

Visualizing Basic Shapes #1

Time to Complete:	3 minutes.
Mission:	You'll realize that you have a 'picture dictionary' in your brain that can make it difficult to draw what you see. You'll learn how to use this tool to train your hand to draw what you see.
Outcome:	You'll have a tool that you can carry with you and can use in real time. You'll have a simple 'grid system' that will help you see that objects take up space and how they have an underlying shape that you can see. You'll learn how to notice the contours and borders of a shape without all the surface details.
Potential Difficulty:	You might feel compelled to keep adding more details because the object doesn't look like the the picture you have in your head. You might include unneeded details, like shadows and imperfections on the shape, which makes it more complicated. You might not give yourself permission to make mistakes.
Steps to Complete the Exercise:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Cut out the flaps by following the dotted lines.2. Do NOT cut on the solid lines.3. These are your window flaps.4. Hold up the sheet against the object you're interested in.5. Open 1, 2, 3 or 4 of the flaps and look through the openings.6. Don't focus on the surface details. Try to see the shape of the object.7. Remember that you are actually seeing the object and it probably doesn't match your picture dictionary.8. Draw what you see.9. Open and close the flaps in any order to have different views of the object.
Ways to Avoid Failure:	Use this portable grid system to see the basic shapes under real life objects. Since this is just a piece of paper you can carry with you, practice using it whenever you have a chance. You can use it on photographs, models, and your own drawings to check if you've got the shape you need.