

How to Draw a Cat

12 easy steps for beginners



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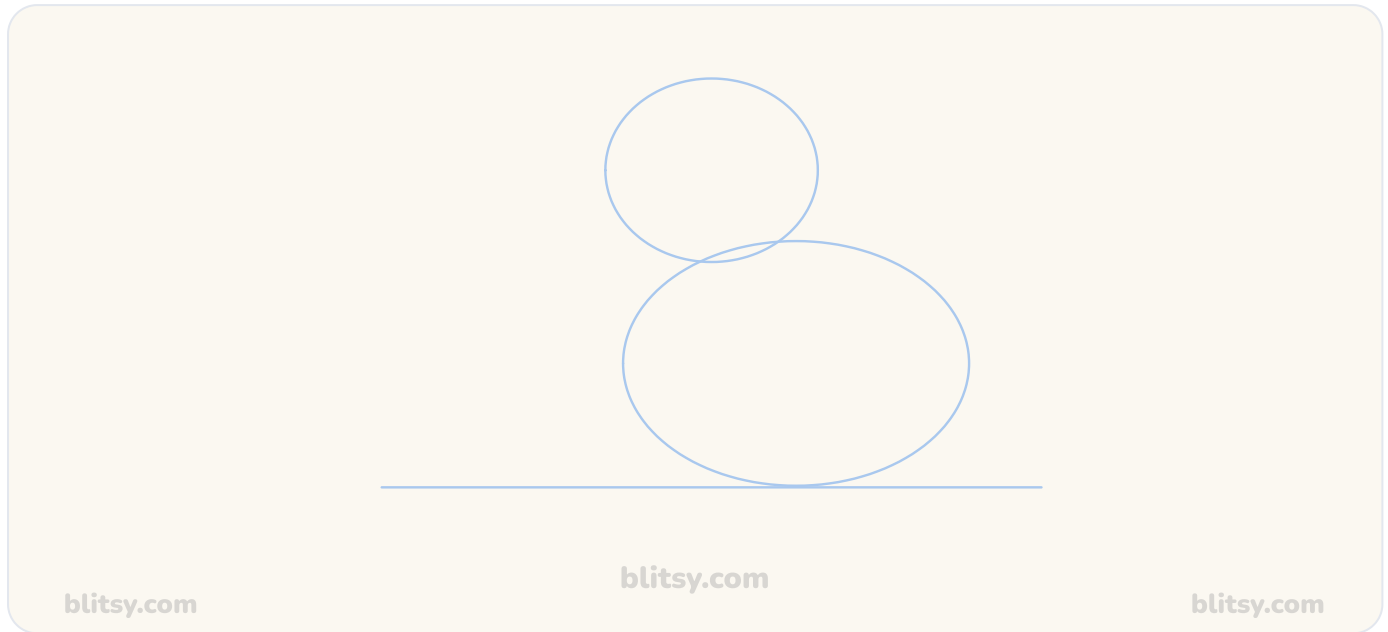
What you'll need

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

How to use this guide

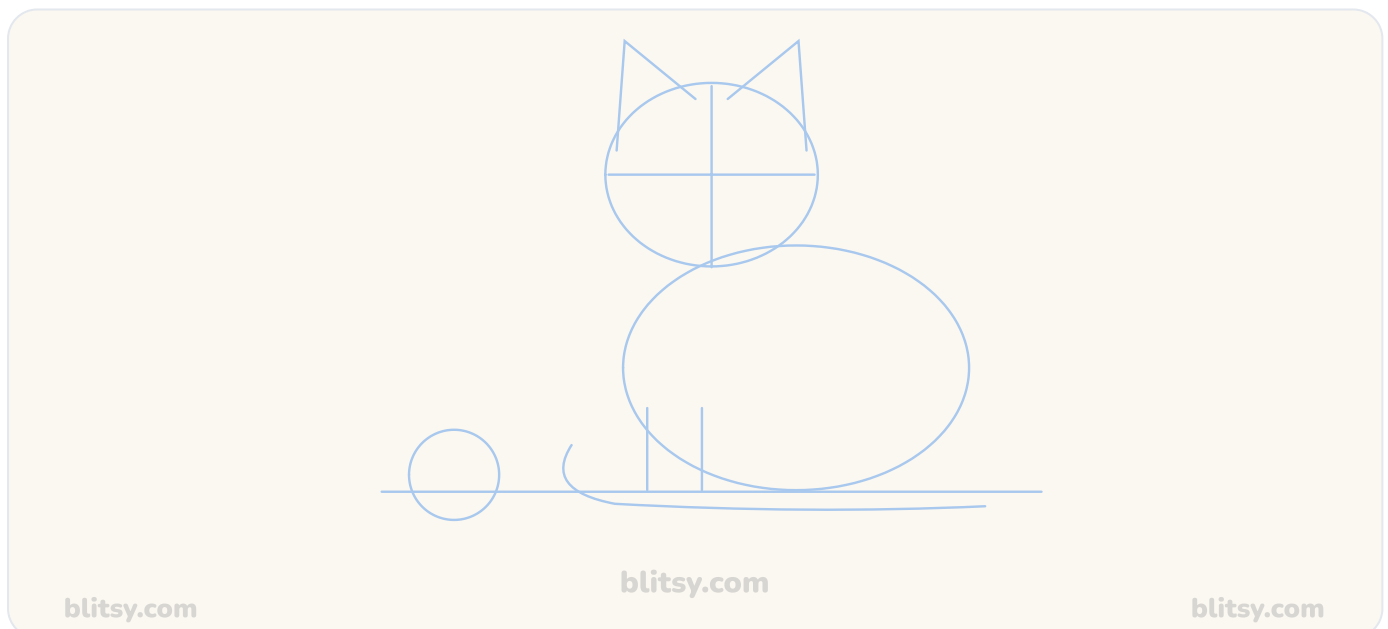
New lines for each step are shown in **blue**; lines you already drew are gray. Draw lightly first, then ink and erase near the end.

[Read the full tutorial online →](#)

STEP 1 Sketch the head and body guides

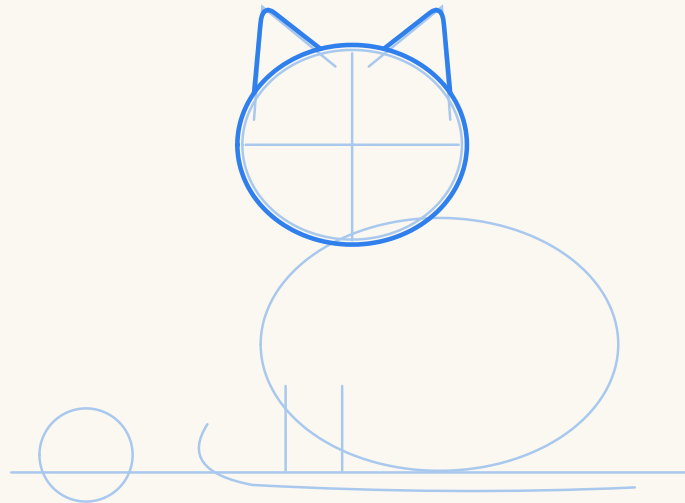
Start with a straight ground line low on the page. Above it, draw a big oval for the body, wider than it is tall, resting on the line. Then place a smaller oval for the head on top, toward the left, so it overlaps the front of the body a little. I make the head about two thirds as wide as the body; a big head keeps a cartoon cat looking friendly.

 **Tip:** Hold the pencil near the back end. You'll press lighter without trying.

STEP 2 Add guides for the ears and tail

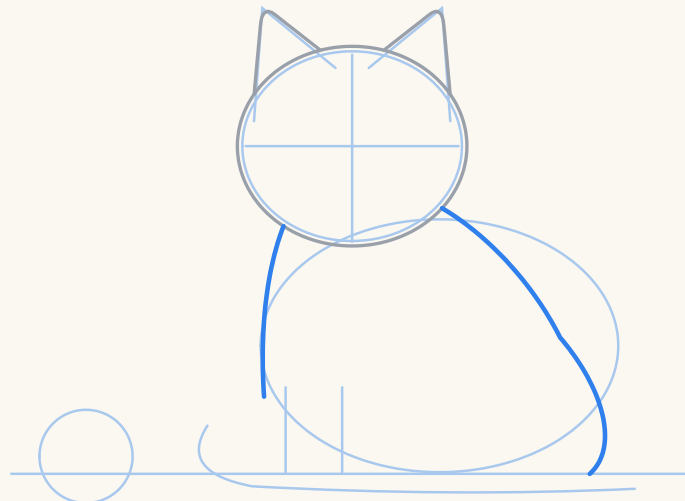
Draw two tall triangles on top of the head for the ears. Cross the head with one vertical and one horizontal line; the eyes will sit on the horizontal one. Below the chest, drop two short straight lines for the front legs. Add a long ground curve that hooks up at the left for the tail, plus a small circle for the yarn.

 **Tip:** Keep the face cross centred. If it leans, the eyes will end up crooked.

STEP 3 Draw the round head and pointy ears

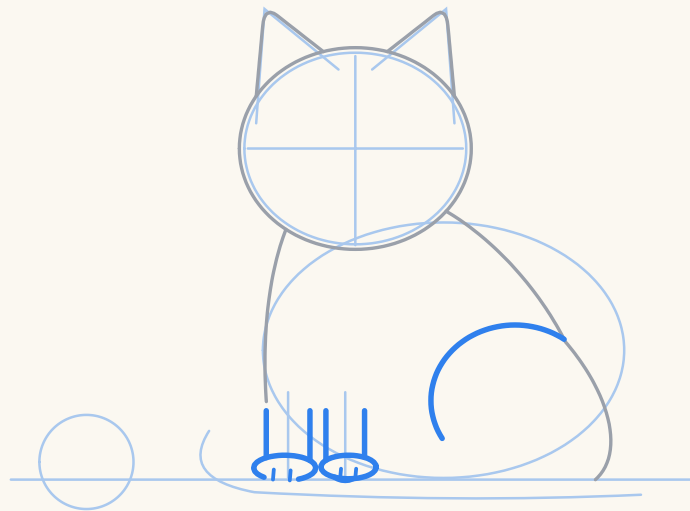
Go over the head oval with a firm, smooth line. Next, draw each ear as a triangle with a slightly rounded tip, standing on the top of the head. They lean outward a little. Stop each ear line where it meets the head, so the head outline stays whole and the ears tuck behind it.

 **Tip:** Rounded ear tips read as cute. Sharp ones make the cat look grumpy.

STEP 4 Shape the sitting body

From the back of the head, run a line down over the back and swell it out into a round rump near the ground. Then go to the front and draw the chest, dropping almost straight down from under the chin. Most beginners make the back too flat. A sitting cat's back slopes like a slide, high near the head and wide at the bottom.

 **Tip:** Look at the space between head and rump. It should be a smooth diagonal, no bumps.

STEP 5 Add the legs and the haunch

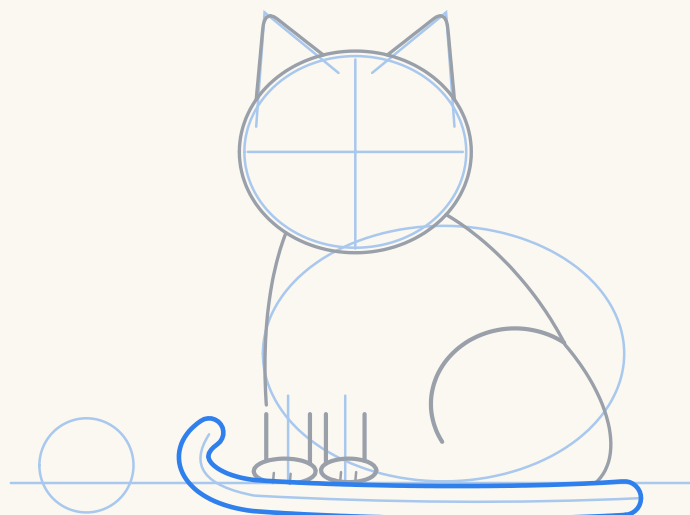
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Inside the body, draw a big curved line for the back leg, the haunch, starting low and arching up toward the rump. At the front, trace the two leg guides as pairs of straight lines, then finish each with a small flat oval for a paw. I leave the tops of the legs open so they blend into the chest.

 **Tip:** Keep the front paws close together. Spread apart, they make the cat look wobbly.

STEP 6 Curl the tail around the paws

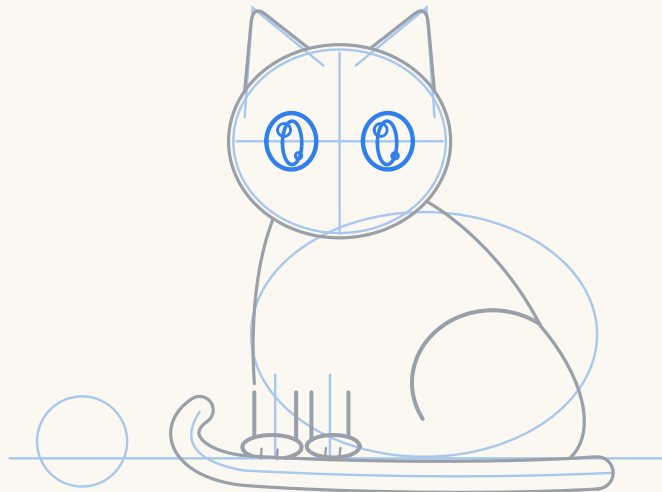
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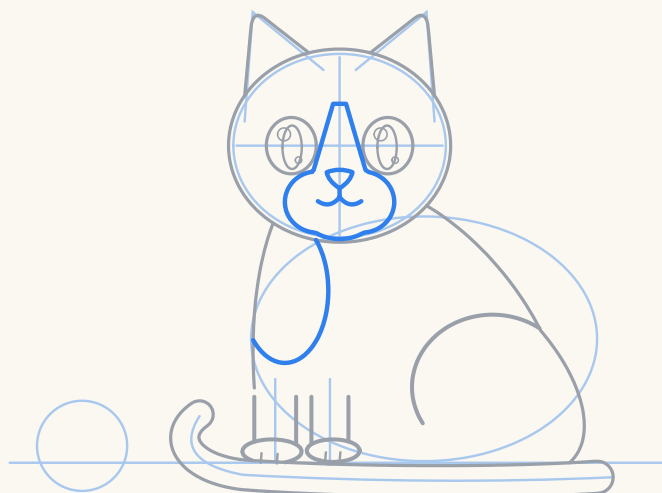
Start the tail behind the rump with a rounded end, then let it run along the ground in front of the paws. At the far left, curve it up into a little hook. Since the tail lies in front, its top edge should cover the bottom of the body line.

 **Tip:** Draw the top edge first, then follow it with the bottom edge, like train tracks.

STEP 7 Give the cat big round eyes

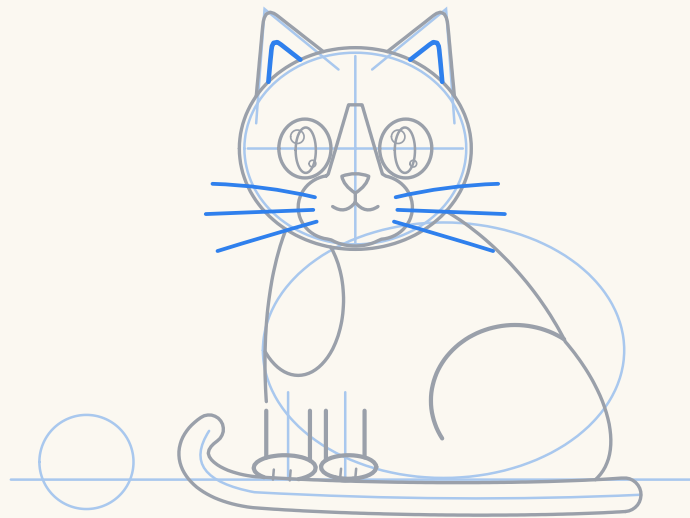
Sit two tall ovals on the horizontal face line, one on each side of the vertical line. Leave a gap between them about as wide as one eye. Inside each, draw a narrow upright oval for the pupil, then two shine circles: a bigger one at the top left and a small one lower down. Match the shines in both eyes.

 **Tip:** Tall pupils look calm and curious. Round ones make it look surprised.

STEP 8 Draw the tuxedo patches and the nose

Here's what turns a plain black cat into a tuxedo. Draw a white blaze: a thin strip starting between the eyes that widens as it comes down, then puffs out into two round cheeks around the mouth. Below the head, add a tall rounded patch for the white chest. Finish with a small pink nose and a short line down to a curly mouth shaped like a soft letter w.

 **Tip:** Make the cheek puffs match in size, or the face will look lopsided.

STEP 9 Add the inner ears and whiskers

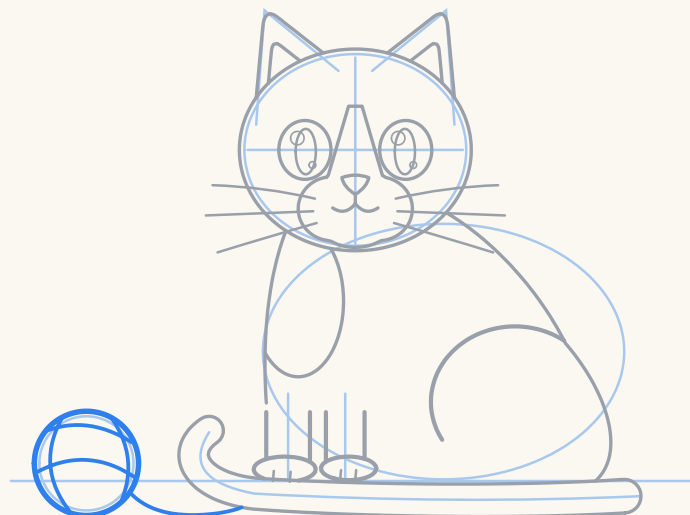
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Inside each ear, draw a smaller triangle for the pink part, leaving a band of fur all round it. Then pull three whiskers out from each cheek. Fan them slightly so the top one tilts up and the bottom one tilts down. Long whiskers stay easier to see on a dark cat.

 **Tip:** Flick each whisker outward from the cheek in a single quick motion.

STEP 10 Draw the ball of yarn

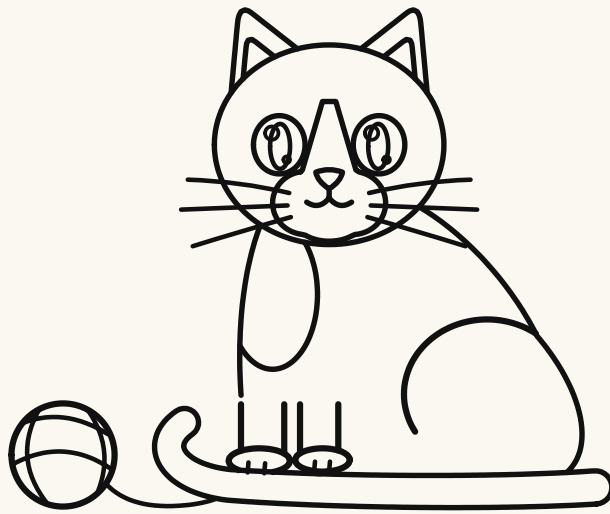
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Trace over the circle on the left to make the ball. Inside it, draw four curved lines that cross each other, a couple going across and a couple going up and down, like a wrapped parcel. Then pull a loose strand out from the bottom of the ball and let it wander toward the cat's tail.

 **Tip:** Curve every yarn line like it's hugging the ball, never straight across.

STEP 11 Ink your lines and erase the guides

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Trace every keeper line with the black pen. Skip the ovals, the face cross, the leg lines and the tail guide. When the ink has dried properly, erase all the pencil. I go slowly around the eyes, since a wobble there changes the whole expression.

Tip: Turn the paper as you ink, so your hand always pulls the pen toward you.

STEP 12 Color your tuxedo cat

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First add a curve of dark gray along the top of the head, the back and the haunch. Then color the rest of the fur black around it, steering round the white patches. Fill the eyes yellow around the black pupils, with the shines left white. Pink goes in the ears and on the nose. Finish the yarn in red with a darker red on its lower right side.

Tip: With markers, let the gray dry before the black goes next to it, so the two don't bleed.