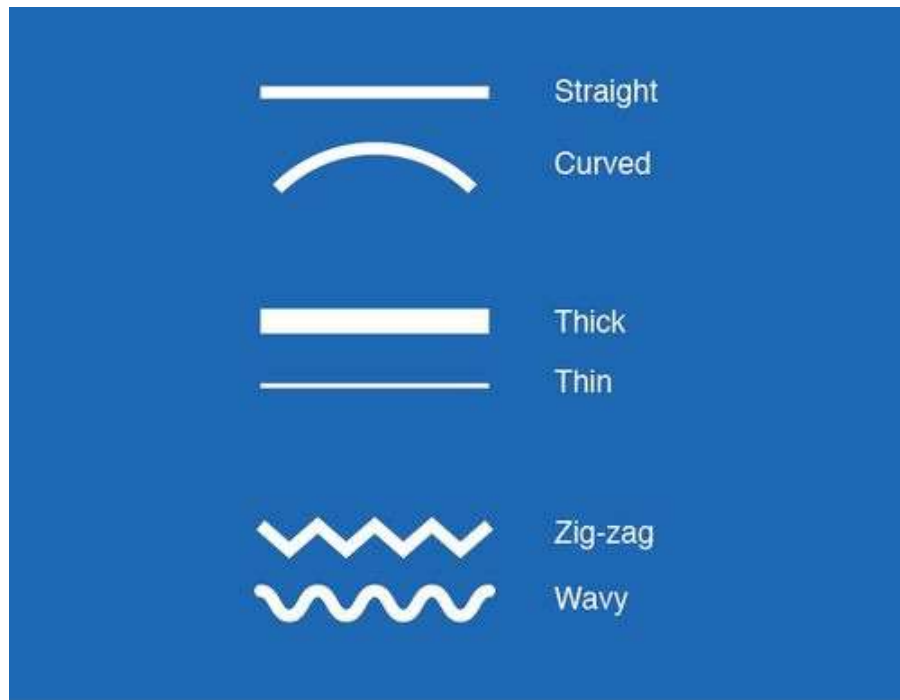


What Is a Line?

by Ojus Doshi



Ojus Doshi

You sit down at a table with a pencil in hand and a blank sheet of paper in front of you. What's the first thing you draw? You probably start out by drawing a line. A line is a way to connect one point to another point.

There are many types of lines. Each kind helps artists and illustrators create art that communicates certain feelings.

Straight lines travel directly from one point to the next in the quickest way possible, like the lowercase letter "l." Straight lines communicate precision and directness.

Curved lines bend as they go from one end to another. Think about the smooth curve of a circle. Curved lines may communicate gentleness or softness.

Lines can be thick or thin or anywhere in between. You can draw a thick line by pressing harder on your pencil. Thick lines are heavy and definite. Thin lines, on the other hand, only need a small amount of pressure when you draw. Thin lines communicate lightness or quickness.

Finally, lines can take the form of a zig-zag, creating a jagged edge. Think of a row of teeth from a shark or the letter "Z." Zig-zag lines may communicate sharpness or roughness. The opposite of a zig-zag is a wavy line. Like the waves of the ocean, lines can gently go up and down. These lines can communicate that something is silly and fun.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1. What does a line do?

- A. It connects two points.
- B. It goes on forever.
- C. It shows something's weight.
- D. It connects to itself.

2. What does the author describe in this text?

- A. different styles of art
- B. different kinds of lines
- C. different artwork that uses lines
- D. different ways to create art

3. Straight lines communicate precision and directness. Curved lines may communicate gentleness or softness. Wavy lines can communicate that something is silly and fun.

What conclusion can you draw based on this evidence?

- A. Some lines do not communicate any feelings.
- B. There are some feelings that cannot be communicated by lines.
- C. Different kinds of lines can be used to communicate a single feeling.
- D. Different kinds of lines can communicate different feelings.

4. Based on the text, what kind of line could communicate that something is both direct and quick?

- A. a thick curved line
- B. a thick zig-zag line
- C. a thin wavy line
- D. a thin straight line

5. What is the main idea of this text?

- A. Lines can be thick or thin, and the thickness of a line can communicate different feelings in art.
- B. Zig-zag lines create a jagged edge, while wavy lines go gently up and down.
- C. There are many different kinds of lines, and they can be used to communicate different feelings.
- D. The first thing you draw when you sit down with a pencil and paper is probably a line.

6. Read these sentences from the text.

Straight lines travel directly from one point to the next in the quickest way possible, like the lowercase letter "l." Straight lines communicate precision and directness.

Curved lines bend as they go from one end to another. . . . Curved lines may communicate gentleness or softness.

What does the word "communicate" most nearly mean in these sentences?

- A. to show or express a feeling
- B. to hide something
- C. to fight against someone
- D. to go from one point to another

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

Thick lines are heavy and definite, _____ thin lines communicate lightness or quickness.

- A. while
- B. similarly
- C. because
- D. for example

8. What is one thing that a wavy line may communicate?

9. Contrast a zig-zag line and a wavy line.

Support your answer with evidence from the text.

10. Imagine you are drawing something and want to show that it is soft, quick, and fun. What kinds of lines might you use in your drawing?

Support your answer with evidence from the text.