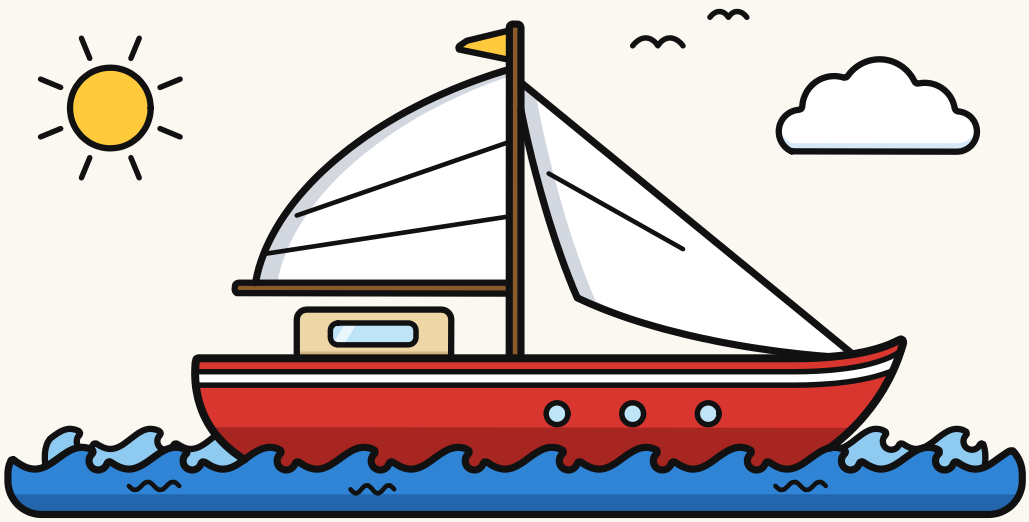
# How to Draw a Boat

12 easy steps for beginners




## What you'll need

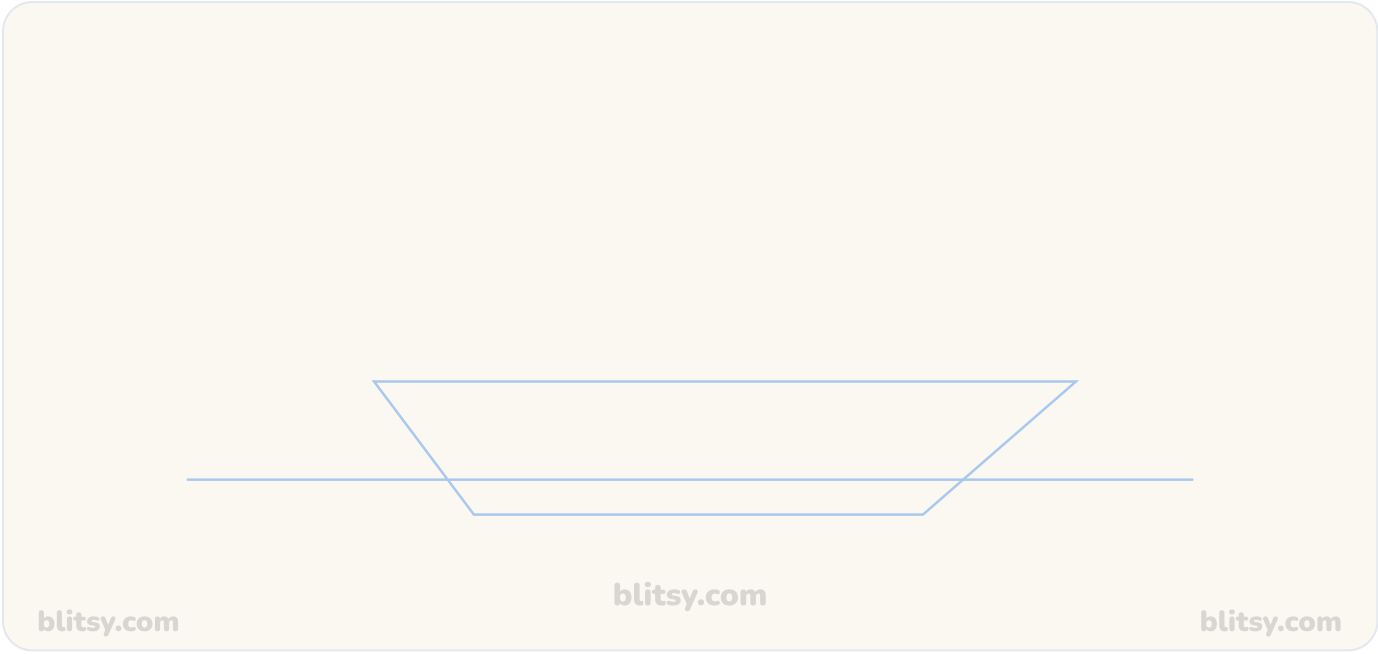
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black pen
- Colored pencils or markers
- Paper turned sideways
- A ruler (optional)

## 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 →**

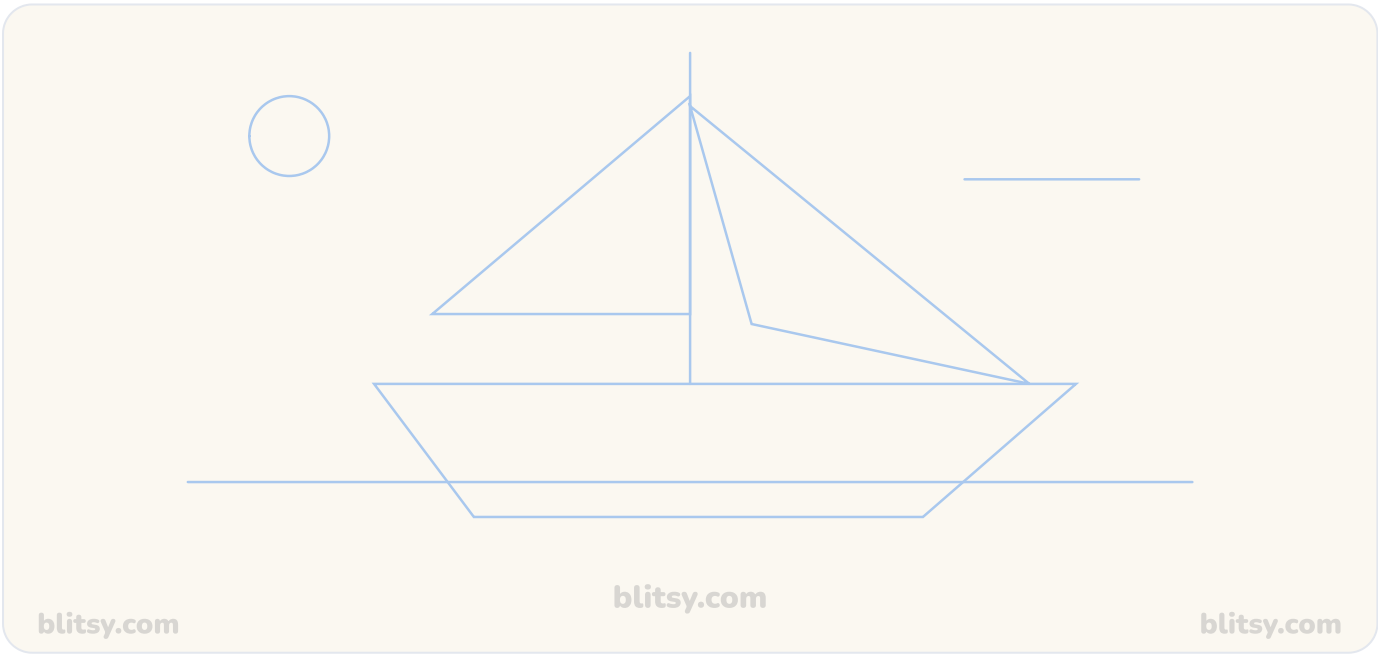
## STEP 1 Draw the water line and the hull shape




Turn your page sideways. A little below the middle, draw one long flat line across almost the whole width; that's where the water will be. Above it, sketch a wide upside-down trapezoid: a long top edge for the deck and a shorter bottom edge that dips just below the water line.

💡 **Tip:** Make the top edge roughly twice as long as the bottom one.

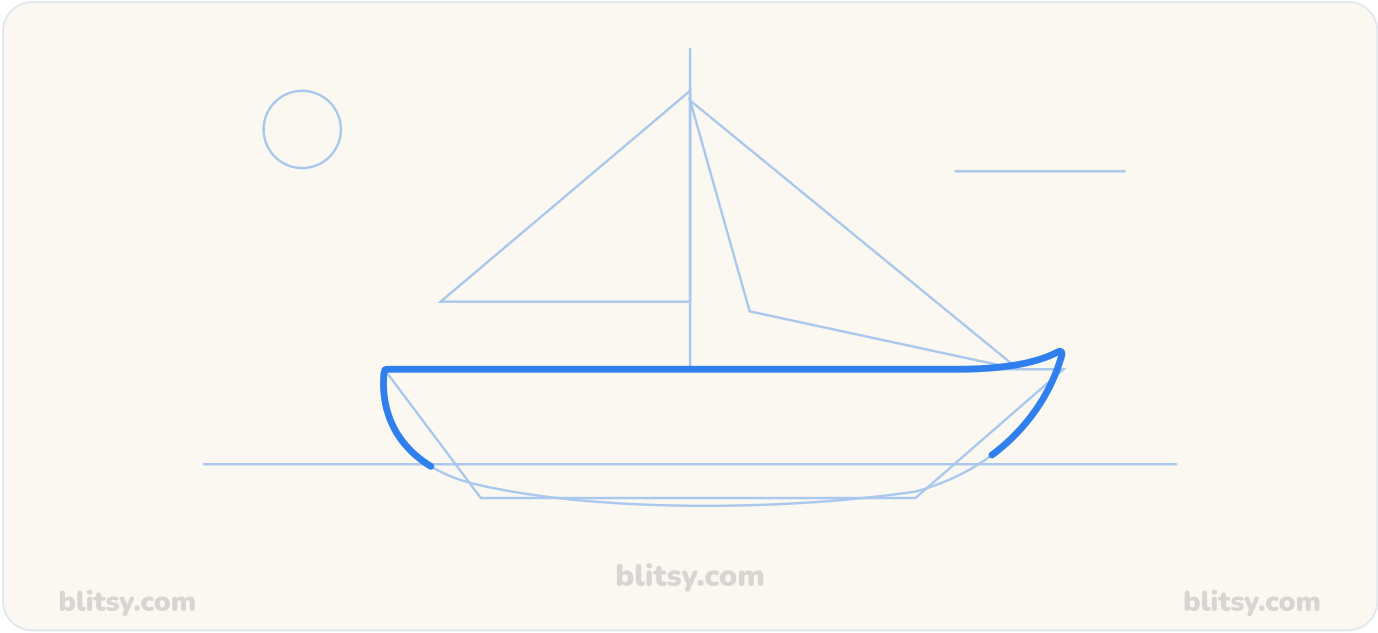
## STEP 2 Add the mast line and the two sail triangles




Pick a spot a little left of the deck's middle and draw a tall straight line up from it, about three times as tall as the hull is deep. From near its top, draw a triangle to the left for the mainsail and a narrower one to the right that reaches down to the bow for the jib. I also mark a sun circle and a cloud base line now.

💡 **Tip:** Keep these guides faint enough to vanish under one pass of the eraser.

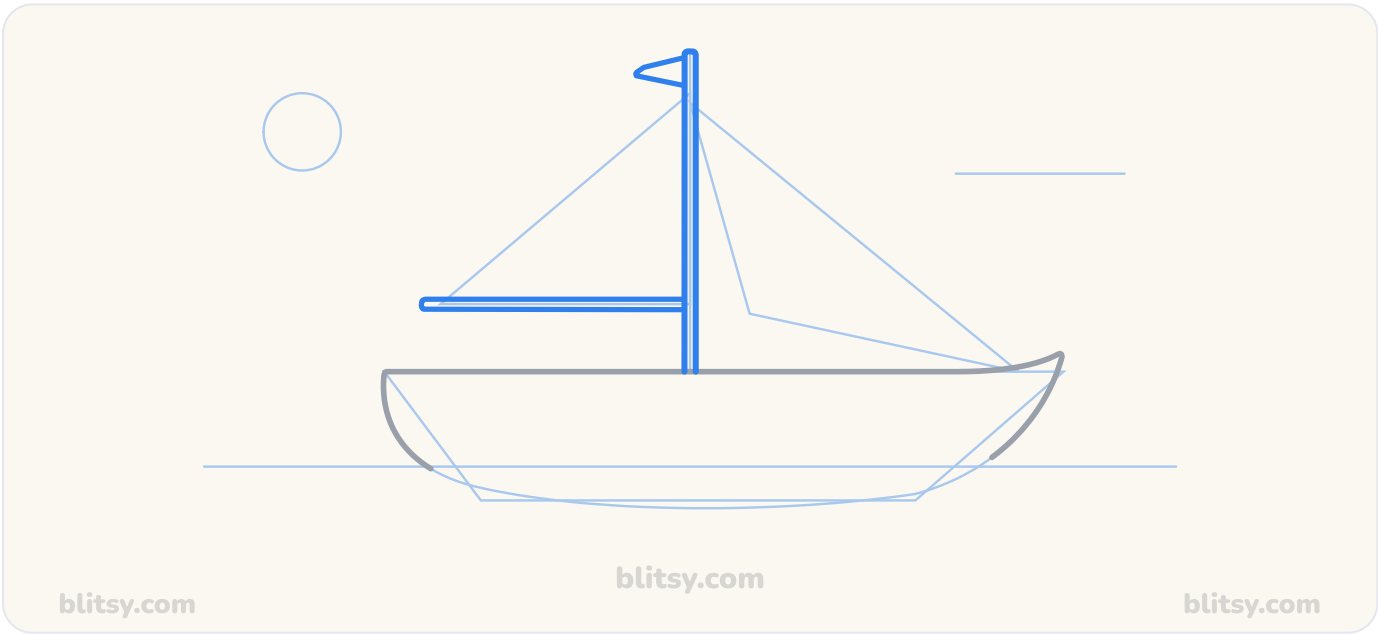
## STEP 3 Outline the hull




Now go over the trapezoid with a confident line, but soften it. The deck stays flat until the last part, then curves upward into a pointed bow that sticks out forward. Round off the stern on the left like the back of a spoon, and let the bottom sag into a gentle curve: the keel. A blunt bow turns the sailboat into a bathtub.

💡 **Tip:** Pull the bow tip a little higher than the deck so the boat looks ready to cut through water.

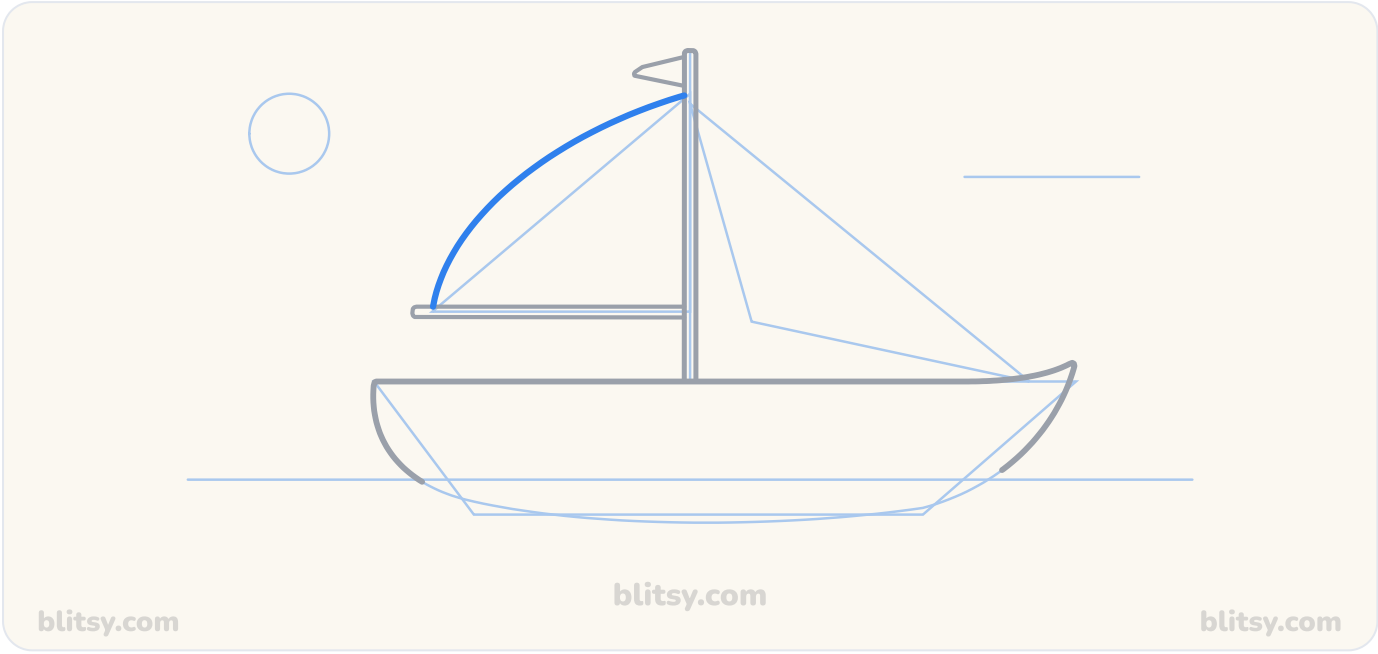
## STEP 4 Draw the mast, the boom and a small flag




Turn the mast guide into a thin pole by drawing a second line right next to it, ending at the deck. About a third of the way up, add a long flat bar sticking out to the left: that's the boom, which holds the bottom of the mainsail. At the very top, draw a small triangle flag pointing backward, away from the bow.

💡 **Tip:** Use a ruler for the mast if your hand shakes on long lines.

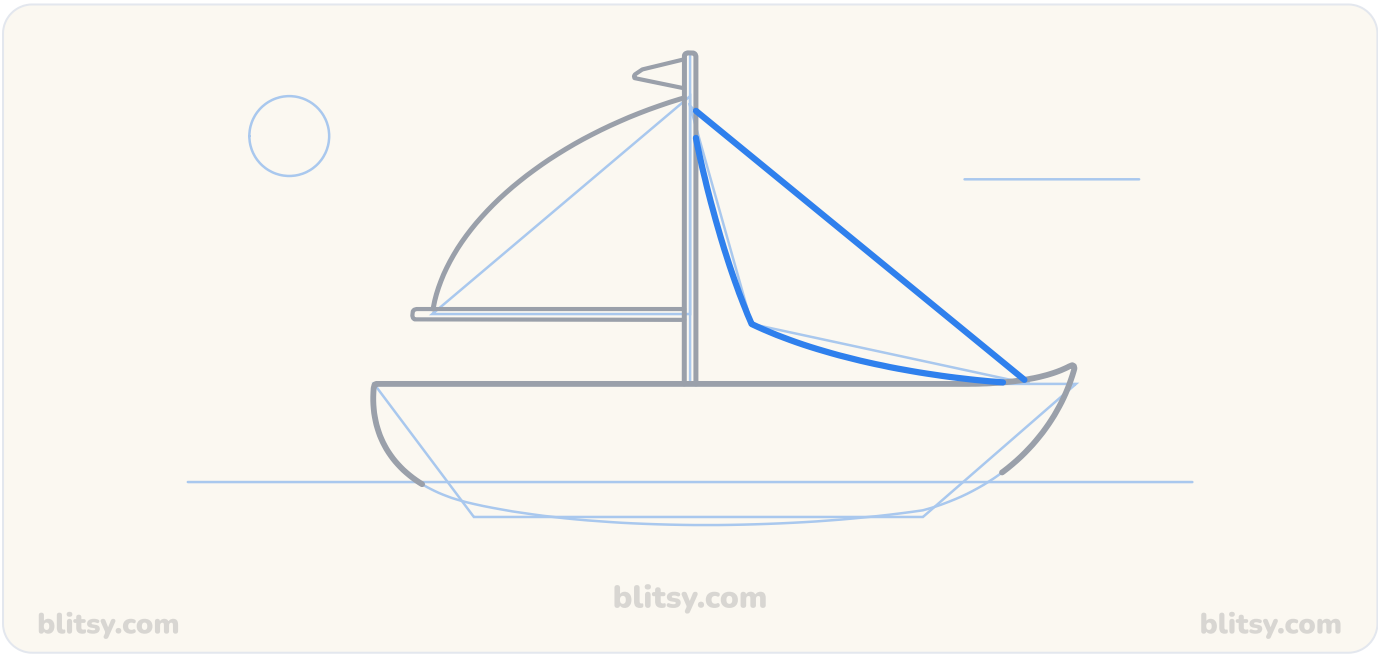
## STEP 5 Shape the curved mainsail




The mast and boom already give the mainsail two sides, so you only need the third. Start just below the flag and swing a curve out and down to the end of the boom, bulging away from the mast like a puffed cheek. That bulge is what tells the viewer the wind is filling the sail.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the curve in one smooth sweep rather than short hairy strokes.

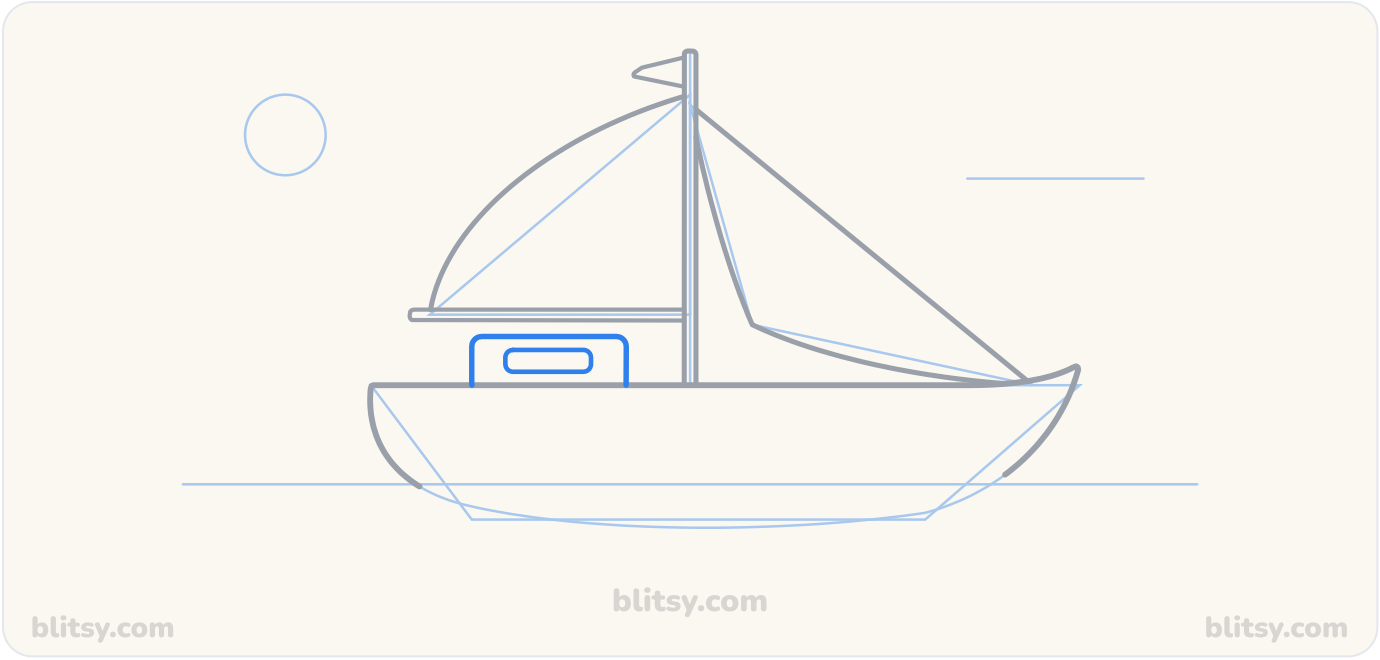
## STEP 6 Add the jib sail at the front




The jib is the smaller sail in front of the mast. Draw a straight line from high on the mast down to the deck near the bow; on a real boat this edge is clipped to a wire called the forestay. Then draw the back edge curving down from the mast top to a low corner, and finish with a sagging bottom edge back to the bow.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the jib clearly smaller than the mainsail, or the boat looks front-heavy.

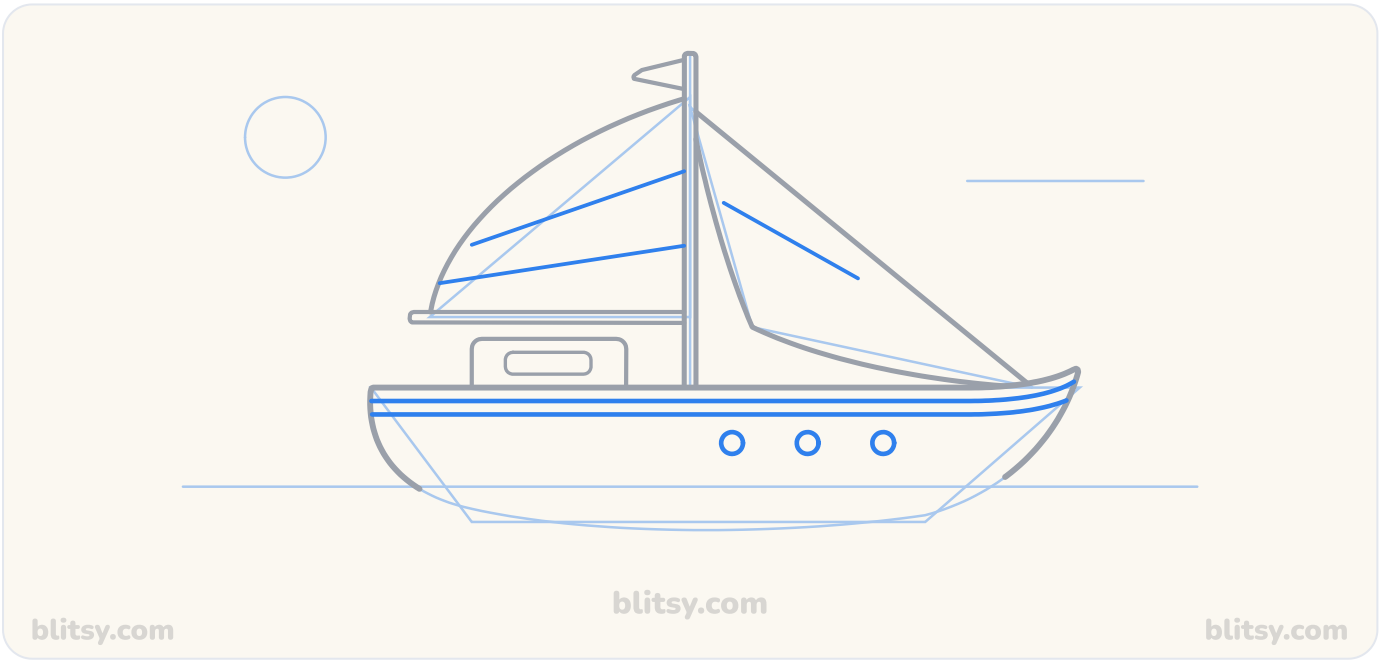
## STEP 7 Build a little cabin with a window




Under the boom, sit a low box with rounded corners on the deck. This is the cabin, where sailors cook and sleep on longer trips. Inside it, draw a long, thin rounded window.

💡 **Tip:** Leave daylight between the cabin roof and the boom, because the boom swings over it.

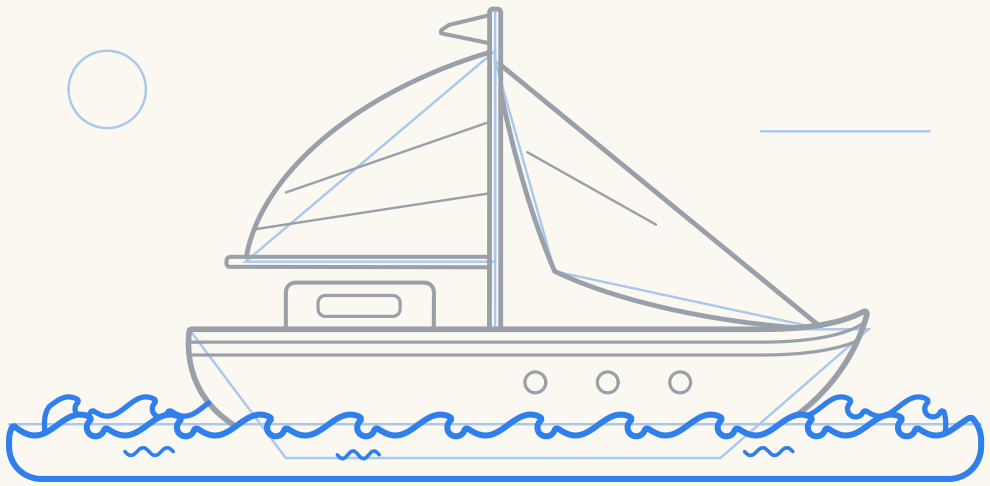
## STEP 8 Draw the stripe, portholes and sail seams




Just under the deck line, draw two lines that follow the hull all the way into the bow, making a narrow stripe. Below it, near the front, add three small circles in a row for portholes, the round windows on a boat. For the sails, I like two thin lines across the mainsail and one across the jib, showing where the panels of cloth are stitched together.

💡 **Tip:** Space the portholes with three light dots first, then circle each dot.

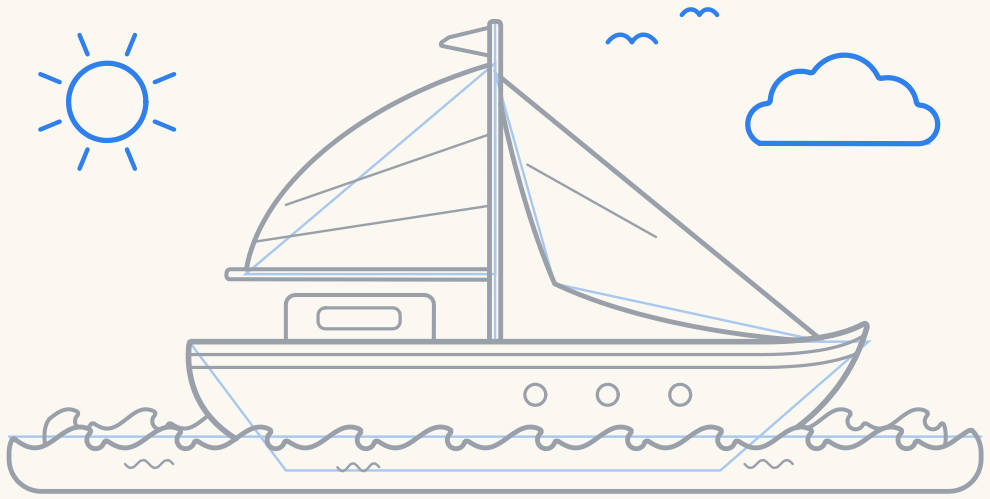
## STEP 9 Draw waves with curling crests



Follow the water line with a rolling line of hills and dips, crossing right over the bottom of the hull. Give each hilltop a small hook curling forward. Behind it, add a second row of smaller waves that peeks out on both sides of the boat. Close the water along the bottom with round ends and add a few tiny squiggles. Erase the part of the keel now hidden by the front waves, and your boat sits in the sea rather than on top of it.

💡 **Tip:** Don't line the curls up exactly; slightly uneven waves look more alive.

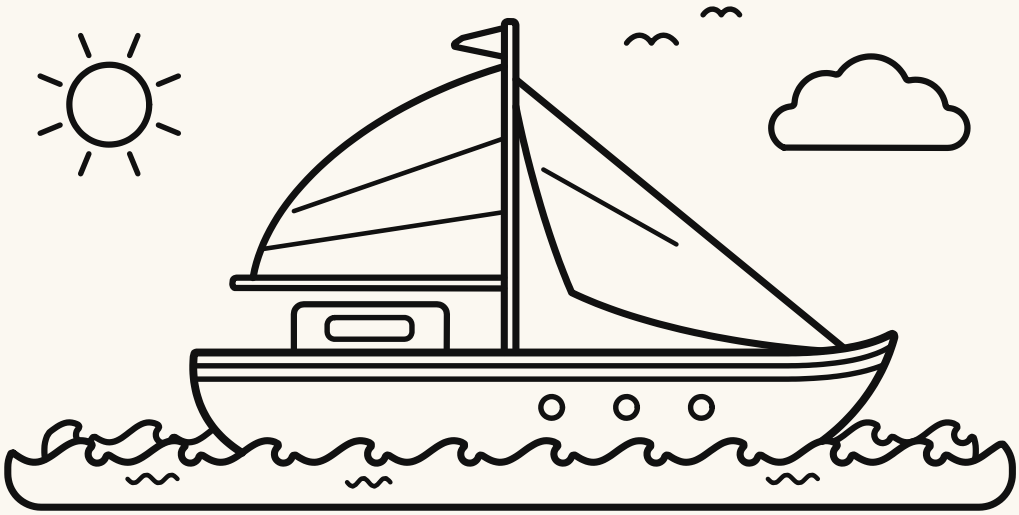
## STEP 10 Add the sun, a cloud and two seagulls



Trace the sun circle and add short rays around it with even gaps. On the right, draw a puffy cloud by stacking a few bumps on its flat base line, the middle bump the biggest. Last, draw two seagulls as tiny stretched M shapes, one higher and smaller than the other so they seem far away.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the gulls small; big ones start to look like bats.

## STEP 11 Ink the lines and erase the guides

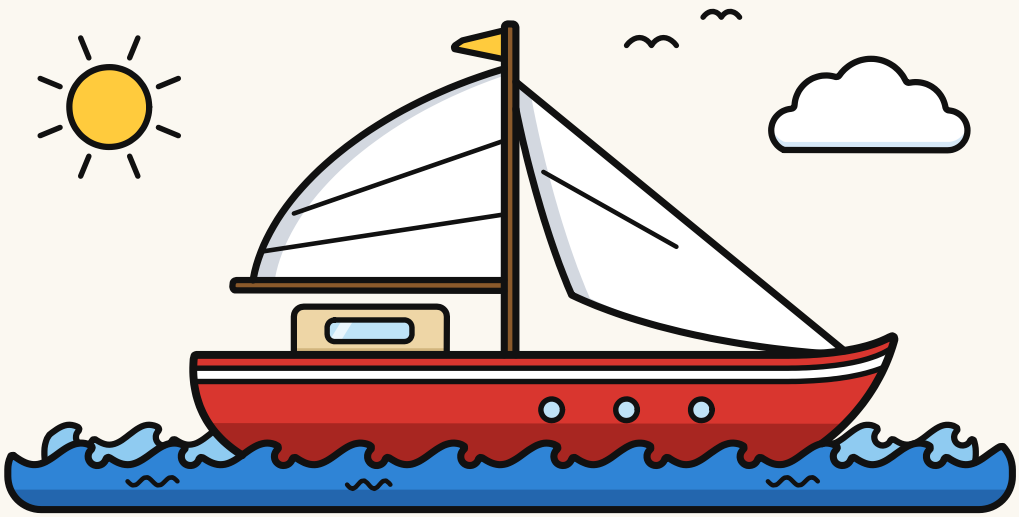


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Go over every line you want to keep with your black pen. I ink from the top of the page downward, flag first and water last, so my hand doesn't drag through fresh ink. Then erase the trapezoid, the triangles, the mast guide and the water line until only the clean drawing remains.

💡 **Tip:** Ink the long sail edges in one slow, steady pull.

## STEP 12 Color the sailboat



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Color the hull red, pressing harder along the bottom for a darker band, and leave the stripe white. Both sails stay white with a light gray strip along their curved edges, which makes them look rounded. The mast and boom are brown, the flag and sun yellow and the cabin a soft tan. Finish with blue for the front waves, light blue for the back row and the windows.

💡 **Tip:** Color the dark blue water last so it can't smudge into the white sails.