

# Horizon Line & Eye Level

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## BEGINNER

The horizon line is always at your eye level — exactly. If you are standing, it is about five to six feet above the ground. If you sit down, it drops. This matters because everything above the horizon is seen from below (you see the underside) and everything below is seen from above (you see the top surface). Hold a pencil horizontal at eye level and look past it — that pencil is on your horizon line. This sounds simple but is one of the most commonly misplaced elements in student drawings.

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## HOBBYIST

Horizon placement is a powerful compositional choice. A low horizon creates vast sky and gives objects monumental scale. A high horizon creates a stage-like platform showing off ground patterns. The error most hobbyists make is defaulting to the center of the page, producing dull split-screen compositions. Once the horizon is set, every object must be consistent with it: a figure standing on the ground always has the horizon at the same relative height on their body regardless of where they stand in the frame.

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## PROFESSIONAL

Horizon placement is a directorial decision. In film production design and comics, the horizon line — even when invisible — controls how the reader experiences power and vulnerability. In editorial illustration, a high horizon can make political figures appear small and manageable; a low horizon can make them appear monumental and threatening. For figure artists, consistent horizon placement across a multi-figure composition ensures proportional spatial correctness.