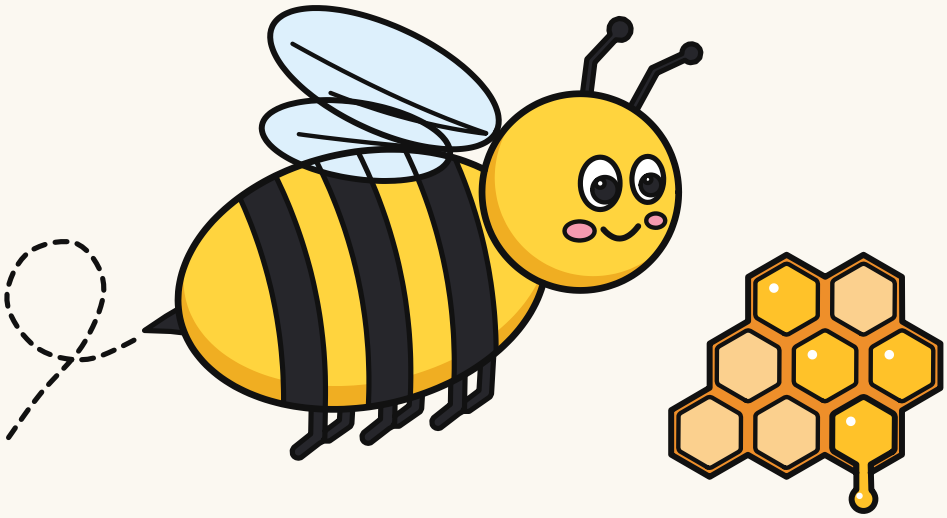
How to Draw a Bee

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

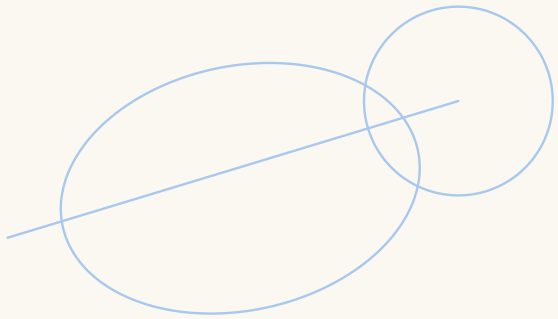
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black marker
- Yellow, black and orange crayons
- Plain paper

How to use this guide

New lines for each step are shown in **blue**; lines you already drew are gray. Draw lightly first, then ink and erase near the end.

Read the full tutorial online →

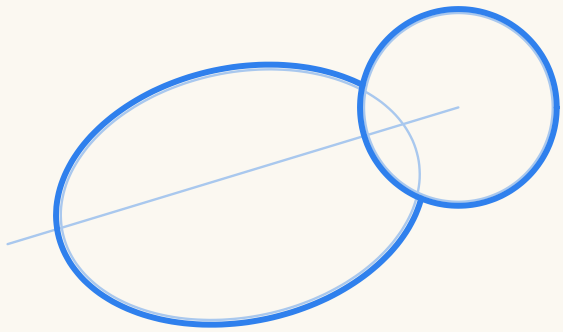
STEP 1 Sketch light guides for the body and head



Draw a slanted line that rises from the lower left toward the upper right. Around the left part of it, sketch a wide oval for the body. At the top end of the line, add a circle for the head that overlaps the oval a little. The head circle should be roughly half as wide as the body is long.

💡 **Tip:** Hold the pencil farther back from the tip. You'll press more gently without even trying.

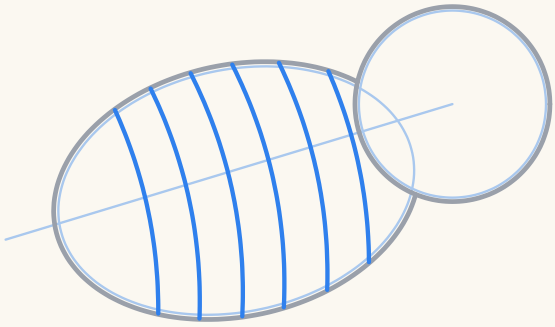
STEP 2 Draw the round head and the oval body



Go over the head circle with a firmer line, all the way around. Then trace the body oval, but stop where it meets the head. The head sits in front, so the body line disappears behind it. That one small gap is what makes the bee look like a single creature instead of two balloons.

💡 **Tip:** Turn your paper as you go around the circle so your hand always draws the easy curve.

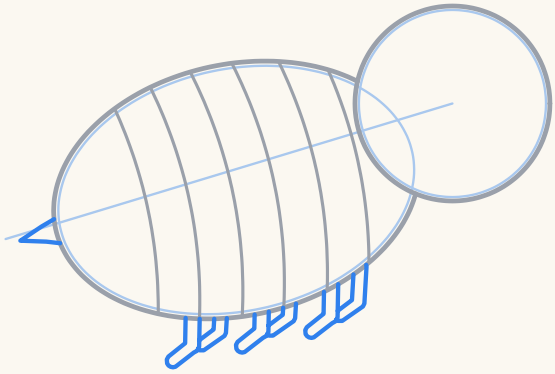
STEP 3 Add curved stripes around the body



Here's the trick I promised. Instead of straight lines, draw each stripe edge as a gentle curve that bows toward the head, from the top of the body to the bottom. Make three pairs of these curves, spaced evenly. Each pair becomes one black stripe later. Curved lines tell your eye the body is round.

💡 **Tip:** Draw all the curves bending the same way. One stripe bowing backward makes the body look twisted.

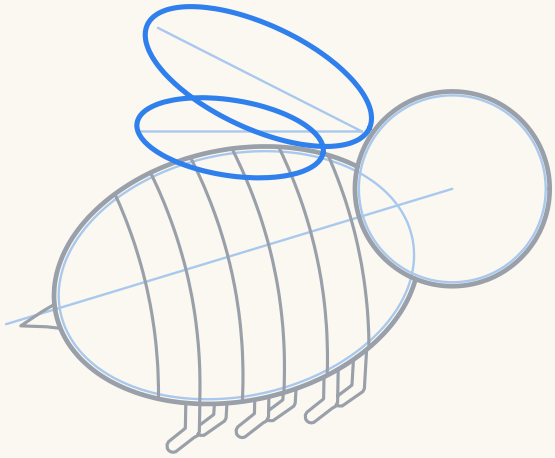
STEP 4 Draw a stinger and six legs



At the tail end, add a small pointed triangle. Keep it short, about the size of a fingertip on your page. Under the belly, draw six little legs in three pairs, each bending back toward the tail as if the bee has pulled them in to fly. The legs farther away sit slightly behind the near ones.

💡 **Tip:** A stinger that's too long makes a friendly bee look like a wasp, so keep it tiny.

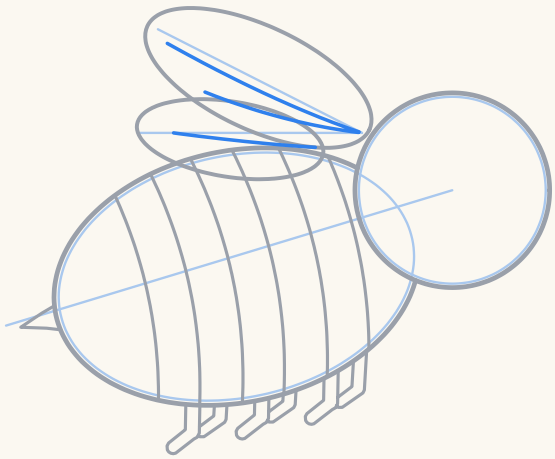
STEP 5 Draw two pairs of wings



Honeybees have four wings. From the top of the body, just behind the head, sketch two light lines pointing up and back. Use them to draw a big oval wing tilted up and a smaller oval wing below it. Let the wings overlap the body. I draw the body lines straight through them, because bee wings are see-through.

💡 **Tip:** Make the top wing clearly bigger. Two wings of the same size look like rabbit ears.

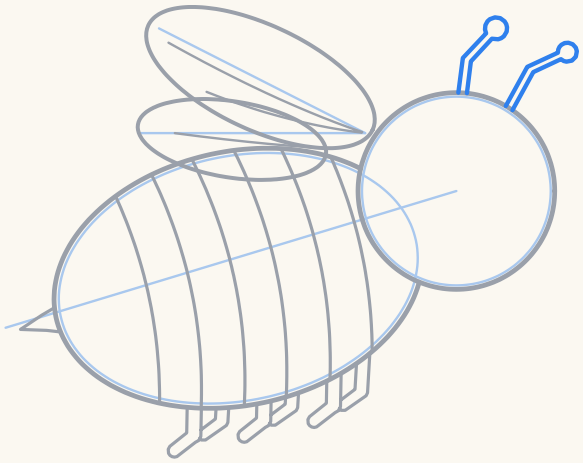
STEP 6 Add simple wing veins



Inside each wing, draw one or two thin lines that start near the wing's base and fan out toward the far tip. They shouldn't touch the wing's outline. Real bee wings have a lot more veins than this, but two lines are enough to say wing at a glance.

💡 **Tip:** Use a lighter touch for veins than for outlines, so the wing still looks thin.

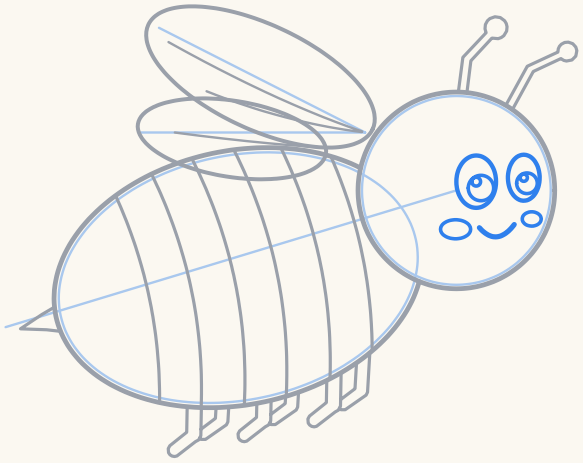
STEP 7 Give it antennae with knobs



On top of the head, draw two antennae. Each one goes up, then bends toward the front like an elbow, and ends in a small round knob. The far antenna starts a bit further right and comes out slightly shorter. Start each line at the head's outline rather than inside it.

💡 **Tip:** Fill the knobs in solid black later. Empty circles at the ends can look like tiny balloons.

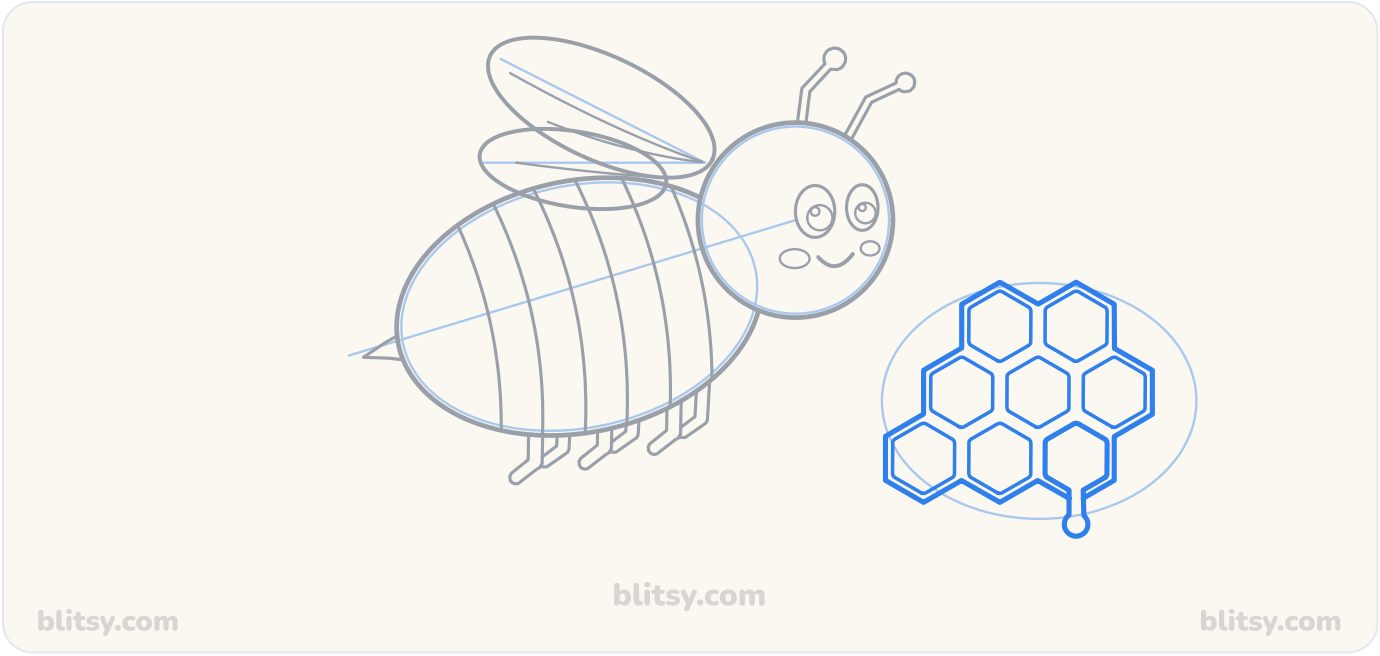
STEP 8 Draw big eyes, a smile and cheeks



Our bee looks to the right, so the face goes on the right half of the head. Draw two tall ovals for eyes, the far one a touch smaller. Put a round pupil low in each, with a tiny shine circle. Below them, add a curved smile, then an oval cheek on each side of it, a little lower than the eyes.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the eyes close together and low on the head. That spacing reads as cute right away.

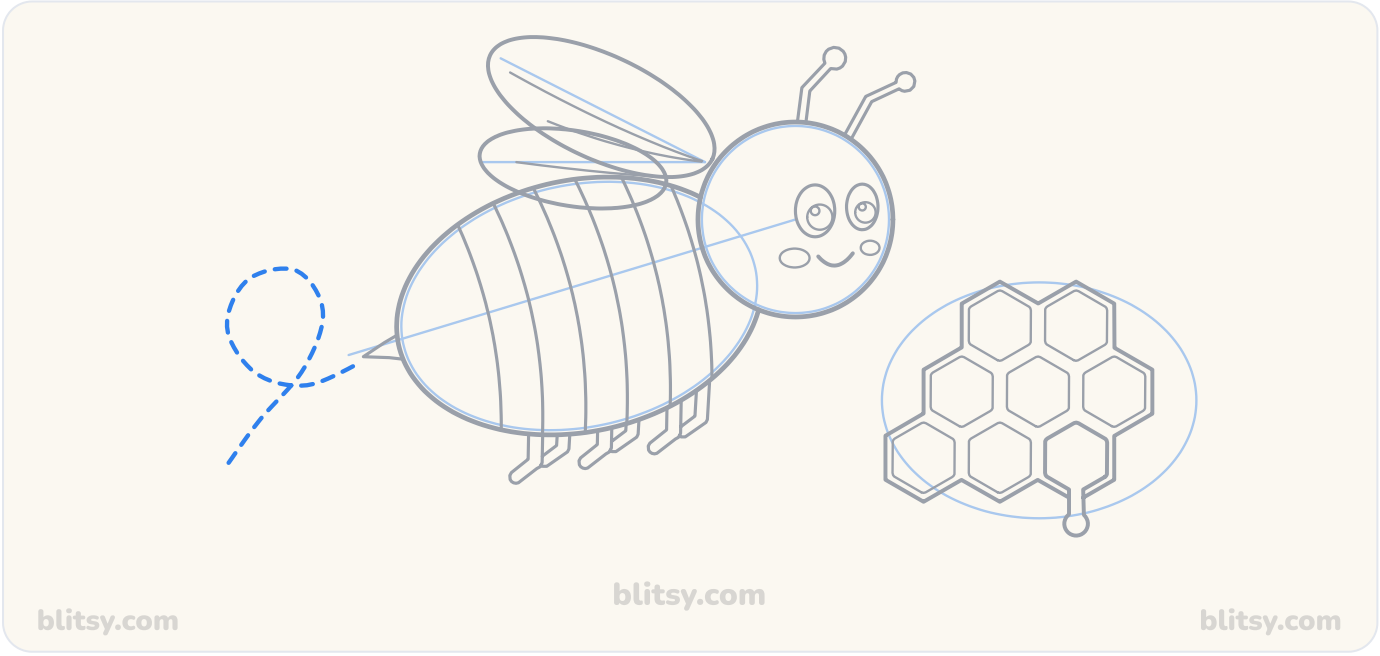
STEP 9 Draw a patch of honeycomb



In the lower right corner, sketch a loose oval to mark where the comb goes. Fill it with six-sided cells that share their walls, three rows of two or three. Then draw a smaller six-sided shape inside each cell so the walls look thick. From the bottom cell, let a little drip of honey run down.

💡 **Tip:** Draw one hexagon first and copy its size for the rest. Cells that grow or shrink look like a net.

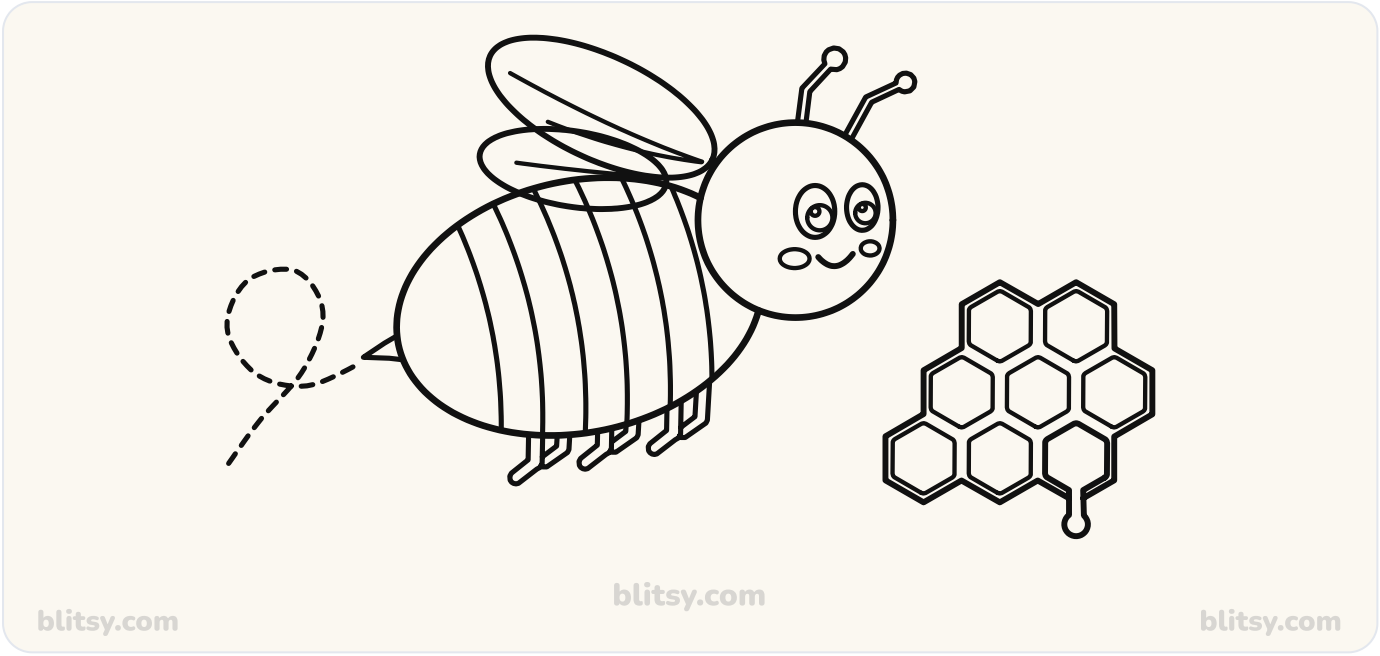
STEP 10 Add a dotted flight loop



Starting just behind the stinger, draw a path made of short dashes. Let it swing left, make one loop, and trail off toward the bottom corner. This shows where the bee has been flying. Leave a small gap between the path and the tail so it doesn't look stuck on.

💡 **Tip:** Say dash, gap, dash, gap quietly while you draw. It keeps the spacing even.

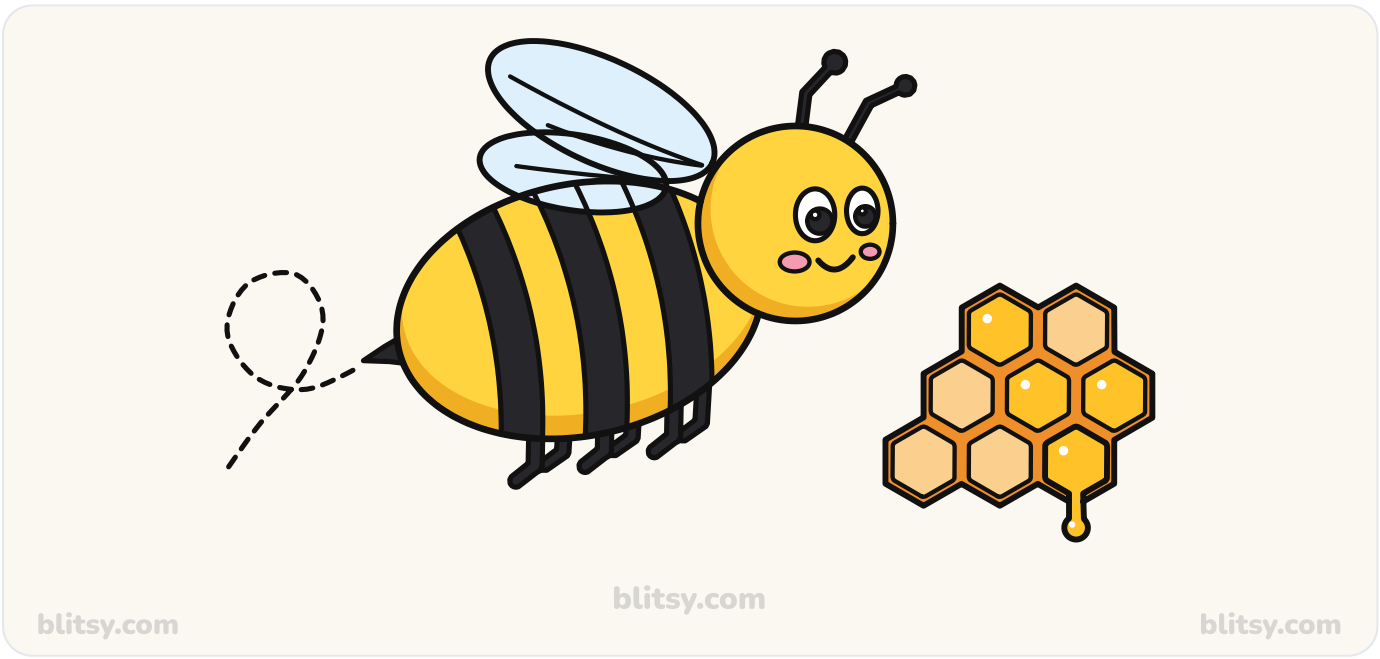
STEP 11 Ink the lines and erase the guides



Trace over every final line with your black marker. Skip the light guide shapes from steps one, five and nine. Wait a minute for the ink to dry, then erase all the pencil marks.

💡 **Tip:** Ink the long body outline in two or three strokes rather than one rushed swoop.

STEP 12 Color your bee



Color the head and body yellow, and add dark yellow along the belly and the lower left of the head for a soft shadow. Every other band on the body is a black stripe. Color the legs, stinger, antennae and pupils black too. Wings get pale blue, cheeks pink, the honeycomb walls orange, the honey cells gold and the empty cells light orange.

💡 **Tip:** Color the yellow first and the black stripes last, so black crayon doesn't smudge into the yellow.