How to Draw a Boy

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

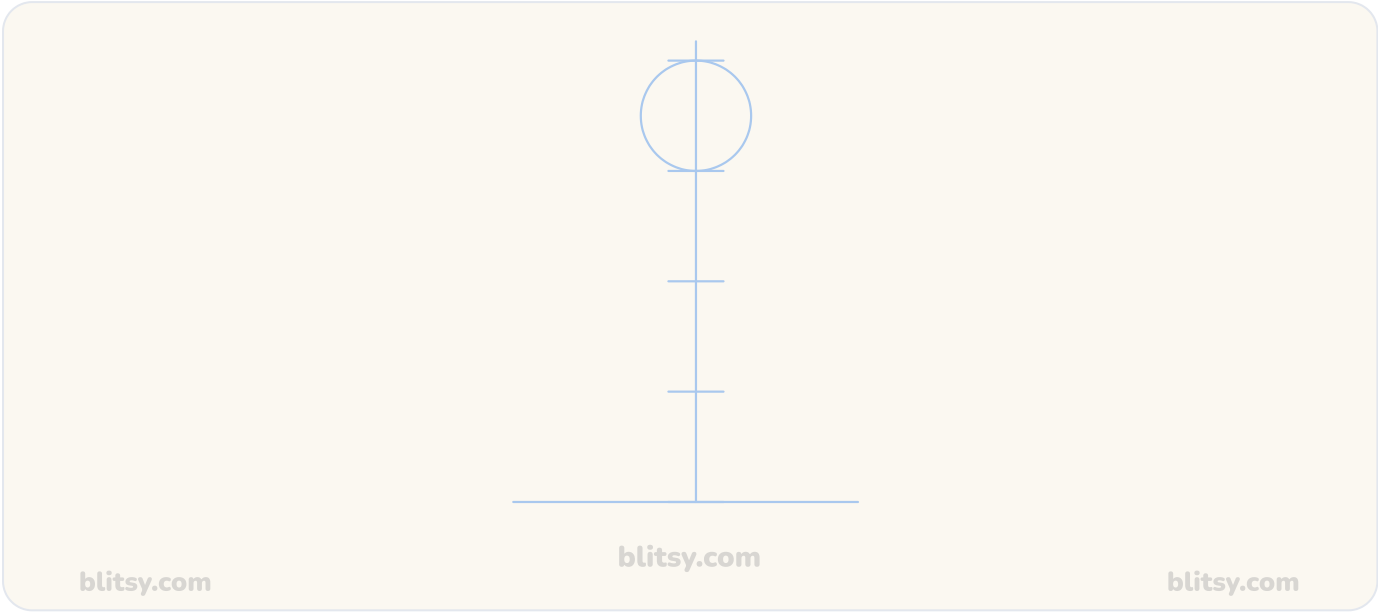
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black fineliner
- Colored pencils or markers
- Paper

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 →

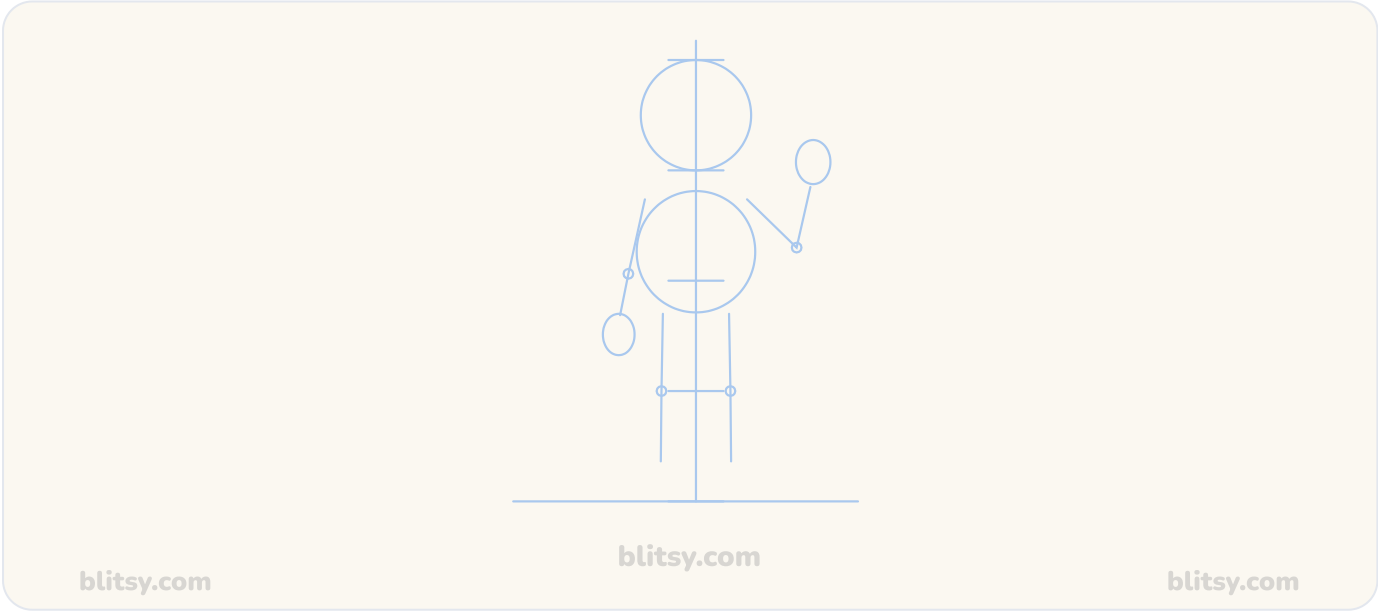
STEP 1 Draw a center line, the head and four head marks



Draw a tall line down the middle of your paper and a flat ground line at the bottom. Near the top, draw a circle for the head. The height of that circle is one head. Mark the chin, then make three more marks below it, each one head apart. The last mark sits right on the ground line, so this boy is about four heads tall.

💡 **Tip:** Make the head small enough that four of it fit on the page; a huge first circle leaves no room for the feet.

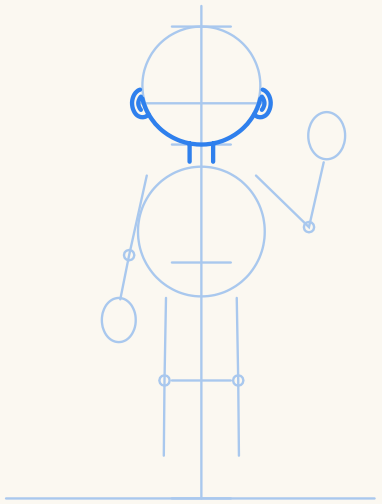
STEP 2 Sketch a body oval and stick arms and legs



Hang an oval for the chest and tummy from just under the chin to a little past the second mark. Then add stick lines: one arm goes down with the elbow beside the second mark, and the other bends up so the hand sits next to his head. Two leg lines drop to the ground, with small knee circles on the third mark.

💡 **Tip:** Put tiny circles at the elbows and knees; they remind you where the arms and legs bend.

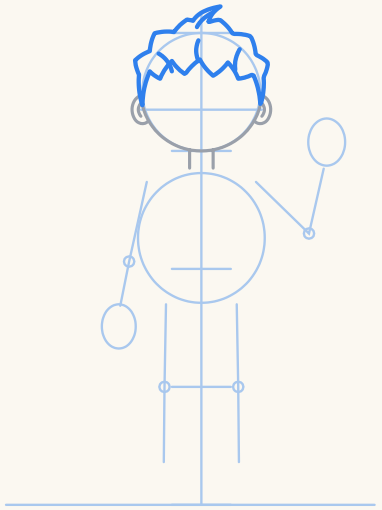
STEP 3 Draw the face shape, the ears and the neck



Trace the lower half of the head circle with a firmer line for the cheeks and chin. The top can wait, because the hair will cover it. Draw a level eye line across the middle, put a C-shaped ear on each side, and add two short lines under the chin for the neck.

💡 **Tip:** Line the ears up with the eye line; ears placed higher make the head look squashed.

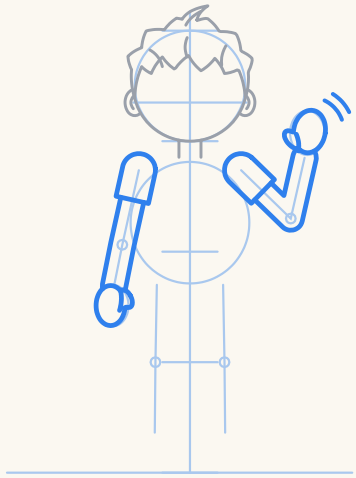
STEP 4 Add messy hair and a cowlick



Short hair on a kid looks best when it sits a little above the head circle, like a soft helmet. Draw a bumpy line around the top, made of small clumps pointing different ways. Add a few uneven bangs across the forehead, one curly tuft on top for the cowlick, and two or three short lines inside.

💡 **Tip:** Leave a little space between the hair line and the head circle so the hair looks fluffy, not painted on.

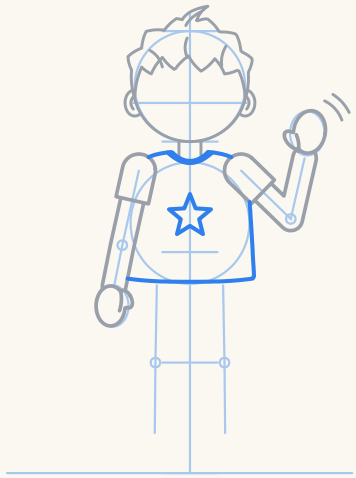
STEP 5 Draw the arms, the sleeves and the mitten hands



Each sleeve is a short rounded tube at the shoulder. Below it, draw the arm as two lines that follow your stick. For the hands, I use mittens: a rounded oval with a small thumb bump. The lowered hand ends near the top of the legs, and the raised one is open with the thumb toward his face. Two little curves beside it show he's waving.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the hands about as long as the eye-to-chin distance; tiny hands make the arms look like noodles.

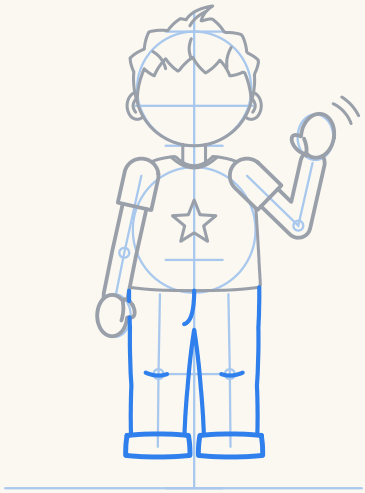
STEP 6 Draw the T-shirt and the star



Connect the sleeves with a curved collar under the neck, then run the sides of the shirt straight down behind the arms. The hem lands a bit below the second head mark. Draw a second curve inside the collar for the ribbing, and a five-point star in the middle of the chest.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the star in one go as a five-line zigzag, then tidy the points; it's quicker than drawing ten separate edges.

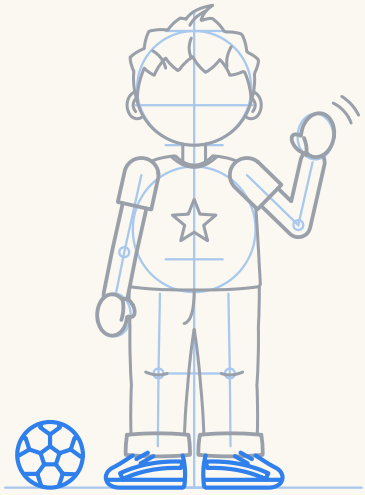
STEP 7 Add jeans with rolled cuffs



Start the jeans under the shirt hem and draw the outside of each leg down to just above the ground. The inside lines meet under the middle of the shirt, then split into two legs with a narrow gap. At the bottom, draw a wide band on each leg for a rolled cuff. A short fly line and a crease at each knee finish them.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the knee creases on the third head mark, the same spot as your knee circles.

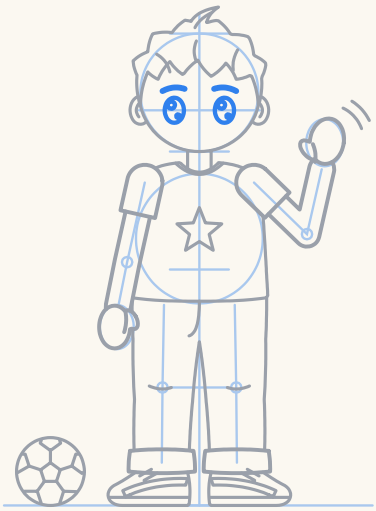
STEP 8 Draw the sneakers and the soccer ball



Under each cuff, draw a sneaker pointing a little outward, with a rounded toe and a flat bottom. Add a sole line, a curved stripe and two short lace marks. For the ball, draw a circle by his foot with a small pentagon in the middle, lines going out from its corners and partial patches around the edge.

💡 **Tip:** Turn the toes slightly away from each other; feet pointing straight at you are much harder to draw well.

STEP 9 Give him big eyes and eyebrows



blitsy.com
blitsy.com
blitsy.com

Place two tall ovals on the eye line, a little more than one eye-width apart. Kids' features sit low on the face, so the eyes belong on that middle line, never higher. Leave a round shine near the top of each eye and a tiny one lower down. Short eyebrows go above, tucked under the bangs.

💡 **Tip:** Keep both shines on the same side of the eyes so he looks at you instead of cross-eyed.

STEP 10 Draw the nose, the smile and the cheeks



blitsy.com
blitsy.com
blitsy.com

A small hook between the eyes and the chin is enough for the nose. Under it, draw an open smile with a nearly flat top and a round bottom, a thin strip of teeth along the top and a little tongue below. Two flat ovals on the cheeks make him look happy.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the smile no wider than the gap between the eyes; a mouth that runs ear to ear looks like a cartoon frog.

STEP 11 Ink your drawing and erase the guides



blitsy.com
blitsy.com
blitsy.com

Trace every line you want to keep with your black pen, but skip the center line, the circles, the sticks and the head marks. When I ink a figure, I start at the face and work down, so my hand never rests on wet ink. Let it dry for a minute, then erase all the pencil.

💡 **Tip:** Ink the long lines like the jeans in one smooth pull rather than many short dashes.

STEP 12 Color your boy



blitsy.com
blitsy.com
blitsy.com

Color the hair brown with a lighter streak on top and the skin a warm tan, a little darker under the hair. The T-shirt is red with a darker strip on one side and a yellow star. Jeans are blue with lighter cuffs. Sneakers stay white with red stripes and gray soles, and the ball gets black patches.

💡 **Tip:** Shade the same side of the shirt, the jeans and the ball so the light seems to come from one place.