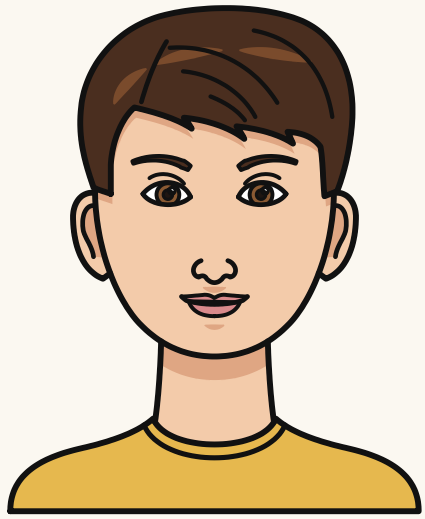
How to Draw a Face

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

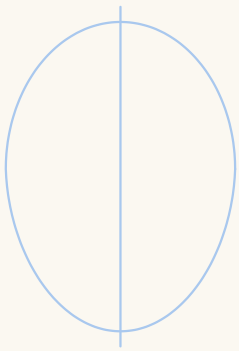
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black fineliner
- Colored pencils
- White paper

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 →

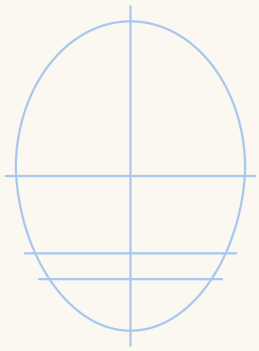
STEP 1 Draw an egg shape and a center line



Sketch an upright egg in the middle of your page, wider at the top where the skull is and a little narrower at the chin. Run a straight vertical line through its middle. Everything later is mirrored on either side of it.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the egg in two halves, one from the top down each side. Matching halves are easier than one big loop.

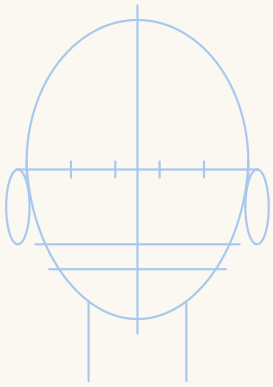
STEP 2 Add the eye, nose and mouth lines



Measure the egg from top to chin and mark the exact halfway point. That's where the eye line goes, and yes, it really is that low. Halve the space between the eye line and the chin for the nose line. Then split the gap from nose to chin into thirds and draw the mouth line one third of the way down.

💡 **Tip:** Surprised the eyes sit so low? Almost every beginner puts them too high. Trust the halfway mark.

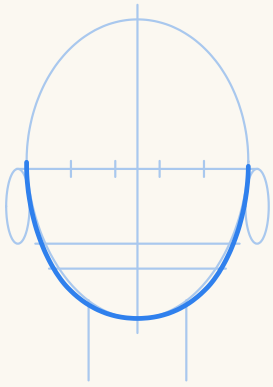
STEP 3 Mark five eye widths and place the ears



Across the eye line, the head is about five eyes wide. Make four small ticks so the line splits into five equal parts. The eyes will fill the second and fourth spaces, which leaves exactly one eye width between them. Next, draw a narrow oval on each side of the head, from the eye line down to the nose line. Drop two neck lines from below the jaw.

💡 **Tip:** Space the ticks by eye first, then check them with your pencil held against the paper as a measuring stick.

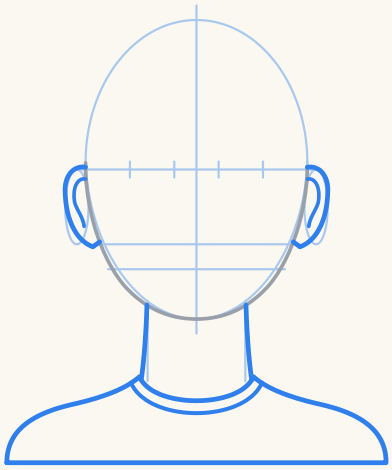
STEP 4 Shape the cheeks, jaw and chin



Now make the face more human than an egg. Starting at the eye line on each side, draw the cheek down and slightly in, round off a soft jaw corner level with the mouth, and meet at a gently rounded chin on the center line. I keep it smooth, because sharp angles add years to a young face.

💡 **Tip:** Draw one side, then the other while glancing back at the first. Comparing as you go keeps the jaw even.

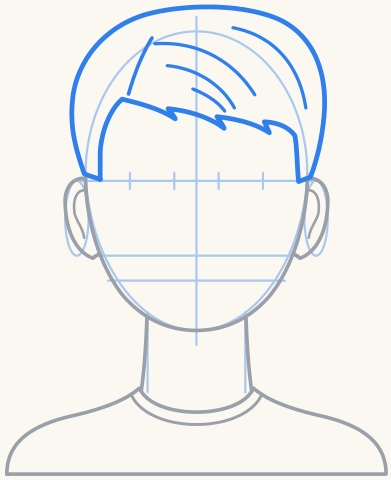
STEP 5 Draw the ears, neck and collar



Trace each ear over its oval as a C shape, plus one curve inside for the rim. Follow the neck guides, curving the lines in a touch so the neck looks soft rather than like a tube. Finish with sloping shoulders and a round crew-neck collar with a second line inside it.

💡 **Tip:** The neck is a little narrower than the jaw. A neck as wide as the face looks like a tree trunk.

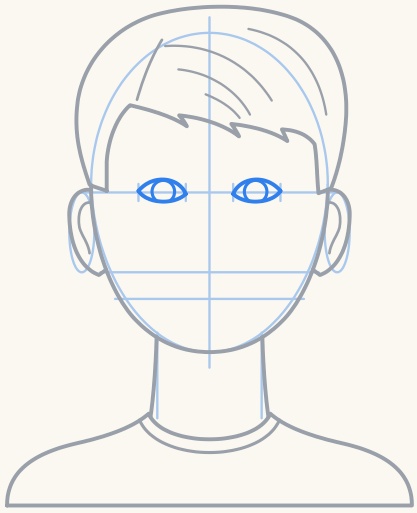
STEP 6 Sketch a short side-swept hairstyle



Hair sits on top of the skull, so start the outline a finger's width above the egg and wrap it down to just above each ear. For the fringe, begin at a side part on the left and sweep a zigzag edge down to the right, ending each lock in a soft point above the brows. Add the part line and a few curved strand lines that follow the sweep.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the strand lines few and curved in the same direction. Three or four say hair; twenty say scribble.

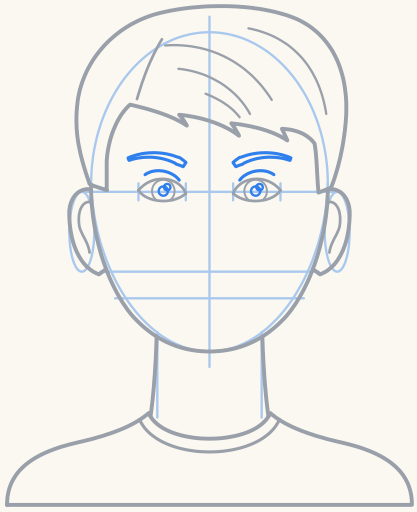
STEP 7 Draw almond eyes with irises



In the second and fourth spaces on the eye line, draw two almond shapes. The top lid arches higher than the bottom one, and its highest point sits a bit toward the nose. Then add a round iris in each eye, big enough that it almost touches both lids.

💡 **Tip:** Draw both upper lids first, then both lower lids. Working in pairs keeps the eyes matching.

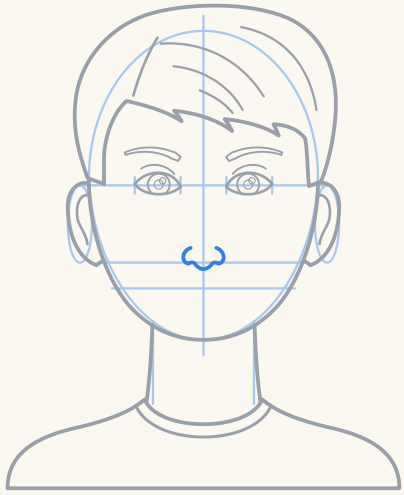
STEP 8 Add pupils, lid creases and eyebrows



Put a dark pupil in each iris and a tiny shine circle placed up and to the same side in both eyes. A thin curve above shows the lid crease. The eyebrows sit higher still: thicker at the inner end, thinning toward the outer end with a gentle arch.

💡 **Tip:** Shines on opposite sides make the eyes look crossed. Copy the exact spot from one eye to the other.

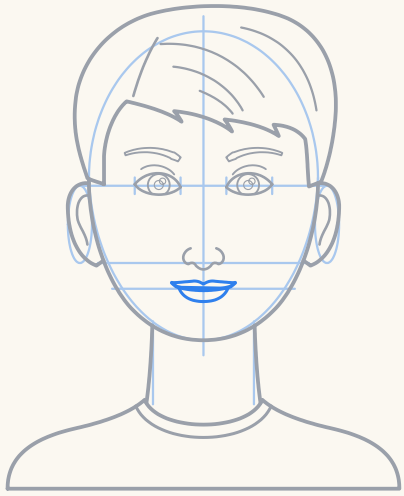
STEP 9 Draw the nose wings and tip



A front-view nose is mostly its bottom edge. On the nose line, draw a small rounded C for each nostril wing, then a little curve under the center for the tip, with tiny nostril hooks linking them. The wings line up roughly with the inner corners of the eyes. I skip the bridge line entirely; the shadow under the tip shows enough.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the nose small and light. A heavy nose outline pulls all the attention away from the eyes.

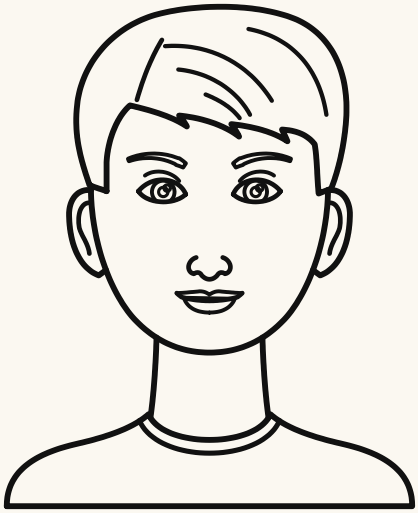
STEP 10 Add the upper and lower lip



On the mouth line, draw the line between the lips first, curving the ends up slightly for a relaxed smile. Above it, add the upper lip with a soft dip in the middle. Below, a fuller curve makes the lower lip. The mouth is a bit wider than the nose, with its corners about under the irises.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the middle line darker than the outer lip lines. That's where the shadow actually sits.

STEP 11 Ink the lines and erase the guides

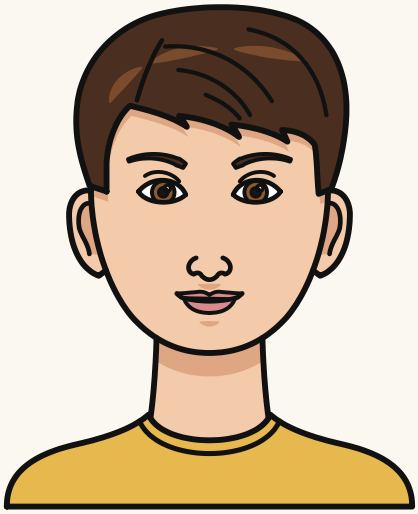


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Trace every keeper line with your black pen, from the hair down to the collar. Leave all the measuring lines alone. Wait a minute for the ink to dry, then erase all the pencil underneath.

💡 **Tip:** Ink the small features with lighter pressure than the outline. Thinner lines keep the face gentle.

STEP 12 Color the portrait



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Fill all the skin with peach, then add tan just under the fringe, under the jaw on the neck, under the nose and below the lower lip. Those patches make the face look round. Then do the lips in pink, the irises in light brown and the hair in dark brown with a lighter shine. I finish with a yellow shirt.

💡 **Tip:** Leave the eye whites and the shine dots uncolored. White paper is brighter than any pencil.