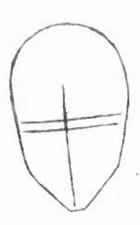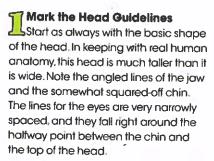# Shonen Realism

Say the word "manga" and most people will think of cartoony characters with gigantic, shiny eyes. But a great many Japanese artists choose to create stories with much more realistic-looking drawings, making books that are nevertheless instantly recognizable as real manga. In this lesson we'll take on the challenge of drawing in one such style. It falls within the realm of *shonen* comics: manga geared more toward a male readership and typically featuring tough guys, fight scenes and plenty of action.

1 Mark the Head Guidelines
Start as always with the basic shape of the head. In keeping with real human anatomy, this head is much taller than it is wide. Note the angled lines of the jaw and the somewhat squared-off chin. The lines for the eyes are very narrowly spaced, and they fall right around the halfway point between the chin and the top of the head.

2 Draw the Basic Features
Time to add the eyes, eyebrows, nose, mouth and ears. One good rule of thumb for realistic anatomy is to have one eye's worth of space between the two eyes. The mouth is a good bit closer to the nose than to the chin. And the ears start at the tops of the eyebrows and stop near the bottom of the nose.

3 Add Details to the Features
As you might expect, a realistic style includes facial details that were omitted in the other lessons, especially in the area of the nose. Add lines to thicken up the eyebrows, and drop in a small shadow beneath the lower lip. See the lines inside the ears? They're not so complex, but they do a good job of conveying realistic ear structure.

4 Draw the Hair

Now we can draw basic guidelines for the hair. I've chosen to have the hair loosely parted on the right, so all the lines are flowing to the left. Note though how they still curve, as in earlier lessons, to suggest the surface of the scalp beneath. Feel free to change things up and alter this hairstyle to suit your own tastes.

5 Draw the Neck and Hoodie

I thought a hoodie would fit nicely with this fellow's look, but you might go for something more formal. Either way, pay attention to the size of the neck. Approximating real human anatomy, it's much wider than the other necks we've drawn so far. Let's add extra strands along the contours of the hair.

6 Add Hair Details

A realistic character needs realistic hair, and that means adding more strands and paying close attention to how they're placed. I drew most of them flowing in the directions established in step 4, but then dropped in a few stray strands that shoot off on a path all their own.

7 Add More Details to the Face and Clothes

Now comes the fun part: adding final details. I thought a bit of facial hair and an enigmatic tattoo would set this guy apart from the pack. A few final wrinkles in the clothing and our bad-boy character design is complete.

8 Ink the Drawing

Grab your pen, and ink all the lines. Allow plenty of time for the ink to dry, then erase all the pencil work. Now you've drawn four manga faces in four radically different ways. In the lessons ahead we'll take on the challenges of bringing in the upper body and getting further into the details of each character's clothing.