Shading techniques
Preparation

• You need a number ranging from 2B to 2H. These letters refer to the hardness of the pencil lead. When sketching a soft lead such as 2B is can be used to produce quick drawings and shading. On the other hand, when drawing precisely a 2H or even a harder pencil such as a 4H is ideal. This type of pencil keeps its sharp edge for longer and produces very fine lines.

![Diagram of pencil leads](image)
Refillable pencil

• A refillable pencil is very useful especially if you are constructing a drawing that needs a constant thickness of line. The refills are available in a range of thicknesses and either hard or soft leads.

• Disadvantages are that the refillable pencils are relatively expensive and so are the refills. Also, the leads tend to break more easily.

• In this case, we are not using it for drawing.
There are many ways to shade. Different techniques of shading will give images various appearances.
Crosshatching

• Generally it is formed from a series of intersecting lines. To go from light and dark, start with lines that are spread out, with less intersecting lines and slowly overlap with more sets of lines when getting dark.

• This technique is very common, generally because it is clean and simple.

• Video Demonstration
• This technique is for **gesture drawings**. It basically consists of **scribbled lines**, which is rarely used in formal drawings. It's quick, and thus it is highly **recommended** for quick sketches.
Circular technique

• The pattern is made by moving your pencil in a circular motion. The image to the left shows the quicker version of this technique with larger loops. Variation in intensity is determined by pressure and size of the loops. Loose circles is also recommended for quick sketches.

• Video Demonstration
• This is another form of the circular technique. The loops made are very tightly woven, giving it an all-over smooth look. This technique is great for doing the skin and clothing, but it does take more time.

• Video Demonstration
Blending technique

• This texture was achieved through blending. We've basically put on a layer of pencil that varied in tone, and take our finger and rubbed it until it was smooth.

• This technique is great for drawings smooth surfaces, especially the skin, and is perfect for those who are less patient.
Applications

Shading flat surface

• 1. The drawing opposite shows *two tone shading*.

• A suitable colour is chosen and two sides of the cube are shaded - one slightly darker than the other.
Applications

• 2. This drawing shows *three tone shading*.

• This is very similar to the previous example except three shades of the same colour are used
Applications

Shading according to single light source

• Three tone shading has been used again but in this case a lighting effect has been added to the top. Light is shown reflected on the top part of the cube.

• This is achieved by shading in a radial pattern. The coloured pencil follows the ‘invisible’ red guidelines. As the shading progresses from right to left more weight is applied to the pencil giving a darker shade.
Applications

Shading according to multiple light source

• The example opposite shows the lighting effect applied to all three visible sides of the cube. However, to speed up the technique the shading is not radial but linear (shading is in straight lines).

• When shading a side of a cube using this technique, a coloured pencil is used in a linear fashion parallel to an edge of the cube.
Applications

Shading curved surface

1. Using the same colour and shading from dark to light, this gives the effect of a curved surface.

Part of the cylinder is not shaded at all and this is where most light is reflected.

2. The drawing opposite shows how effective this simple and yet quick drawing technique can be.