How to Draw a Cat Face

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

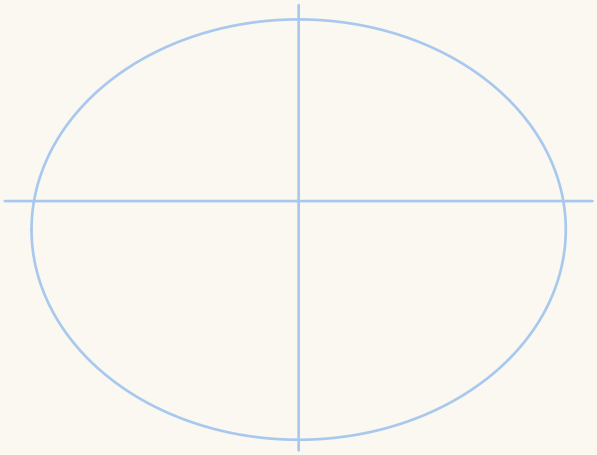
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black fineliner
- Colored pencils or markers
- Plain paper

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 →

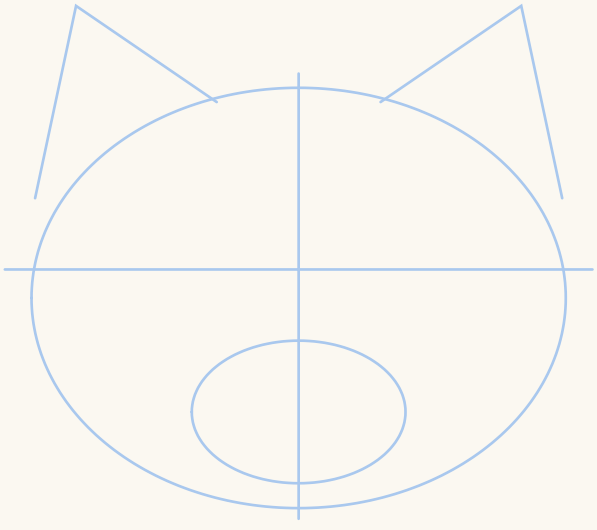
STEP 1 Draw a wide circle and a cross



Sketch a circle that is a bit wider than it is tall, right in the middle of the page. Draw a straight line down through the center, then a level line across, just a little above the middle. I call this the cross. The level line is where both eyes will sit, and the vertical one keeps the two sides matching.

💡 **Tip:** Press so lightly that you can barely see the lines. They all disappear later.

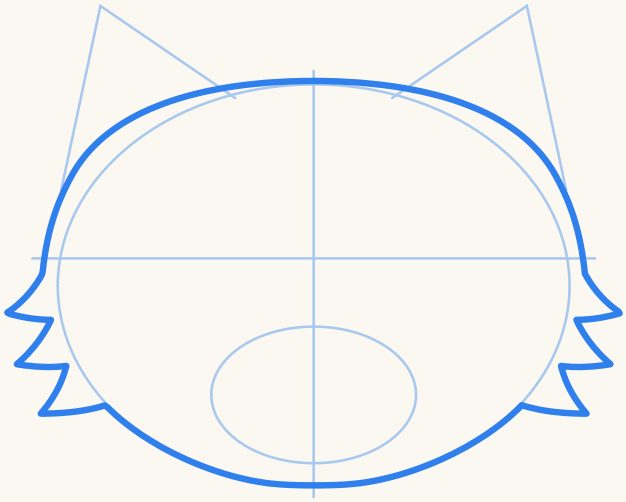
STEP 2 Add ear and muzzle guides



On each top corner of the circle, draw a tall triangle that leans outward. The outer side of each triangle starts low, near the level line, and the tip goes well above the circle. Then put a small flat oval at the bottom of the vertical line. That oval marks the muzzle, where the nose and mouth go.

💡 **Tip:** Check that both ear tips sit at the same height before you go on.

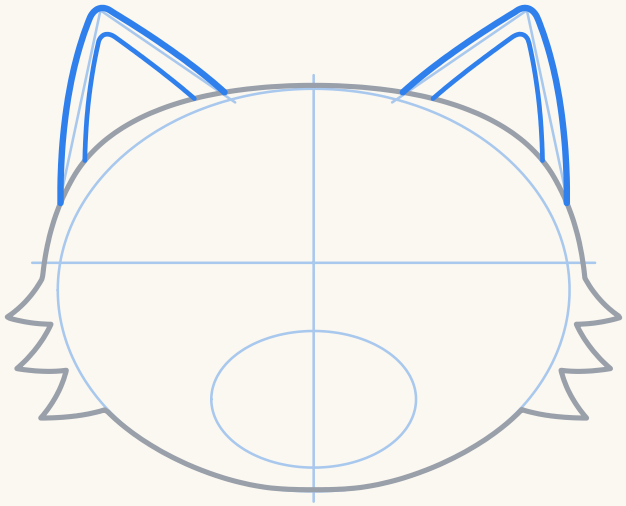
STEP 3 Outline the head with cheek fluff



Now go around the circle with a firmer line, but make the top flatter and let the sides swell out a little. At cheek level, just under the cross line, break the outline into three pointed tufts on each side. Then curve the line down and around into a soft, rounded chin. Those tufts are what tell people this is a cat and not a bear.

💡 **Tip:** Make each tuft a quick zigzag: out to a point, then back in.

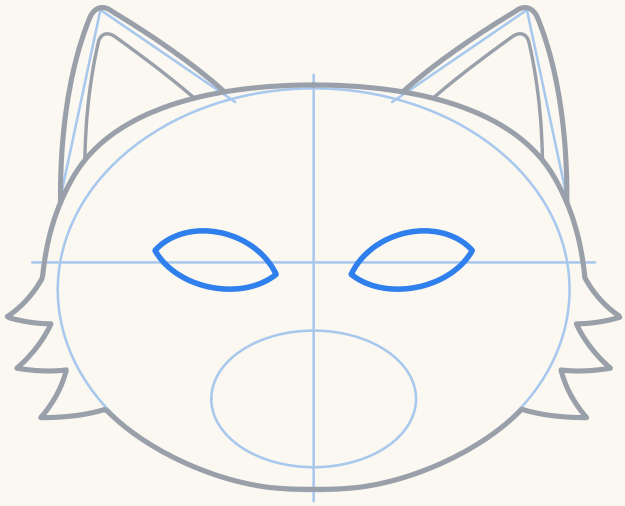
STEP 4 Draw the tall pointed ears



Follow your ear guides and draw each ear with slightly curved sides and a softly rounded tip. Stop both sides where they meet the head, since the bottom of the ear is hidden. Inside each ear, draw a smaller copy of the same shape for the pink part. Keep a narrow, even border between the two lines.

💡 **Tip:** Round the very tip a little. Sharp points make the ears look like paper.

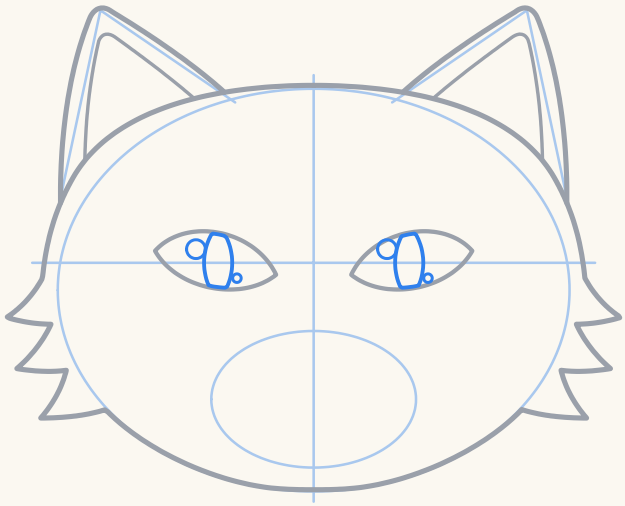
STEP 5 Place the almond eyes on the line



This is the step that decides the whole face. Draw two almond shapes centered on the level line, one on each side of the center line. Leave a gap between them that is about one eye wide. Point the outer corners up a little and the inner corners down toward the nose, which gives the slanted look cats have.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the top lid as one curve and the bottom as another, then join the corners.

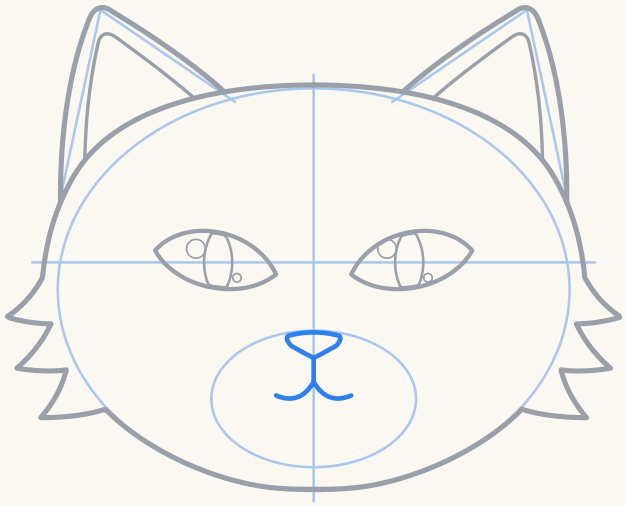
STEP 6 Add slit pupils and shines



Inside each eye, draw a tall, narrow pupil shaped like a pointed oval, straight up and down in the middle of the eye. Then add two small circles for the shine: a bigger one near the top and a tiny one lower down. I put the shines on the same side in both eyes, so the light seems to come from one window.

💡 **Tip:** Thin pupils look alert. Make them rounder if you want a sleepy, softer cat.

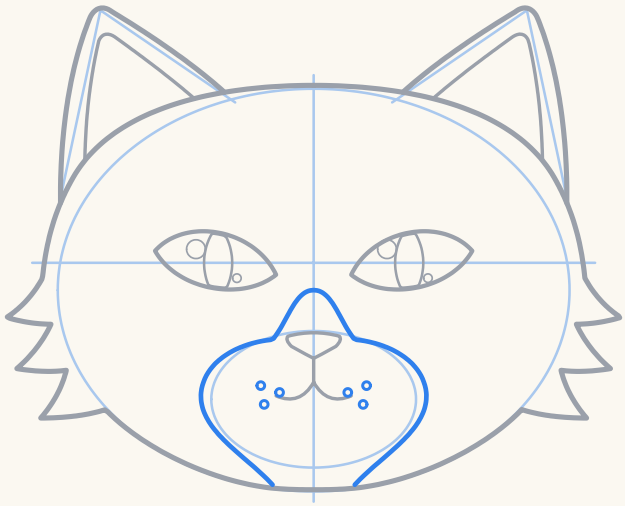
STEP 7 Draw the nose and the w mouth



The nose goes about halfway between the eye line and the chin, on the center line. Draw a small upside-down triangle with rounded corners. From its point, drop a short straight line, then curve out to each side to make a w shape. Most beginners draw the nose too big, so keep it smaller than one eye.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the w as two little smiles that touch in the middle.

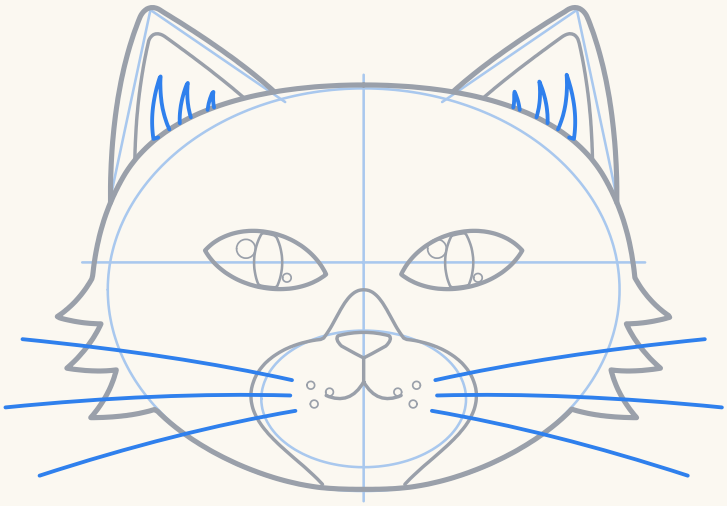
STEP 8 Shape the muzzle and whisker dots



Start a thin line just under the gap between the eyes. Bring it down around the nose, swing it out over the whisker area on each side, then run it down to the bottom of the chin. Everything inside that line will stay white. Add three small dots on each side of the mouth, where the whiskers grow from.

💡 **Tip:** Use the muzzle oval guide as your edge, then let the line flow past it to the chin.

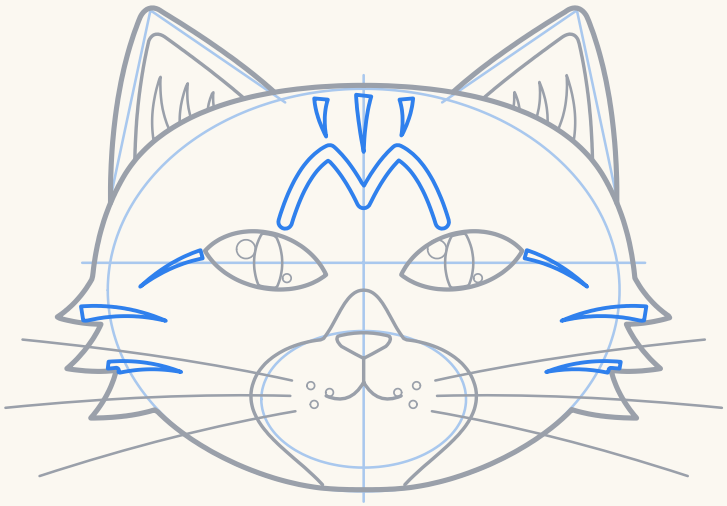
STEP 9 Add whiskers and ear tufts



Draw three long whiskers on each side, starting near the dots and fanning out past the cheek fluff. Make the top one rise slightly, the middle one go straight and the lowest one droop. Then add three thin flame shapes inside each ear, rising from the head line. These are the fluffy tufts many cats have.

💡 **Tip:** Pull each whisker away from the face in a single fast stroke.

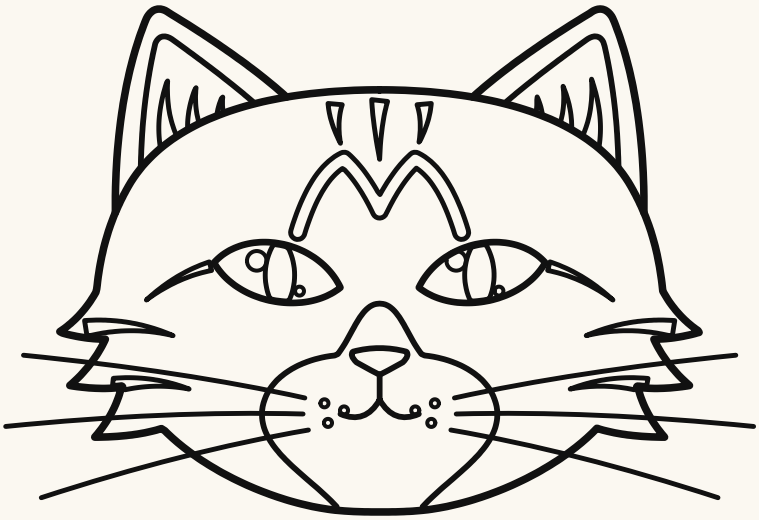
STEP 10 Sketch the tabby M and stripes



Tabby cats wear a dark letter M on the forehead, so draw a rounded M as a thick band above the eyes. Over it, add three short spikes pointing down. On each cheek, draw two tapered stripes coming in from the edge, and one thin line running back from the outer corner of each eye. Leave the muzzle free of marks.

💡 **Tip:** Make every stripe thick at the edge of the face and thin where it ends.

STEP 11 Ink the lines and erase the guides



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Go over every keeper line with the black pen. I start with the eyes and nose, because they need the steadiest hand, and leave the long outline for last. Don't ink the circle, the cross or the ear and muzzle guides. Wait a minute for the ink to dry, then erase all the pencil.

💡 **Tip:** Turn the paper so you always pull the pen toward you on curves.

STEP 12 Color your tabby cat



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Fill the head and ears with gray, and the M and stripes with dark gray. The muzzle, chin and ear tufts stay white. Color the inner ears and nose pink, the eyes green and the pupils black. Leave the shine circles white, and you can add a slightly darker green along the top of each eye for depth.

💡 **Tip:** Color the fur in short strokes that follow the direction of the stripes.