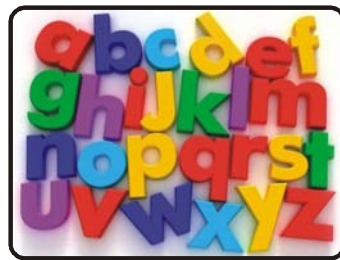


# Art Clinic Contest

**EduHeal Foundation  
Art Clinic Contest  
and other  
Art Clinic Contest/Talent Search Exams.**



**EtG BOOKS**

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### **Teaching Children to Draw**

Way of inhibiting their creativity, I tend to avoid teaching drawing to children. But they are receiving input from all around them, and want to learn to draw. Why let them flounder when we can provide positive models? So how do we approach teaching of drawing to children? It depends on what stage of development they are at, and of course, every child is different.

### **A First Visual Language**

From picture-books toddlers learn that shapes have names and represent objects. They begin to label familiar shapes found in their scribbles, then begin to use simple shapes to construct simple objects, especially faces.

### **The Visual System Expands**

As children get older, they add detail and complexity to their drawings. Faces attach to bodies, and ways are found to represent more objects. At around age 5, depending on the child, a sense of pattern emerges, with houses, trees and families telling familiar stories, and the symbol-library does its job well.

### **Discovering Limitations**

Problems begin at about age 10, when reality and appearances become important. The rocket taking off or the beautiful dress or the horse don't look right - the symbolic language no longer works. Some children become obsessed with drawing fine details at this stage, some will do a great deal of drawing in an attempt to get it right, and most will give up in disgust.

### **Handle with Care**

Drawings represent the child's experience of the world. We must be careful not to invalidate this by the way we respond. Inappropriate responses may include imposing our narratives - our stories or ideas - on the drawing, for example "Oh, that's a nice dog. Oh, it's a horse? Well it looks like a dog..."; criticism of lack of realism, and unrealistic expectations - have you noticed how we always expect children to draw from memory even things which they may be quite unfamiliar with? - and importantly for older children, criticism of realism, when we label their awkward attempts at realistic detail as 'tightness' and lament the loss of childish naivete.

### **First learn about drawing for yourself**

The difference between drawing a square house with 4-square windows and a chimney and drawing the 'real' shape of a house is an immense leap of understanding. Learning to draw is far more about seeing than about making marks on paper. This is essential: to teach your child to see this way, you must first learn about it yourself. You must understand how an artist sees the world to foster this vision in your youngster.

### **Don't expect instant results**

The process of learning to draw is a lengthy one, measured in years, depending upon a child's fine motor skills and cognitive development. Pushing a child too quickly will only result in unhappiness for all concerned, while gentle nurturing will allow their natural talent to blossom.



When looking at or making art with children, always be positive. When guiding their drawing, avoid correcting 'mistakes', but rather, offer suggestions at the beginning of the session. In lives constantly controlled by adults, art is one area of true freedom for children, so be careful to offer possibilities rather than impose rules. Be guided by their interest and ability. When a child is happy with their efforts, share their pleasure. If the child feels the drawing is unsuccessful, discuss why it does not achieve their aims, and find some positives to praise, and things to learn from.

### **Points of discussion (depending on age)**

How do you feel about your picture?

What do you like about this color?

Tell me about these shapes.

I like these zig-zaggy/swirly lines.

Do you like using the large small brush?

These colors are so bright/deep.

This pattern is interesting.

### **Toddlers: Modelling Drawing**

Drawing with babies and toddlers is great fun. Start with simple shapes, naming them. They will recognise many from their picture books. Draw simple faces. As you draw, explain what you are doing: look, a happy smile, a sad face, curly hair, this one has ear-rings. Draw trees, flowers, grass, a house, animals. Encourage littlies to join in, doing their own or adding details. Name the colors - as well as the primaries, look for pencils or pens in colors like ochre, magenta, turquoise and vermilion. Never apologise for your lack of talent - your little one thinks you are a genius.

### **Preschoolers: Expanding the Vocabulary**

You can broaden your child's vocabulary of visual symbols just as you do with the written word, by 'reading' and 'writing' them. As they begin to draw, ask your child what they are depicting. You can offer gentle prompts as they go, but do not be insistent - you are simply offering possibilities. A horse... how many legs does it have? Four? Who is riding the horse? Do they have a saddle? If asked, you might offer a suggestion for a line that will help represent an unfamiliar shape (How do I draw a saddle? Perhaps a curved line, like this?) How can we show movement? Try making fast, energetic marks. Slow, wavy marks for water... remember art is about feeling as well as seeing.

### **School age: Ready to Build Skills**

When a child begins to be interested in creating complex pictures, has good fine motor control (drawing accurate shapes) and expresses the desire to draw how things look, then they are ready to begin learning to draw realistically. It is important to remember that realism is only one aspect of artistic expression, and endeavours in this area should be balanced by encouraging expressive mark-making, experimentation with color, and exposure to non-representational art.

# Absolute Beginners to Painting

Answers to questions that may arise when you decide to learn to paint.

Looking at a great painting it can be hard to remember that every artist was an absolute beginner at some stage. But it's true, no-one is born with a paint brush in their hand, everyone learned from scratch at some stage. This list of commonly asked questions will help you get started on your creative journey as an artist.

## 1. Do I Have to Know How to Draw Before I can Paint?



*Image © Marion Boddy-Evans*

Traditionally if you were training as an artist you'd spend a year or two learning to draw before you touched paint. The thinking is that you're not distracted by color while still mastering techniques such as perspective. But I believe that if you don't like drawing, for whatever reason, there's no reason not to jump straight into painting. Ultimately, it's the creation of art that's important, not the road you take to get there.

## 2. What Kind of Paint Should I Use?



*Image © Marion Boddy-Evans*

The most common types of paint used are acrylic, oils, water-based oils, watercolor, and pastel. None is better or significantly easier to master than the other. Which one is right for you depends to a large extent on your personality (take the Paint Personality Quiz), whether you're allergic to solvents, and how long you're prepared to wait for paint to dry.

My personal recommendation is to start with acrylics because they dry quickly, mix and clean up with water, and it's easy to paint out and hide mistakes. Acrylics can also be used on just about any surface, so you can paint on paper, canvas, or board.



### **3. What Brand of Paint Should I Buy?**



*Image © Marion Boddy-Evans*

It depends on what your budget is. I'm a great believer in buying the best quality paint you can for a price that you still feel able to experiment and 'waste' it. Try various brands and see which you like using. You'll find differences in consistency for example, as well as the smell of the paint.

Color mixing with very cheap paints can be frustrating as the results turn out dull. This is because there is less pigment in such paints and more extender or filler.

### **4. Can I Mix Different Brands of Paint?**



*Image © Marion Boddy-Evans*

Yes, you can mix different *brands* of paint and artist's quality and student's quality paints. Be more cautious mixing different *types* of paint or using them in the same painting. For instance, you can use oil paints on top of dried acrylic paint, but not acrylic paint on top of oil paint.

### **5. What Paint Colors Should I Get?**



*Image © Marion Boddy-Evans*

For acrylics, watercolors, and oils, if you want to mix colors, start with two reds, two blues, two yellows, and a white. You want two of each primary color, one a warm version and one a

cool. This will give you a larger range of colors when mixing than just one version of each primary.

If you don't want to mix all your colors, also get an earth brown (burnt sienna or burnt umber), a golden earth brown (golden ocher), and a green (phthalo green).

## **6. Do I Really Have to Learn Color Theory?**



*Image © Marion Boddy-Evans*

Color is one of the fundamentals of painting and the more you know about the colors you're using, the more you can get from it. Don't let the word "theory" intimidate you. The fundamentals of color mixing aren't particularly tricky to understand.

## **7. Should I Paint on Paper or Canvas or What?**



*Image ©2 Marion Boddy-Evans*

You can paint on practically anything provided the paint will stick and provided the paint won't rot the surface (or to use art-speak, the support).

Acrylic paint can be painted on paper, card, wood, or canvas, with or without a primer being used first. Watercolor can be painted on paper, card, or special watercolor canvas.

A support for oil paint needs to be primed first, otherwise the oil in the paint will eventually rot the paper or threads of the canvas. You can buy pads of paper primed for oil paper, which are perfect for doing studies or if your storage space is limited.

## **8. How Many Paint Brushes Do I Need?**



*Image © Marion Boddy-Evans*

As few or as many as you like. if you're painting with oils, you can have a different brush for each color as the paint won't dry in the brush in a hurry.

I mostly use just one brush, a specifically a No.10 size Filbert with bristle hairs, rinsing it clean regularly as I'm painting. I've used the same shape and size for years now, replacing it as it wears down. I've become very familiar with exactly what it'll do that I don't have to think about it.

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Sunset is one of the most beautiful daily sights. Although they occur every day, the quality and majesty of a given sunset depends largely on the amount of clouds, the angle of the sun and the location. Every so often, all the variables come together just right and a beautiful sunset is born. The subject and style of your sunset drawing is upto you. Examples of sunset drawings are given below. Draw your sunset on page 3 and write your details on page 2.







You are allowed 10 minutes to fill the required details. All the details are important and hence must be filled carefully and neatly in CAPITAL LETTERS.

1. Name of your art teacher \_\_\_\_\_

2. Date of conduct of Olympiad \_\_\_\_\_

3. Paper Code attempted : \_\_\_\_\_

4. Name : \_\_\_\_\_

5. Class : \_\_\_\_\_

6. Roll No.: *(As given in attendance sheet :)* \_\_\_\_\_

7. Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

*(with STD)(Tele interview may be conducted in case in tie-up)*

8. School : \_\_\_\_\_

9. Extra Curricular achievement : *(National Rank in Olympiad etc.)*

\_\_\_\_\_



10. Marks/Grade obtained in previous class : \_\_\_\_\_

11. Date of Birth : \_\_\_\_\_

12. Did you participate in previous EHF Olympiads  No.  Yes, If yes your National Rank \_\_\_\_\_

13. Topic of the card made \_\_\_\_\_