

We are learning to create light and shadows using pencils.



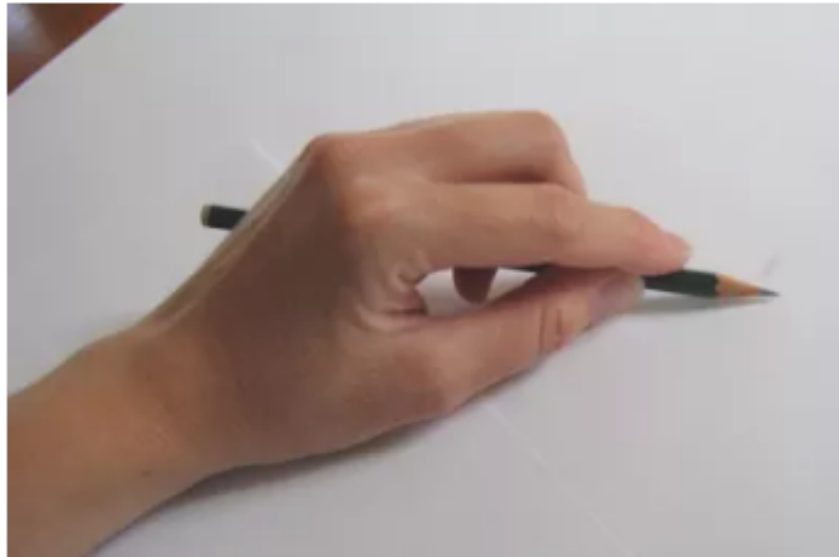
I can start lightly and build up darkness gradually.

I can pick the correct pencil.

I can use the right grip depending on desired effect.

Pick up your pencil and prepare to practise your pencil grips!

The Overhand Grip



 H South

The overhand grip is a popular way to hold a pencil for sketching. It allows you to shade with the side of the pencil and is also a useful pencil hold for vertical drawing surfaces, such as an [easel](#).

To create the overhand grip, grasp the pencil lightly against the fingers with the flat of the thumb. The actual

position will vary according to the proportions of your hand; the main goal is to have a secure but relaxed grip on the pencil. For best results, sit or stand so that your arm has a full range of movement, allowing for free, expressive mark-making.

While the overhand grip is often demonstrated as the "correct" way to hold a pencil for drawing (and it is a useful method), it is no more or less correct than any other pencil grip.

The Basic Tripod Grip



 H South

The most common method for holding a pencil -- the same one you probably use for writing -- is the basic tripod grip. The thumb and forefinger form a triangle with the middle finger, with the form being supported by the ring finger and pinkie.

This grip allows tight control over the pencil, so is ideal for drawing fine detail when precision is

important. The upright position of the [pencil allows for accurate shading](#), utilizing the tip rather than the side of the pencil.

When using the tripod grip, use your fingers and thumb to control the pencil's movement.

For fine work, your hand may rest on the page. Use a spare sheet of paper to keep your drawing free from smudges and skin oils.

If more movement is required, your wrist or elbow may rest against the edge of the drawing surface and be used as a pivot.

Experiment with different pencils
and grips.

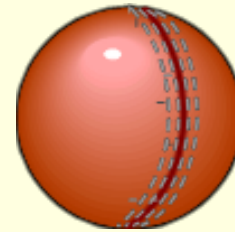
What do you notice about the
different pencils?

*The softer the graphite (lead), the
less effort is required to make a
dark mark.*



Watch this video.

CLICK THE BALL



What do you notice about how the artist draws the outline of the ball?

What do you notice about how the artist draws the reflections and shadows on the ball?

★ **We are learning to create light and shadows using pencils.**

There is a picture of a ball at the end of this PDF.

On a piece of paper, draw the outline of the ball with a pencil.

Then, practise shading the ball, holding the pencil correctly.

Think carefully about the reflections and shadows on the ball.

Try a few times - this is about making mistakes and learning from them!

