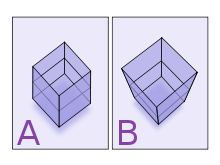
**Foreshortening**

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Perspective-foreshortening.svg)

Two different projections of a stack of two cubes, illustrating oblique parallel projection foreshortening ("A") and perspective foreshortening ("B")

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Andrea_Mantegna_-_The_Lamentation_over_the_Dead_Christ_-_WGA13981.jpg)

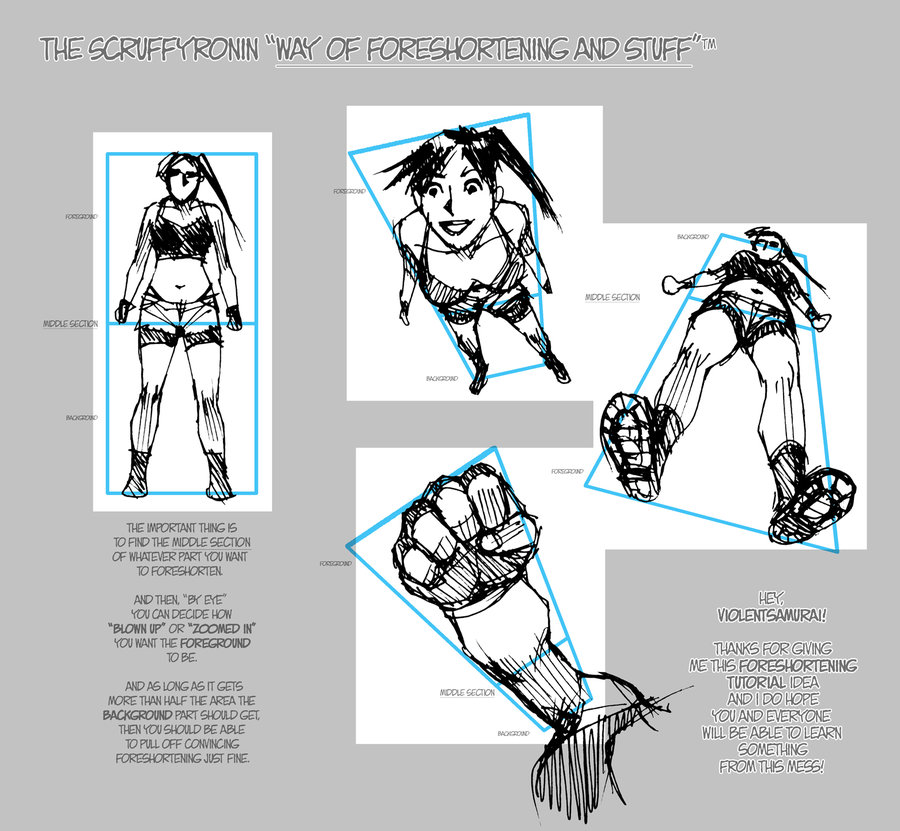
[Andrea Mantegna](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrea_Mantegna), [*The Lamentation over the Dead Christ*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lamentation_of_Christ_(Mantegna))

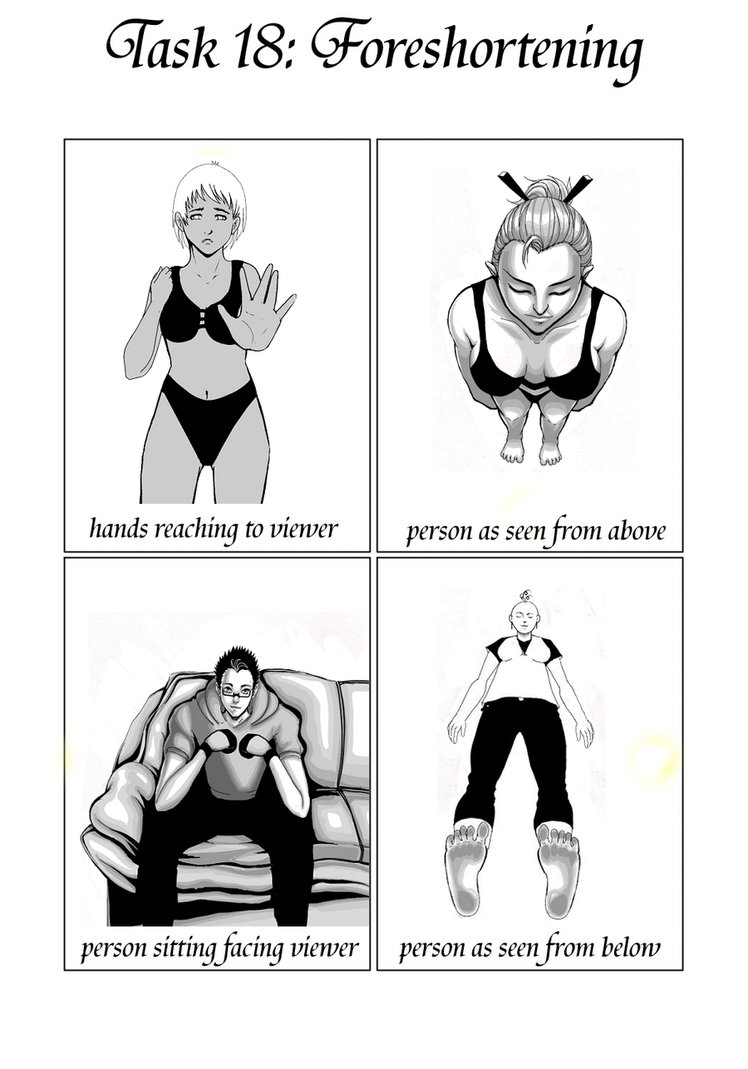
[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:PIA08170_Epimetheus_and_Janus.jpg)

[Epimetheus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epimetheus_(moon)) (lower left) and [Janus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Janus_(moon)) (right). The two moons appear close because of foreshortening; in reality, Janus is about 40,000 km farther from the observer than Epimetheus.

Foreshortening is the [visual effect](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Visual_effect) or [optical illusion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Optical_illusion) that causes an object or [distance](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Distance) to appear shorter than it actually is because it is [angled](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angle) toward the viewer. Additionally, an object is often not scaled evenly: a circle often appears as an ellipse and a square can appear as a trapezoid.

In painting, foreshortening in the depiction of the human figure was perfected in the [Italian Renaissance](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italian_Renaissance), and the [*The Lamentation over the Dead Christ*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lamentation_of_Christ_(Mantegna)) by [Andrea Mantegna](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrea_Mantegna) (1480s) is one of the most famous of a number of works that show off the new technique, which thereafter became a standard part of the training of artists.

[](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0CAcQjRxqFQoTCM-e9If4v8gCFcU3PgodtN4J9g&url=http://www.idrawdigital.com/2010/04/tutorial-foreshortening-tricks/&psig=AFQjCNFF88KhLMe7MT8oGvQbxo-VBM7OgQ&ust=1444842544153831)

[](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0CAcQjRxqFQoTCPW--OP4v8gCFcFXPgodfwkEwA&url=http://flaming-noodle.deviantart.com/art/GM-Task-18-Foreshortening-320147481&psig=AFQjCNFF88KhLMe7MT8oGvQbxo-VBM7OgQ&ust=1444842544153831)