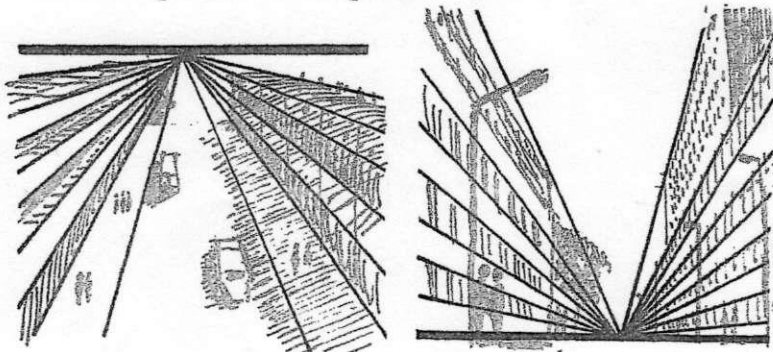


perspective

Beginners tend to worry that their drawings "do not look right". They usually mean they "do not accurately describe what they see". Improving your accuracy will improve your confidence, and understanding the basic principles of perspective helps you to check your observations.

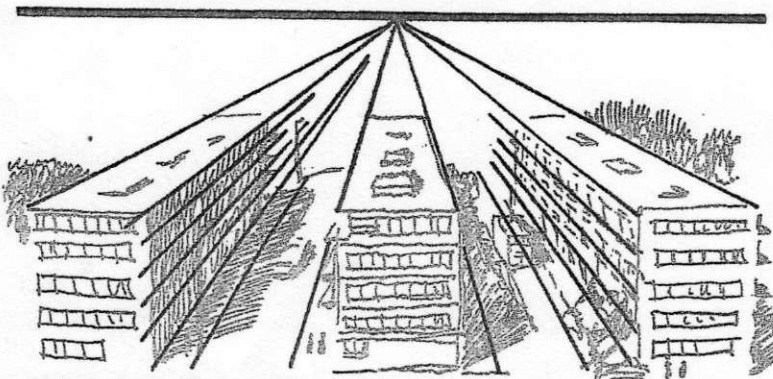
Perspective is the means by which you achieve a convincing spatial relationship between the parts of the

drawing. The laws of perspective are like the laws of grammar: to be learned and then used to help you express yourself – they should not dominate your subject. Normally vertical edges are drawn as verticals on your drawing and horizontal edges are drawn as converging lines which meet at either a distant central or vanishing point, or at two points at either side of the object.



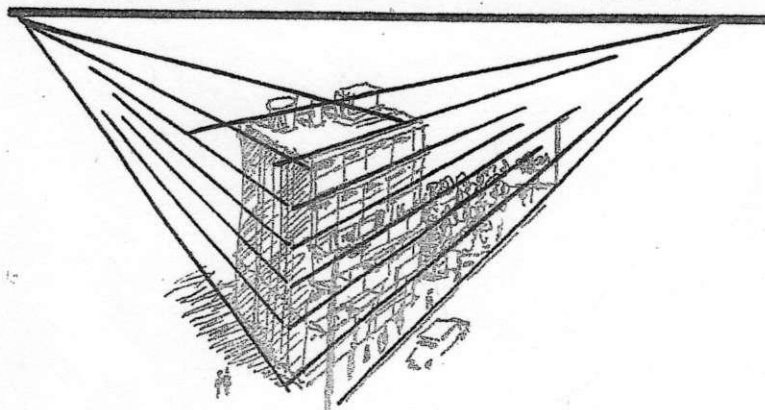
Eye level

The vanishing point of the horizontal lines depends on the height at which you observe the subject: the higher you are the higher the vanishing point, and the lower you are the lower the vanishing point. The eye level is at the level of the vanishing point.



One vanishing point

Imagine three blocks of flats standing side by side. The roads, windows and roofs all have parallel horizontal lines. When viewed side by side, their receding edges will appear to converge on a common vanishing point (left).



Two vanishing points

If you are drawing boxes or corners of buildings, each side will produce converging lines which meet at two separate vanishing points (left). In both single and double vanishing point drawings the distant point is always at your eye level.