

Drawing at home

Like any work, you need the right tools and drawing isn't the mystery that people think it is.

Can you teach someone to draw? I believe you can, what's more you can start from home with very few items to get you started

The following lesson isn't about cheating or taking short cuts; it's about enabling you to start enjoying the process of creating something.

If you ever ride a bicycle the first step was to use enablers.

That's all that this is and once you've got the hang of it you can do more.

So, what will you need to get started?

1. **A photo** (be careful if it's from a magazine as the image on the page behind will show through. You are better printing one out)
2. **A sheet of A4 white paper** (standard printing paper)
3. **Masking tape or Sellotape** (masking tape is easier to remove later)
4. **A pencil** (preferably an **2B** or **4B**)
5. **A pencil sharpener**
6. **An eraser**
7. **A window ... yes, a window.**



Why a window?

Every house has a window but not everyone has a lightbox. This is a way of using natural light to create the drawing.

So how does this work?

Choose a photograph, the bigger the better so that it fills the A4 paper as much as possible

Take the photograph and 4 small strips of masking tape or Sellotape

Fix the photograph to a window



Take the plain paper and tape it on top of the photograph, only use tape at the top corners

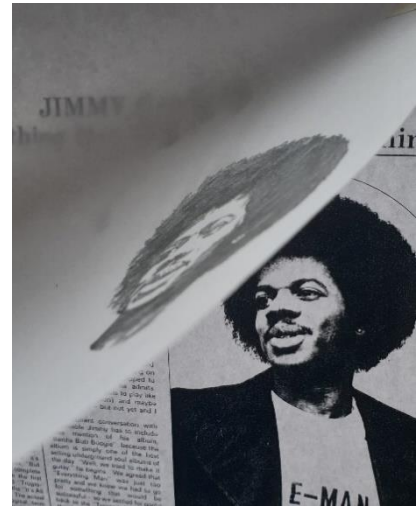
You now have a natural light box *

Start drawing over the photograph onto the paper



When you think that you have started to get somewhere with the drawing, lift it gently away from the photograph so that you can see how it is looking

Once you are happy with your picture, carefully remove the tape from the paper and the photograph.



You should now have a finished drawing.

From here you can experiment with techniques if you want to (more exercises to follow).

If you have access to photocopier/printer then you can make copies of your original making sure that the original is kept safe.

*If you were working in a studio you may have access to a light box which does the same thing. A box with a white piece of Perspex on top, on which you place an image and a piece of paper on top of it, has a light inside the box that, when switched on allows the image placed on the Perspex to be seen through the paper.

Don't forget, there are courses available for you to attend if you want to learn more about art or other subjects.

Contact Calderdale College on <https://www.calderdale.ac.uk/>