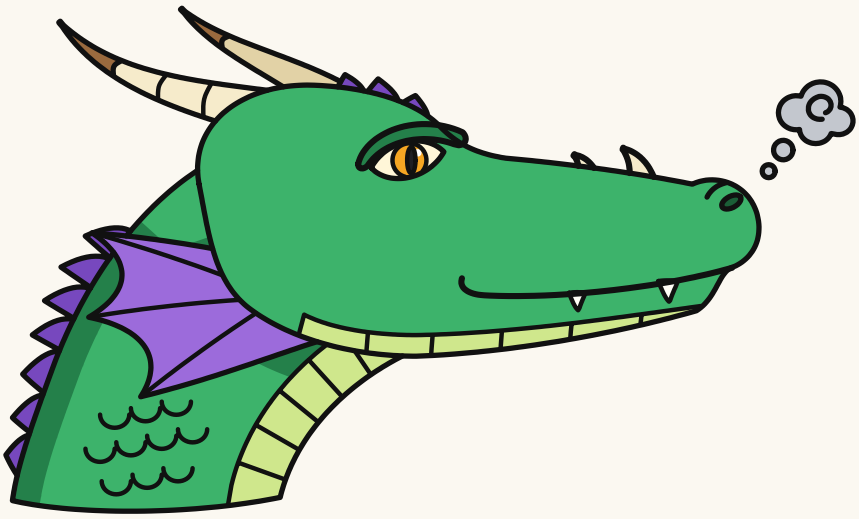
How to Draw a Dragon Head

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

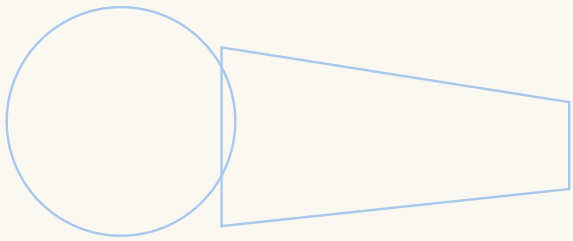
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black fineliner
- Colored pencils or markers
- Paper, turned sideways

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 a skull circle and a snout box



Draw a big circle a little left of the middle of your page for the back of the skull. Touching its right side, add a long box that narrows toward the right, about one and a half times as long as the circle is wide. The taper keeps the snout from turning into a plank.

💡 **Tip:** Keep your pencil loose and barely touching the paper. These two shapes disappear at the end.

STEP 2 Guide the jaw, then the neck and horns



Under the box, draw one gentle curve from the front corner back below the circle. That's the jaw line, set lower than the box so the lower jaw has depth. Two curved lines drop from the circle to the bottom left for the neck, and two more sweep back from the top of the circle for the horns.

💡 **Tip:** Bend the neck lines like a swan's neck. Straight lines make the dragon look stiff.

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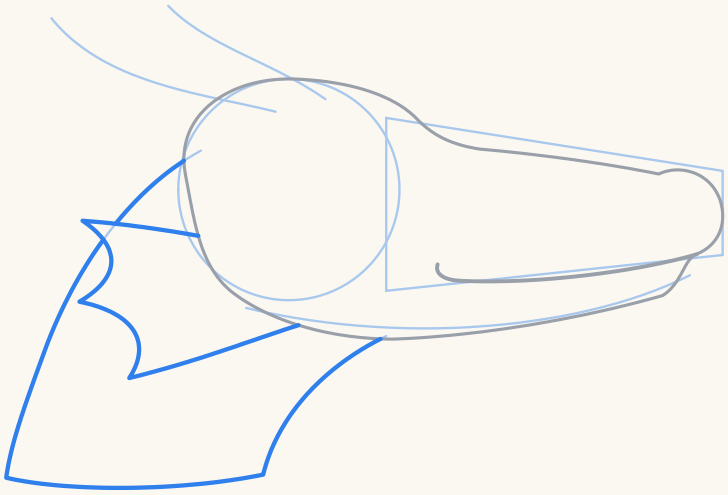
STEP 3 Outline the head and the smiling mouth



Trace one smooth line around the circle and the box. Bump it up over the eye area for a brow, then slope it down the snout to a rounded nose with a small knob on top. Follow the jaw guide underneath. For the mouth, run a long line from the nose tip back toward the skull and curl its end up into a small smile.

💡 **Tip:** Stop the mouth line well before the circle. A mouth that runs too far back looks like a crocodile.

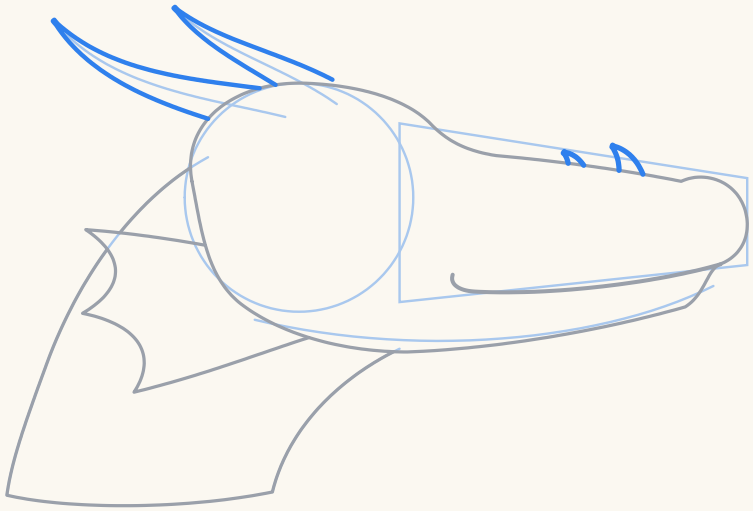
STEP 4 Draw the neck and the cheek fin



Go over the neck guides with firmer lines and join them at the bottom with a soft curve. Right behind the jaw, draw a fan-shaped fin with three points pointing back, joined by curved scoops. I draw the fin together with the neck, because the fin hides part of the neck line.

💡 **Tip:** Make the top point of the fin the longest and the bottom one the shortest.

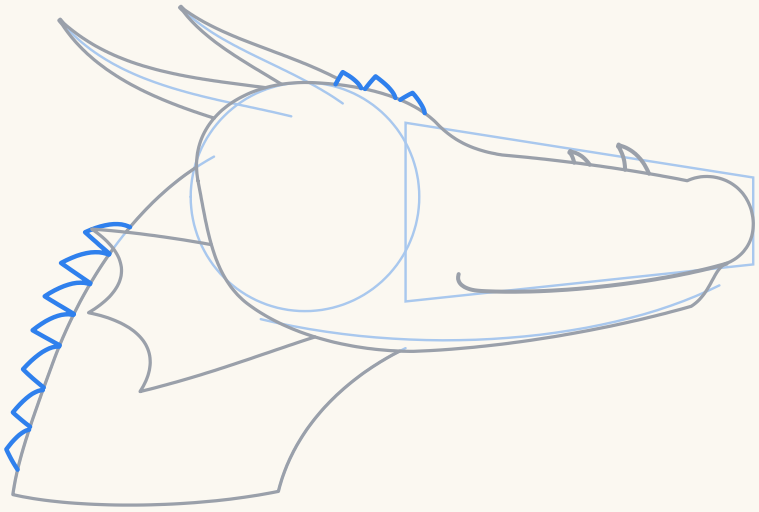
STEP 5 Add the horns and nose spikes



Use the horn guides to draw two long horns that start wide on the skull and narrow to a point. The far horn sits a little higher and looks shorter because it's farther away. On top of the snout, add two small curved spikes. Those little spikes stop the head from reading as a lizard.

💡 **Tip:** Let both horns curve upward at the tips. Flat horns look like they're falling off.

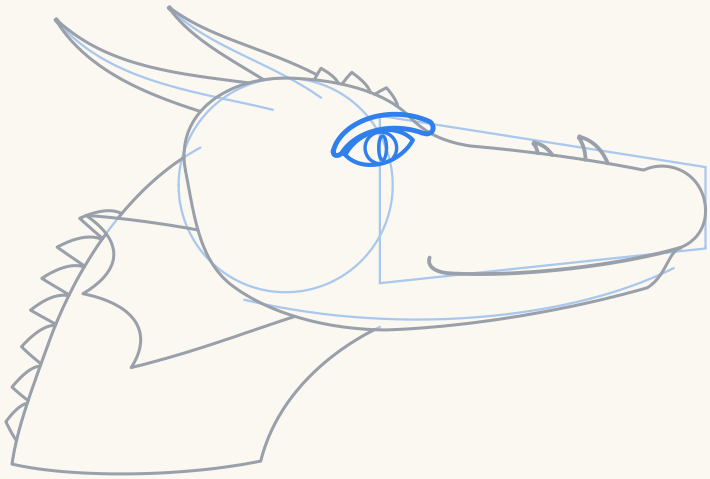
STEP 6 Draw the spiky ridge down the neck



Spikes come in two groups. Put three small ones on top of the skull between the brow and the horns. Then add a row of bigger spikes down the back of the neck, large near the head and smaller toward the bottom. Lean every spike slightly backward, as if wind is pushing them.

💡 **Tip:** Draw each spike as two short curves meeting at a point. It's quicker than one careful zigzag.

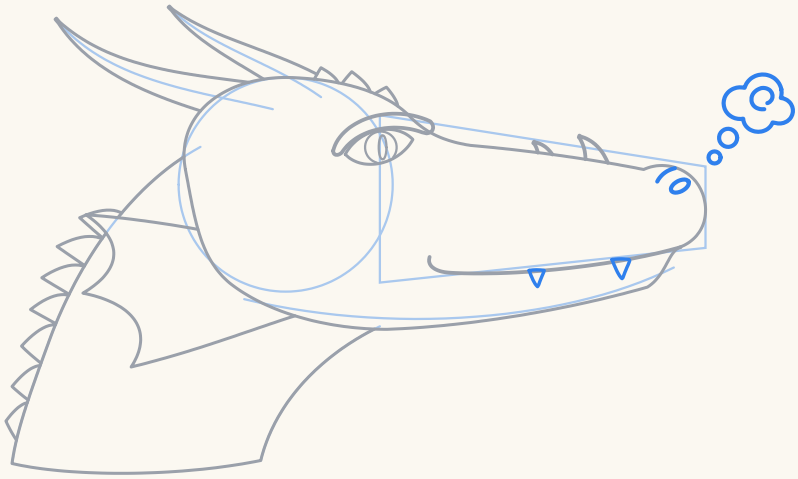
STEP 7 Draw the eye under a heavy brow



Place an almond-shaped eye just under the brow bump, where the skull meets the snout. Inside it, draw a round iris and a tall, thin slit for the pupil. Over the top, add a thick curved brow ridge that overlaps the upper lid. The heavy brow makes the dragon look strong, and the round iris keeps it friendly.

💡 **Tip:** Angle the brow down toward the nose for a confident look. Tilt it up and the dragon looks worried.

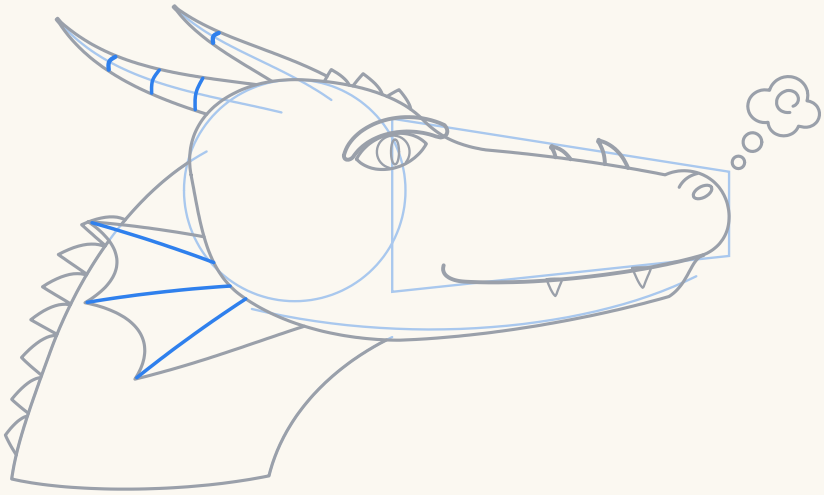
STEP 8 Add the nostril and fangs, then smoke



Draw a small tilted oval near the front of the nose and a short curve above it for the flared nostril. Hang two small pointed fangs from the mouth line, one near the front and one farther back. Above the nose, float two tiny circles and a small bumpy cloud with a curl inside.

💡 **Tip:** Two small fangs look playful. Fill the mouth with teeth and your dragon turns into a monster.

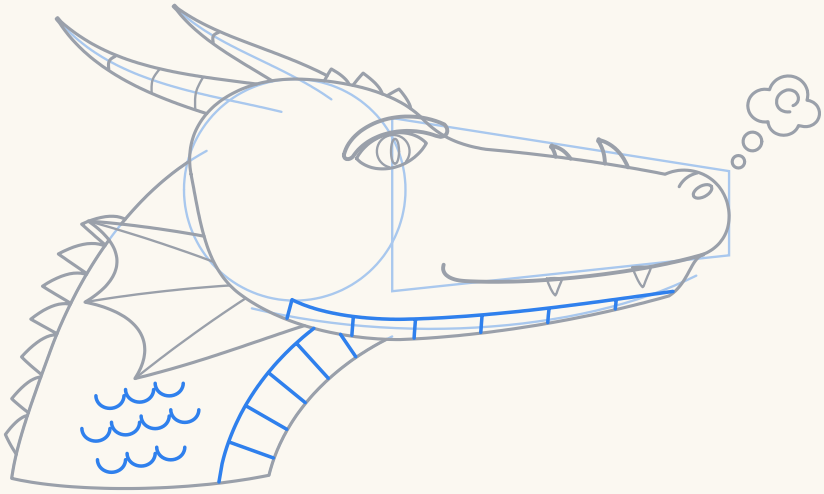
STEP 9 Draw the fin spines and horn bands



Run three thin lines from the base of the cheek fin out to each of its points, like the ribs of a folding fan. Draw two curved bands across the near horn, then one more curve near the tip of each horn to mark off the darker end. Curving the bands makes the horns look round.

💡 **Tip:** Use a lighter hand on these detail lines than on the outline. They should sit quietly in the background.

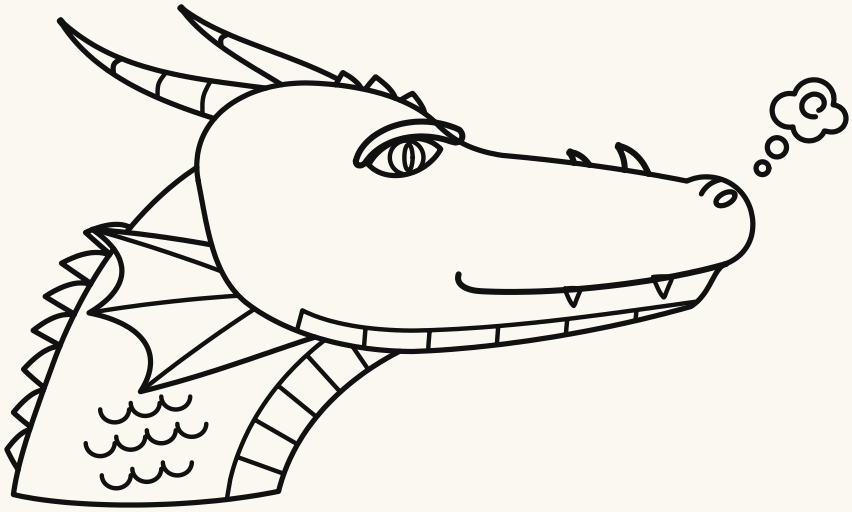
STEP 10 Add the throat plates and a few scales



Draw a line just inside the bottom of the jaw and another down the front of the neck, then split both strips into short sections with little cross lines. These are the belly plates many dragon drawings carry from chin to tail. On the side of the neck, add three short rows of small U shapes for scales.

💡 **Tip:** A handful of scales is plenty. Cover the whole neck and the drawing gets busy and hard to color.

STEP 11 Ink the lines and erase the guides

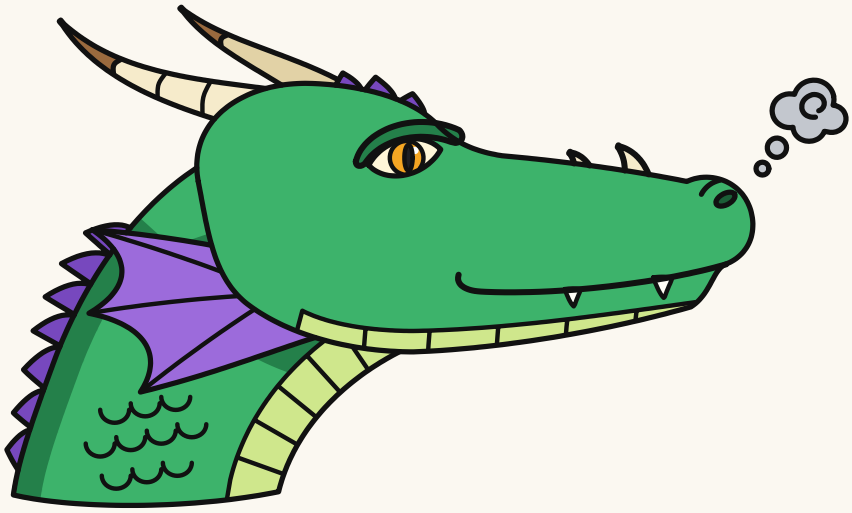


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Trace every line you want to keep with the black pen. I start at the head and work out to the horns and spikes, then the neck, so my hand never rests on fresh ink. Skip the circle, the box and the curved guides. Once the ink is fully dry, erase all the pencil.

💡 **Tip:** Turn the paper as you ink the spikes so you're always pulling the pen toward you.

STEP 12 Color your dragon head



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Give the head and neck a medium green first. Add dark green to the brow, along the back of the neck and under the jaw. The throat plates get a light yellow-green. Color the horns, nose spikes and fangs cream with brown horn tips, then make the spikes and fin purple, the iris orange and the smoke gray.

💡 **Tip:** Leave a tiny white dot on the pupil. That single spot of light makes the eye look alive.