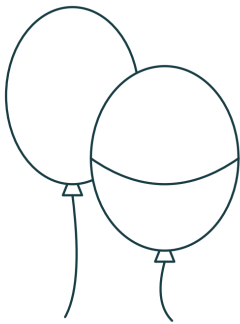
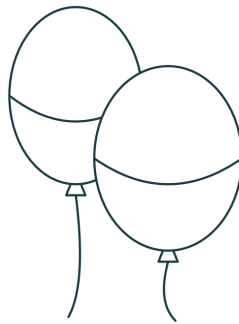


How to draw overlapping balloons: form and overlap

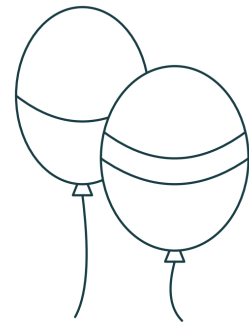
Choose the foreground balloon and stop the rear outline at it. The main decisions are form and overlap; choose your own sizes.



Simplest



A little more detail



Best version

Simplest: Draw one crosswise stripe on the front balloon: the curve wraps its roundness and ends at its sides. Leave the rear balloon plain.

A little more detail: Keep the front stripe. Add one curve on the rear balloon but stop it at the foreground balloon so it cannot show through.

Best version: Add one more stripe above the first on the front balloon. Its middle is also below its ends. Keep one rear curve hidden by the front balloon.

Goal and preparation

Two oval balloons with strings; the right balloon is in front. Choose a curve on a form, explain the overlap order and erase only the covered rear edge.

Use paper, an HB/2B pencil and an eraser. Start with a rough circle, oval and curve. Allow 20–35 minutes, with a break if needed. Around age 7 is a suggestion for learners familiar with these shapes, not an ability rating. To simplify, omit small details but keep both checks. To extend, try all three transfer tasks and choose your own sizes.

Technique 1. A curve on the form

A crosswise stripe wraps around the rounded balloon. Its curve stays within the same oval and reaches its side edges.

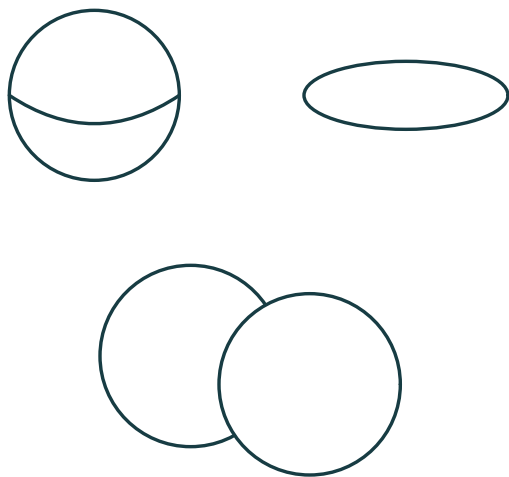
On a simple mass try the two warm-up curves: shallow, then deeper. Choose the one that better describes the selected surface or open circular rim.

Check: The curve endpoints stay on one mass; explain what the curve shows.

Technique 2. Overlap

An opaque foreground shape hides part of the rear shape. Draw two intersecting ovals, choose the front one and erase the covered rear segment. Swap the order in a second trial. Check: where does the rear line end? The criterion is at the foreground edge, not inside it.

Warm-up



In the margin try the chosen curve twice: shallow and deeper. Name the one that exposes more of the surface. Then overlap two ovals and erase the covered edge; repeat with the other oval in front. The first trial prepares step 2; the second prepares steps 4–5.

Step 1. Place two ovals

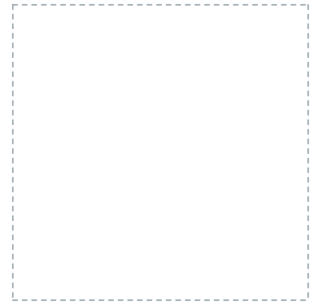
Trial



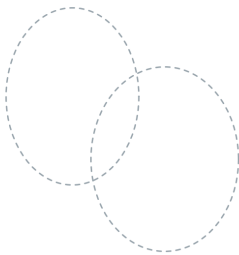
Trial



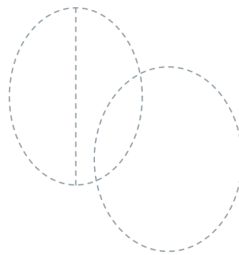
Trial



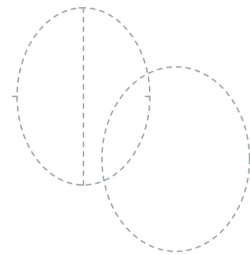
After checking



After checking



After checking



Simplest

A little more detail

Best version

Simplest: Place two intersecting balloon ovals. Keep the large forms light, without an extra axis.

A little more detail: Place two intersecting balloon ovals. Add a light axis to the first mass.

Best version: Place two intersecting balloon ovals. Check its top, base and both sides with four short markers; add an axis.

Place one oval higher on the left and another lower on the right; overlap them by about a third of their width.

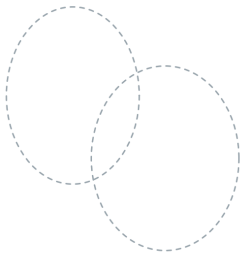
Why: Two masses let you choose depth before adding strings.

Check: Does each balloon retain a visible side?

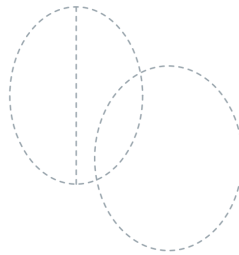
Repair: Move the centres apart while keeping their sizes.

Step 2. Mark crosswise curves

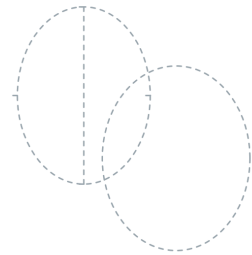
Trial



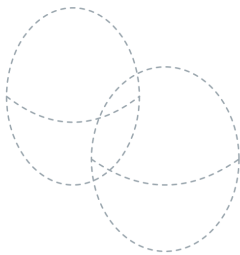
Trial



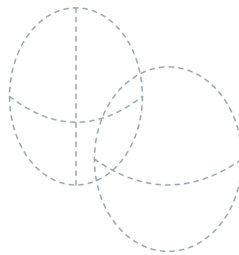
Trial



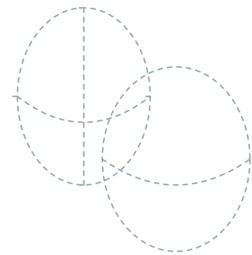
After checking



After checking



After checking



Simplest

A little more detail

Best version

Simplest: Choose the main curve from this step; you may omit a separate axis.

A little more detail: Draw the main curve using the axis. Keep shared arc endpoints when constructing an ellipse.

Best version: Draw the main curve and compare its ends to the side markers. Keep the top and bottom supports light.

Across each oval middle draw a curve whose centre is lower than its side endpoints.

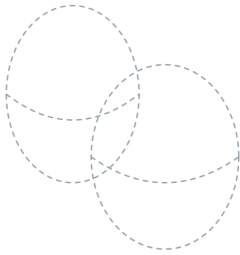
Why: Each curve belongs to its own rounded balloon.

Check: Does the right curve start and end at its own edges?

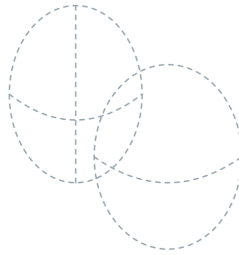
Repair: Shorten the endpoint that reaches the other balloon.

Step 3. Choose the foreground balloon

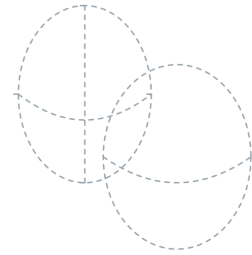
Trial



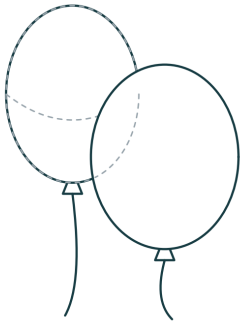
Trial



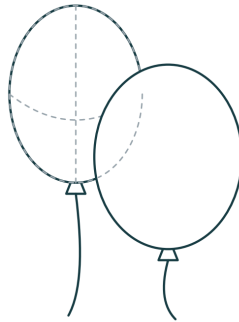
Trial



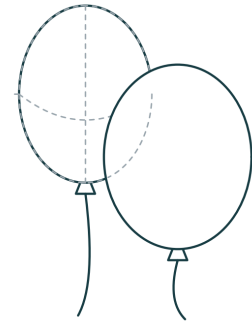
After checking



After checking



After checking



Simplest

A little more detail

Best version

Simplest: Keep both oval edges and choose the right balloon as foreground. Add small knots below and loose strings towards the page bottom. Keep the outer edge plain, without internal details.

A little more detail: Keep both oval edges and choose the right balloon as foreground. Add small knots below and loose strings towards the page bottom. Keep the axis light for checking detail placement.

Best version: Keep both oval edges and choose the right balloon as foreground. Add small knots below and loose strings towards the page bottom. Compare the new edge to all four markers; keep them out of the final outline.

Keep both oval edges and choose the right balloon as foreground. Add small knots below and loose strings towards the page bottom.

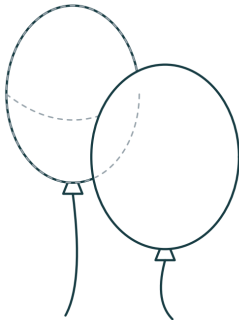
Why: The chosen order determines which edge to erase later.

Check: Can you point to the front balloon before erasing?

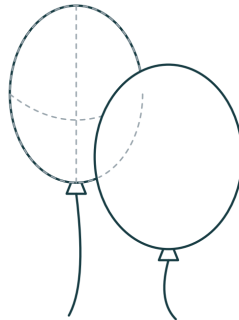
Repair: Emphasise the front edge locally rather than tracing both entirely.

Step 4. Choose the hidden edge

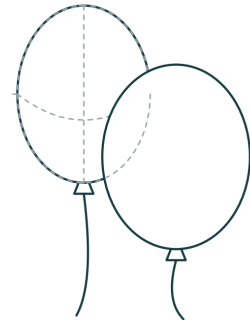
Trial edge



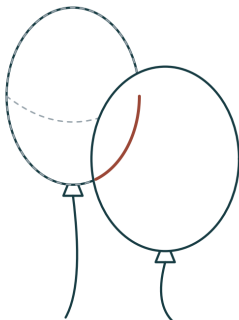
Trial edge



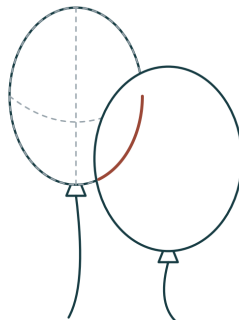
Trial edge



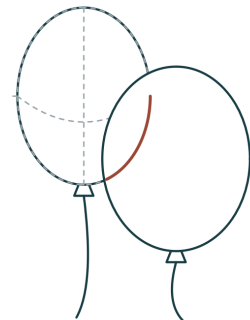
Covered section identified



Covered section identified



Covered section identified



Simplest

A little more detail

Best version

Simplest: At the intersection find the right arc of the left rear balloon. It must not pass through the right foreground balloon. Point to one section to erase.

A little more detail: At the intersection find the right arc of the left rear balloon. It must not pass through the right foreground balloon. Name both covered-line endpoints before erasing.

Best version: At the intersection find the right arc of the left rear balloon. It must not pass through the right foreground balloon. Compare the covered line with the adjacent visible edge: they serve different purposes.

The red line is a diagnostic error for comparison, not an action to copy. The next frame removes exactly this covered segment.

At the intersection find the right arc of the left rear balloon. It must not pass through the right foreground balloon.

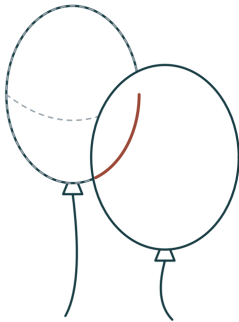
Why: Because the foreground balloon hides the rear arc, a continuous rear line would make the front shape look transparent.

Check: Can you name the front shape and point to the covered segment?

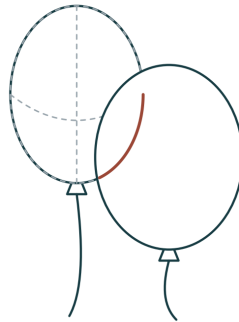
Repair: Do not erase everything: first locate both ends of the covered segment.

Step 5. Erase only the covered line

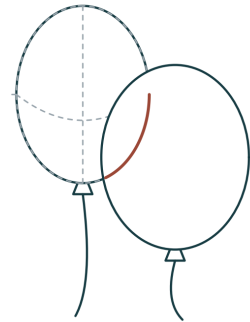
Trial



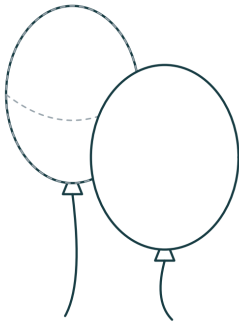
Trial



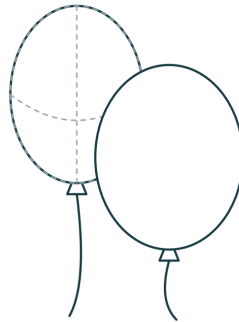
Trial



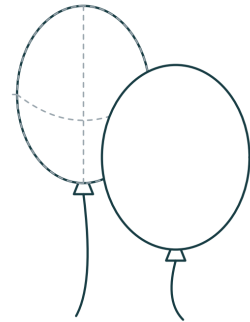
After checking



After checking



After checking



Simplest

A little more detail

Best version

Simplest: Erase the rear arc inside the right balloon. The visible rear arc stops at the foreground edge. Keep the foreground outer edge.

A little more detail: Erase the rear arc inside the right balloon. The visible rear arc stops at the foreground edge. Check that the visible rear end reaches the front edge.

Best version: Erase the rear arc inside the right balloon. The visible rear arc stops at the foreground edge. If the eraser touched an adjacent visible line, restore only its short endpoint.

Erase the rear arc inside the right balloon. The visible rear arc stops at the foreground edge.

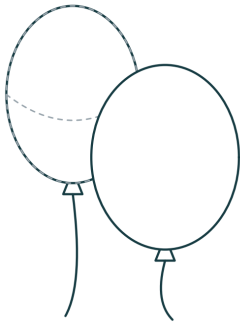
Why: The eraser commits the chosen order: the front form hides the rear one.

Check: Is the previous error line gone, with adjacent visible edges retained?

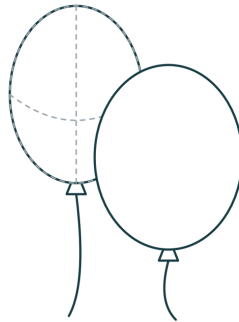
Repair: If you erased a visible end, restore a short line up to the foreground boundary.

Step 6. Add the useful details

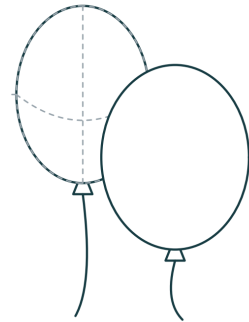
Trial



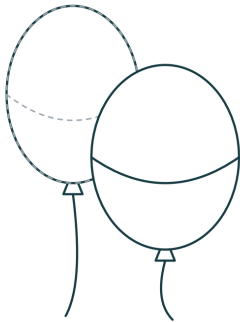
Trial



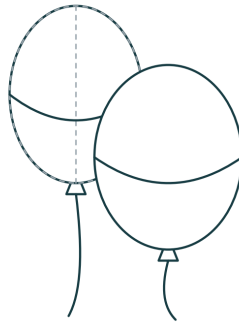
Trial



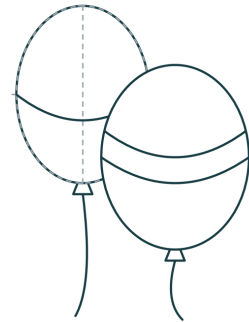
After checking



After checking



After checking



Simplest

A little more detail

Best version

Simplest: Draw one crosswise stripe on the front balloon: the curve wraps its roundness and ends at its sides. Leave the rear balloon plain.

A little more detail: Keep the front stripe. Add one curve on the rear balloon but stop it at the foreground balloon so it cannot show through.

Best version: Add one more stripe above the first on the front balloon. Its middle is also below its ends. Keep one rear curve hidden by the front balloon.

Add only the details of your selected level, keeping the checked silhouette.

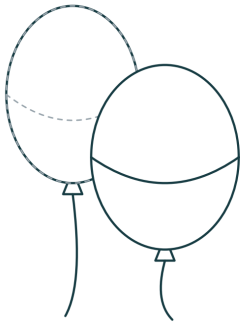
Why: Details use the masses and curves already checked.

Check: Does each detail belong to its form without crossing the neighbouring one?

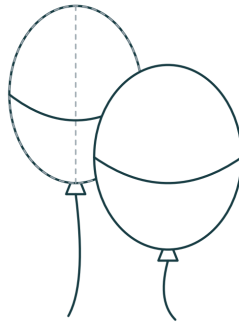
Repair: Erase only the misplaced detail endpoint and shorten it to its own edge.

Step 7. Remove the guides

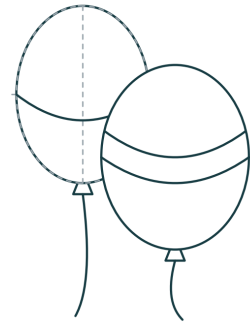
Trial



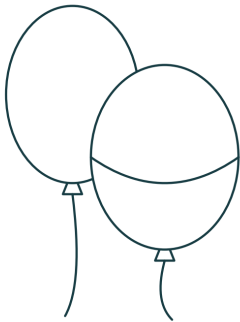
Trial



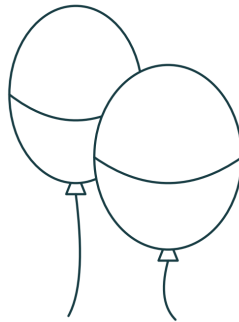
Trial



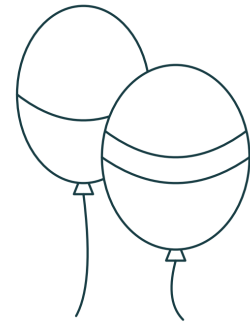
After checking



After checking



After checking



Simplest

A little more detail

Best version

Simplest: Remove the temporary curve and light masses; retain the plain edge and this route details.

A little more detail: Remove the axis and temporary masses. Keep the details added at step 6.

Best version: Remove the axis, four boundary markers and masses. Keep the chosen curves and step 6 details without adding new ones.

Erase the dashed masses and temporary guides, keeping the chosen outer edge and explained details. Add no new details.

Why: The guides helped choose the form, but not all are part of its surface.

Check: Is there less construction, with the overlap order intact?

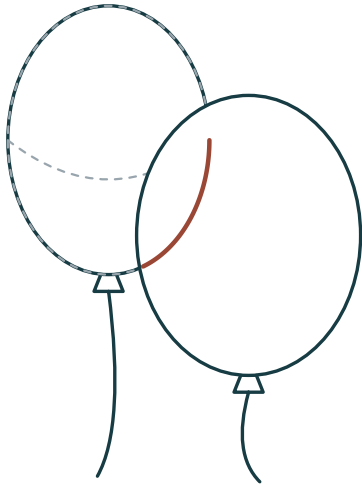
Repair: Restore one needed visible edge if the eraser touched it; do not trace everything again.

If the drawing is unclear

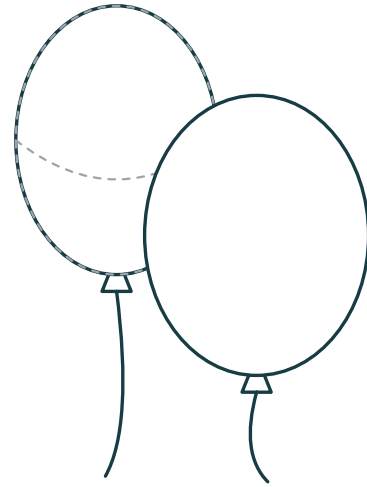
The front form looks transparent. Cause: A covered rear edge remains: the foreground balloon hides the rear arc. Repair: Erase the rear arc inside the right balloon. The visible rear arc stops at the foreground edge.

The curve does not belong to the form. Cause: Its endpoints escaped the mass boundary. Repair: Soften one endpoint and return it to the side marker from step 2.

There is a gap after erasing. Cause: The eraser touched a visible section beside the overlap. Repair: Restore a short visible end up to the front boundary; keep the hidden line erased.



Before repair

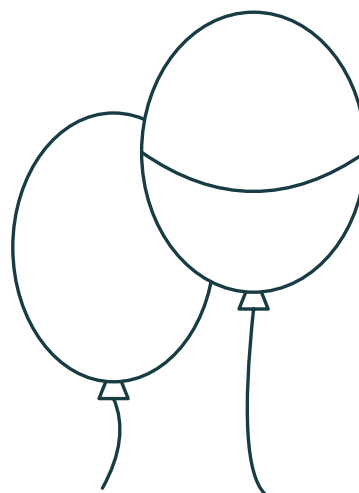
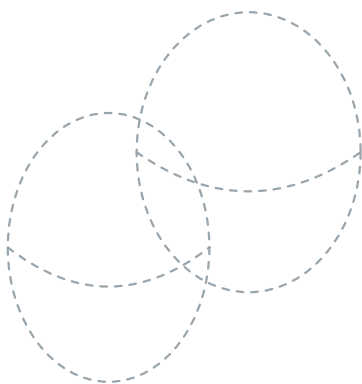


After erasing the hidden edge

Independent tasks

Choose one new condition below. First construct your own masses and curve, name the foreground form, then draw the edge and erase the covered section. The construction-to-example pair explains the change; build rather than copy a finished outline. Your sizes and uneven lines may differ.

1. The front balloon is higher



Construction: the new arrangement

Example after removing guides

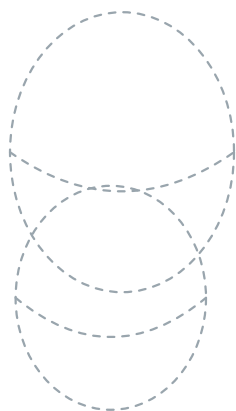
Move the front balloon higher and the rear one lower. Place new ovals, then choose where the rear right edge stops.

Why: The overlap height changes: the previously erased segment no longer fits.

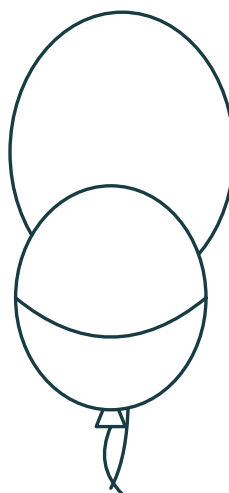
Check: Is the rear edge removed only in the new intersection?

Repair: Restore the visible lower edge and erase the new upper segment.

2. The front balloon is below



Construction: the new arrangement



Example after removing guides

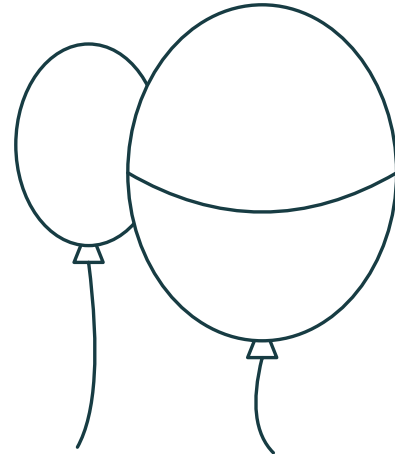
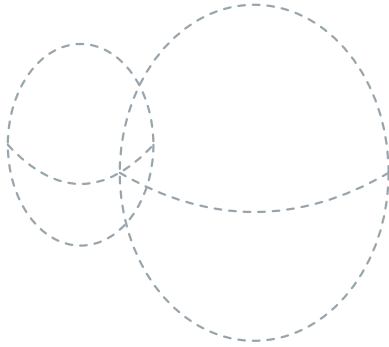
Place a smaller front balloon below the rear centre. Choose the new stripe curve and hidden lower-edge segment.

Why: The overlap moves from the side to the bottom; the rear string may also be hidden.

Check: Does the rear lower arc stop rather than cross the front balloon?

Repair: Remove the covered bottom and string segment while retaining visible ends.

3. A large balloon in front of a small one



Construction: the new arrangement

Example after removing guides

Place a small oval on the left and a large foreground oval on the right. Choose a new stripe depth on the large mass and check the overlap.

Why: Changed sizes require finding a new volume curve rather than enlarging the entire old drawing.

Check: Does the stripe belong to the large oval without continuing onto the small one?

Repair: Shorten the stripe at the large balloon side edge.

Self-check

Name the changed condition, point to a curve on your new mass and show where the rear edge stops. Explain which guide you erased after checking.

Question: Why does the rear edge stop at an opaque foreground shape?

Answer: The foreground shape hides that segment. Continuing the rear edge inside it would suggest transparency. Retain the visible end up to the overlap.

Uneven lines are fine. Explain your chosen curve and where the rear edge stops. The example does not prescribe the only proportions. Structure and illustrations received editorial checks; no classroom trial has been conducted.