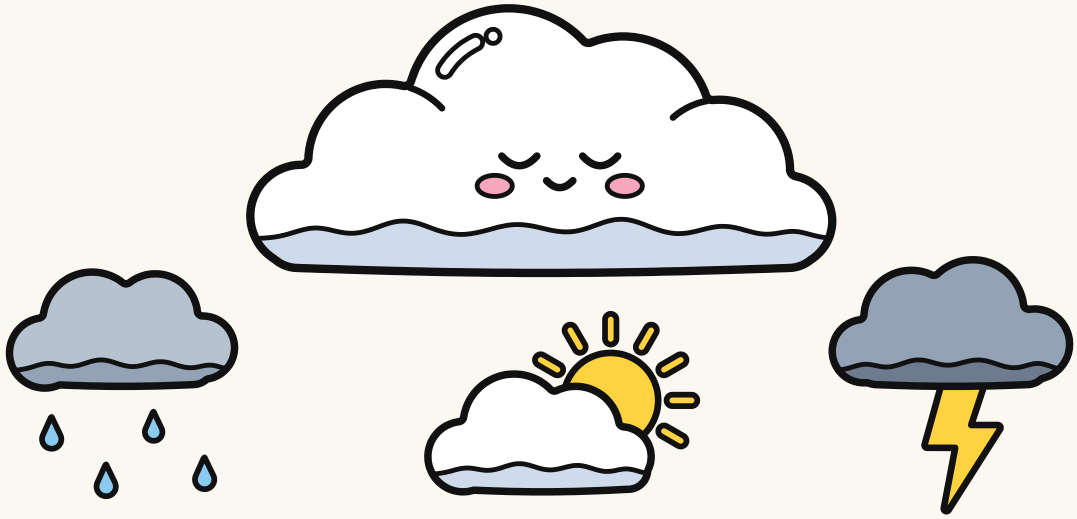
How to Draw a Cloud

10 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

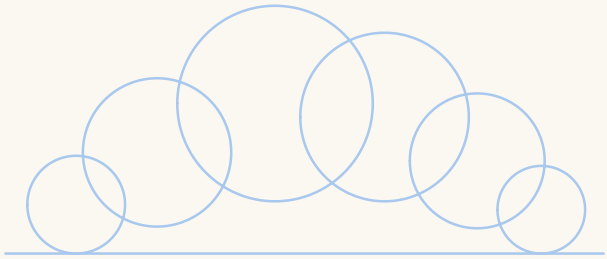
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black marker
- Coloring pencils
- Plain paper

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 →

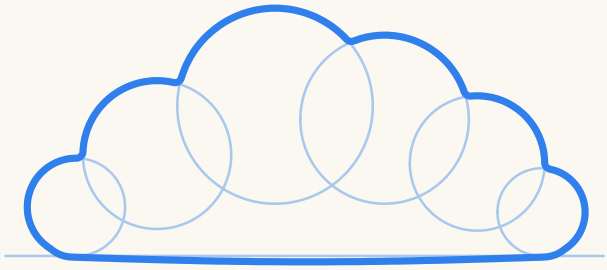
STEP 1 Lay down a base line and six circles



Draw a straight line across the upper half of the page; it's the flat base of the cloud. Now sit six circles on and above it. The two in the middle are the biggest, the ones next to them a bit smaller, and the two at the ends are small and touch the line. Let every circle overlap its neighbors. I make the sizes uneven on purpose, because real clouds never puff up in neat matching balls.

💡 **Tip:** Press so lightly that you can barely see the circles. They're only scaffolding.

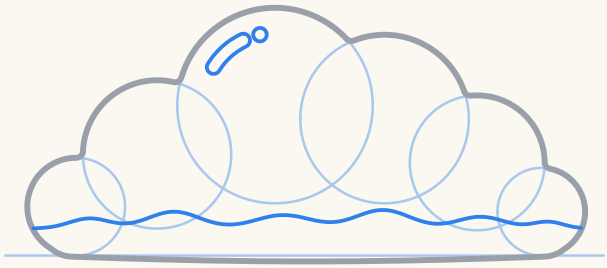
STEP 2 Trace only the outer bumps



Start at the bottom left and follow the outside edge of the circles, hopping from one to the next where they cross. Ignore every part of a circle that falls inside the cloud. When you reach the right end, curve down and run along the base line back to where you began. The dips between the bumps should be small, soft corners, not deep notches.

💡 **Tip:** Run a finger along the outside of the circles first so your eye knows the path.

STEP 3 Add a wavy shadow line and a shine

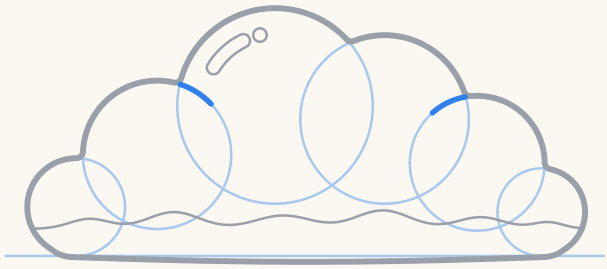


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A little above the bottom, draw a gentle wavy line from one side of the cloud to the other. Keep the waves low and uneven; this marks the shady underside that we'll color blue-gray later. Then near the top left of the biggest bump, draw a short curved stroke as a narrow loop, with a tiny circle just after it. That's the shine where the light hits.

💡 **Tip:** Make the wavy line rise a bit under each big bump and dip between them.

STEP 4 Sketch two small puff creases

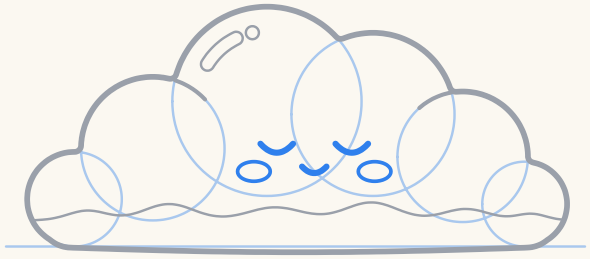


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Look at the valley between the left bump and the big middle one. From that dip, let the smaller bump's curve carry on into the cloud for a short distance, like the edge of a cotton ball tucked in front of another. Do the same on the right side. Two creases are plenty; more of them start to look like wrinkles.

💡 **Tip:** Stop each crease well before it reaches the middle of the cloud.

STEP 5 Give it a sleepy smiling face

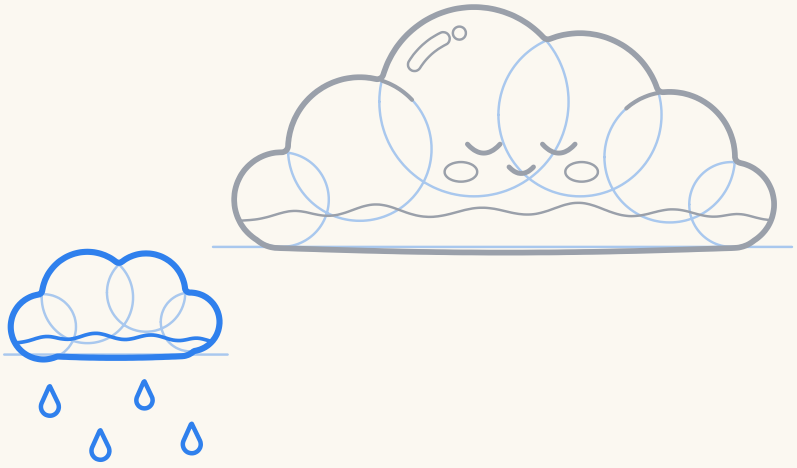


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Under the big bumps, about halfway down, draw two small U-shaped curves for closed eyes. Leave roughly one eye's width between them. Center a tiny smile, also shaped like a U, just below the gap and a little lower than the eyes. Finish with a flat oval cheek under the outside corner of each eye. Kids often place the face too high, but sitting low makes the cloud look chubby and sweet.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the smile smaller than an eye. A big grin hides the sleepy look.

STEP 6 Build a rain cloud with drops

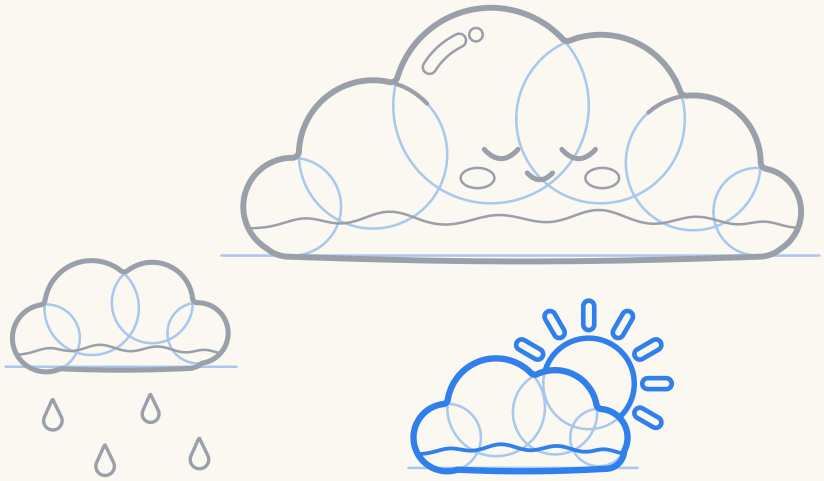


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Down on the left, draw a shorter line with four guide circles on it, two middle ones bigger than the ends. Trace the outer bumps the same way as before and add a wavy shadow line near the bottom. Below it, draw four raindrops, round at the bottom and pointed on top, staggered so two hang high and two hang low. This little cloud gets colored darker later.

💡 **Tip:** Leave a finger's width between the cloud and the first drop so the rain looks like it's falling.

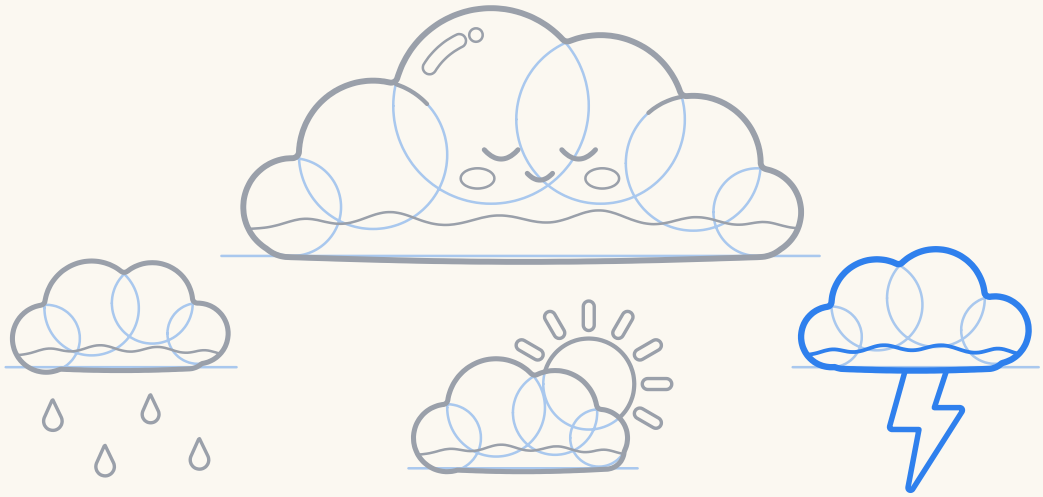
STEP 7 Hide a sun behind a cloud



In the bottom middle, set up another base line and four circles, then add one more circle for the sun, overlapping the top right of the group. Trace the cloud's outer bumps first. Now draw only the part of the sun's circle that sticks out above the cloud, and stop where it meets the outline. Around that visible part, add short rounded rays, leaving a small gap between each ray and the sun.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the cloud before the sun. Then you know exactly where the sun's line has to stop.

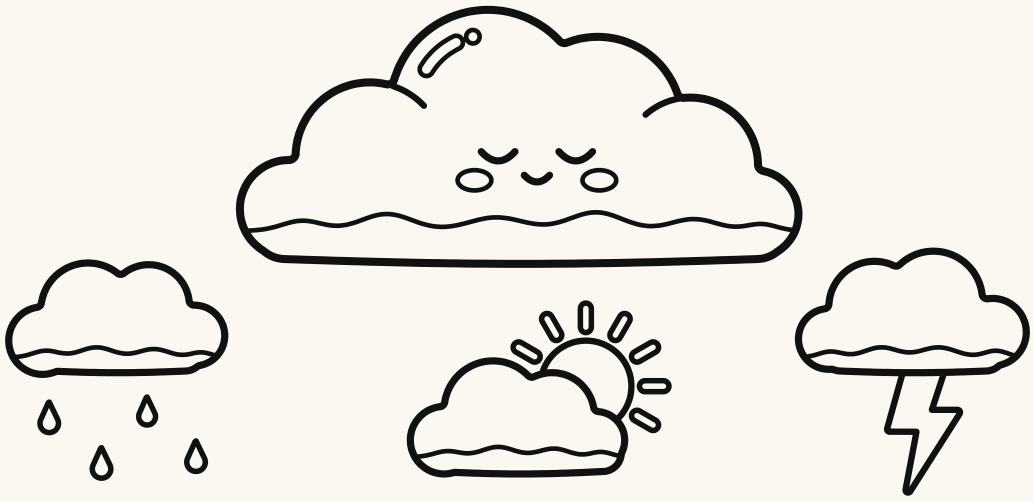
STEP 8 Drop a bolt from a thunder cloud



On the right, make one more small cloud from a line and four circles, with its tallest bump a little right of center. Add its wavy shadow line. For the lightning, draw a zigzag shape that starts right at the cloud's bottom edge: wide at the top, a step to the side, then a long sharp point heading down. I like a slight lean so the bolt feels fast.

💡 **Tip:** Lightning bolts look sharper with only two zigzags. A third one makes it look like a ribbon.

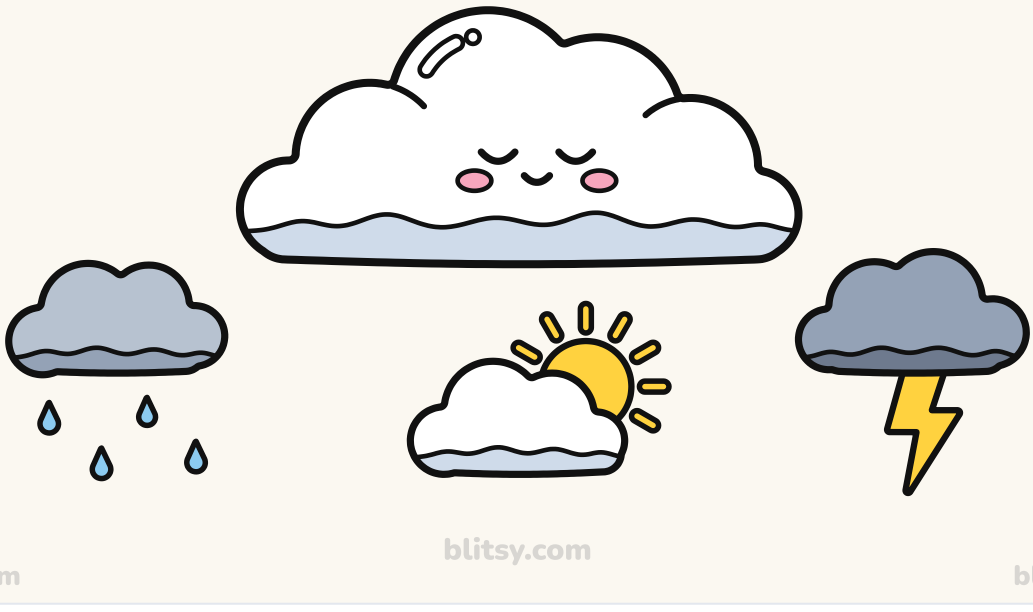
STEP 9 Go over the keepers in ink



Trace every outline, shadow line, crease and face line with your black marker. The shadow lines can be a touch thinner than the cloud outlines if you have two pens. Wait for the ink to dry completely, then erase all the guide circles and base lines. Erase gently over the ink; scrubbing hard can gray it.

💡 **Tip:** Lift your marker at each bump's dip instead of going around in one long loop. Your curves stay rounder.

STEP 10 Color the sky friends



Leave the big cloud white, or color it very lightly. Fill the band below the wavy line with a light blue-gray, both on the big cloud and on the sunny one. Give the rain cloud a medium gray with a darker bottom, and the thunder cloud a dark gray with a charcoal bottom. Then add yellow for the sun and bolt, light blue for the drops and pink for the cheeks.

💡 **Tip:** Color the gray clouds in small circles, not straight strokes. The texture looks fluffier.