartclass.blogspot.com/2014/11/not-so-plain-white-cups.html>

<https://createartwithme.com/styrofoam-cup-charcoal-drawing-still-life/>