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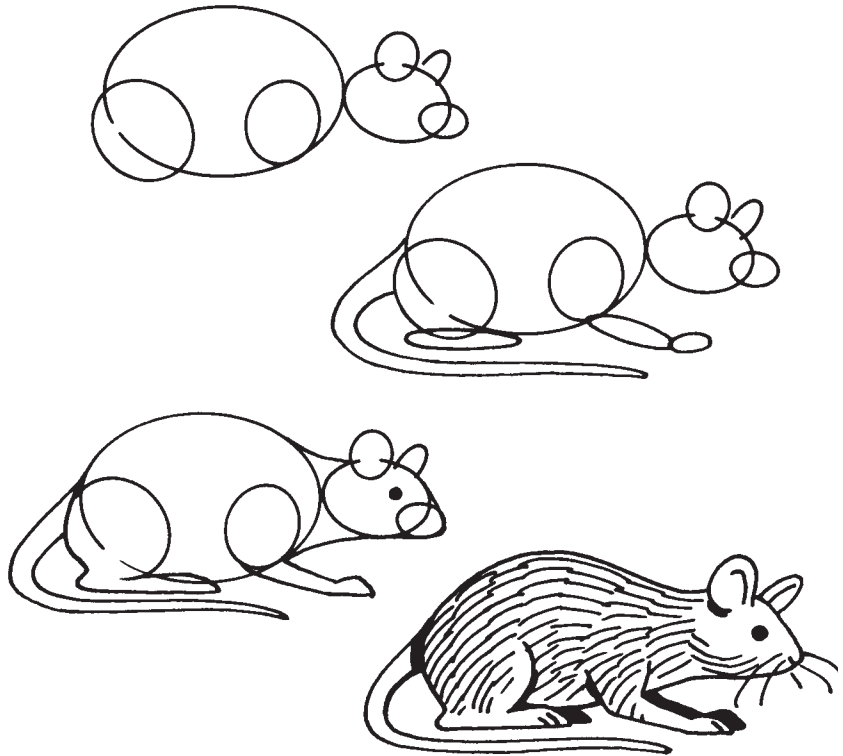
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# Drawing a Mouse

The mouse in *Stuart Little* was drawn in a way that gives Stuart human-like qualities. Follow the directions below to create both a realistic version and a more imaginative version of a mouse. Consider what Garth Williams, the illustrator of *Stuart Little*, might create.

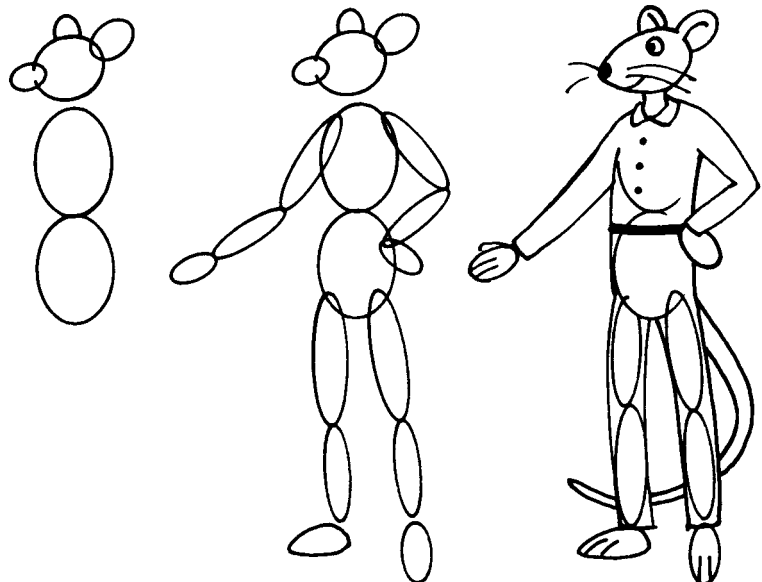
## Realistic Mouse

- A. Draw seven ovals for the body shape. Add a tail. Make circles and ovals for the leg and paws.
- B. Outline the body. When satisfied, go over the shape in pen or thin marker and erase inside the pencil lines.
- C. Add eyes and whiskers.
- D. Add a nose and texture for the fur, ears, hair, and shadows.



## Imaginary Mouse

- A. Draw two circles for the body and one circle for the head. Add ears and a nose as shown.
- B. Add three ovals for each arm, and three for each leg.
- C. Outline, connecting all parts. Erase the interior lines. Draw clothes, as well as eyes, a nose, and whiskers. Outline in pen or thin marker and erase inside marks.



# Telling Fiction from Real Life

E. B. White, the author of *Stuart Little*, once said, “Real life is only one kind of life—there is also the life of the imagination.” Knowing the difference between the life of the imagination and real life is important because we live our everyday time in real life; however, it is often fun to enjoy the life of the imagination, too.

Below are several situations that might take place in real life or the life of the imagination. In groups of three, look at these situations and place a check in the correct column to indicate whether the situation is real or from the imagination.

1. A newspaper provides weather predictions.
2. A boy flies home after school.
3. A girl dances on top of a pumpkin.
4. Water flows from a bottle and never stops.
5. The ocean has living creatures in it.
6. A mouse sings in a play.
7. A meatball falls from a plate and bounces out the window.
8. You can ride a horse across the United States.
9. A girl races a train and wins the race.
10. Some people can run faster than a bicycle.
11. Three dogs write to the President of the United States.
12. Children write books for their library.
13. You can read a book with 1,000 pages in it.
14. After school, the teacher eats and sleeps in the cafeteria.
15. People can see in a room with the lights turned out.
16. At night, birds change into bats.
17. There are birds that can talk.
18. An apple will float in water.
19. A child can swim across the water.
20. Some dogs can understand French.

Real Fiction	
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Choose one of these situations and write a story about it on the back of this paper. Include three parts in your story:

- the introduction of the characters and the situation
- the event that happens to create a problem
- the solution to the problem that was created

After you have proofread your story and rewritten it, read it to your classmates and have them decide if it is real or fiction.