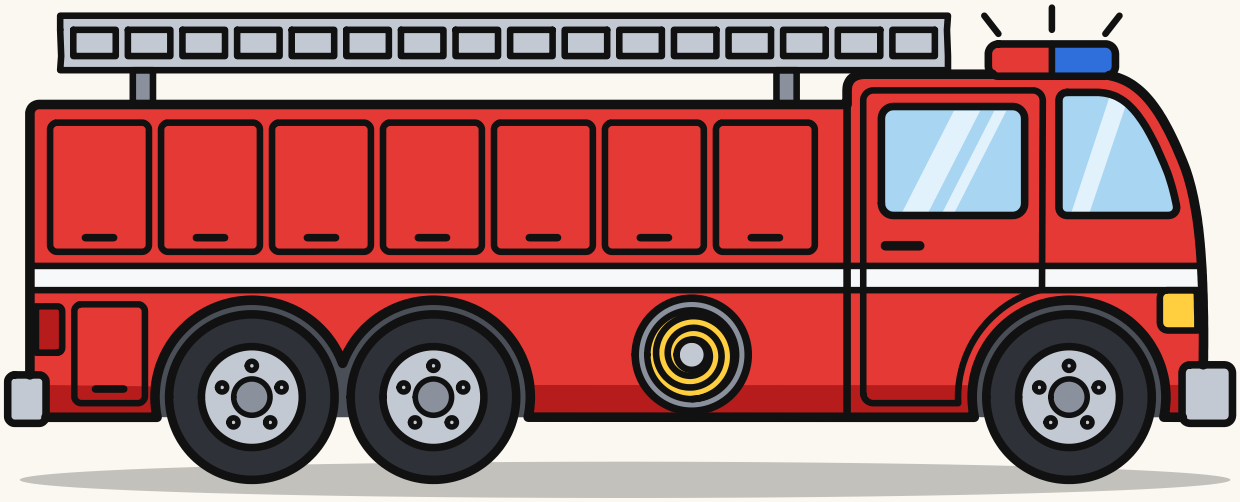
How to Draw a Fire Truck

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

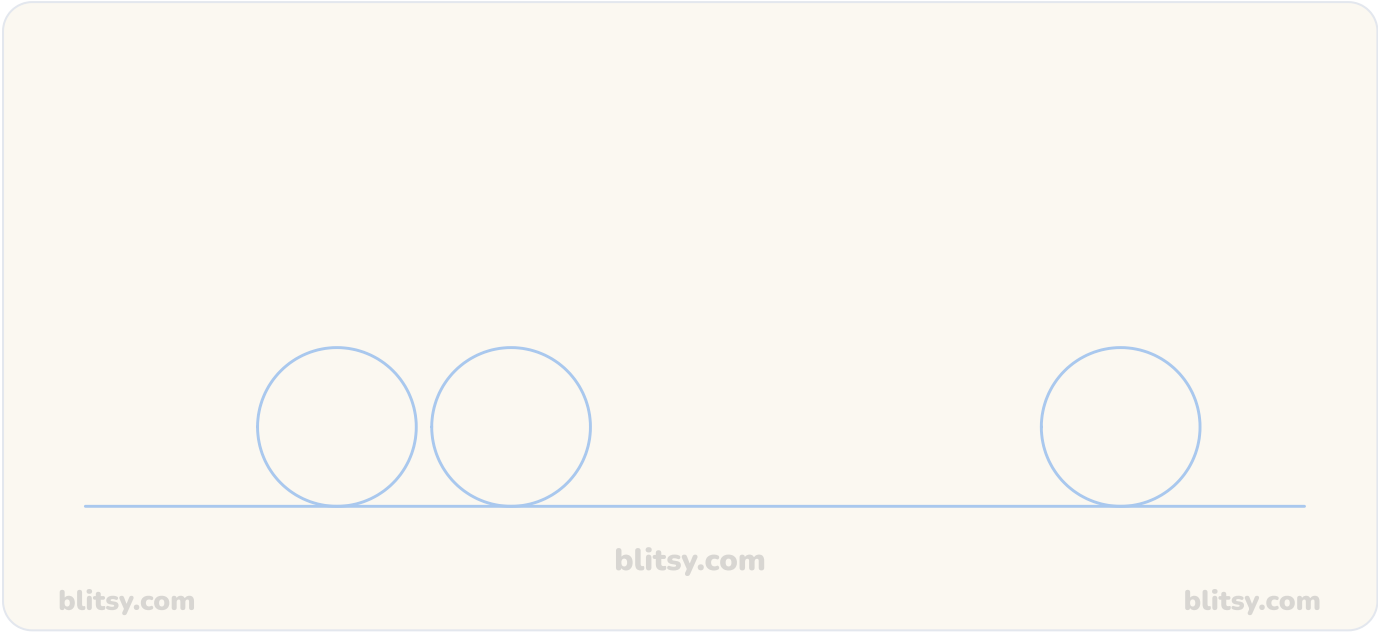
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A ruler
- A black marker
- Coloring pencils or crayons

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 →

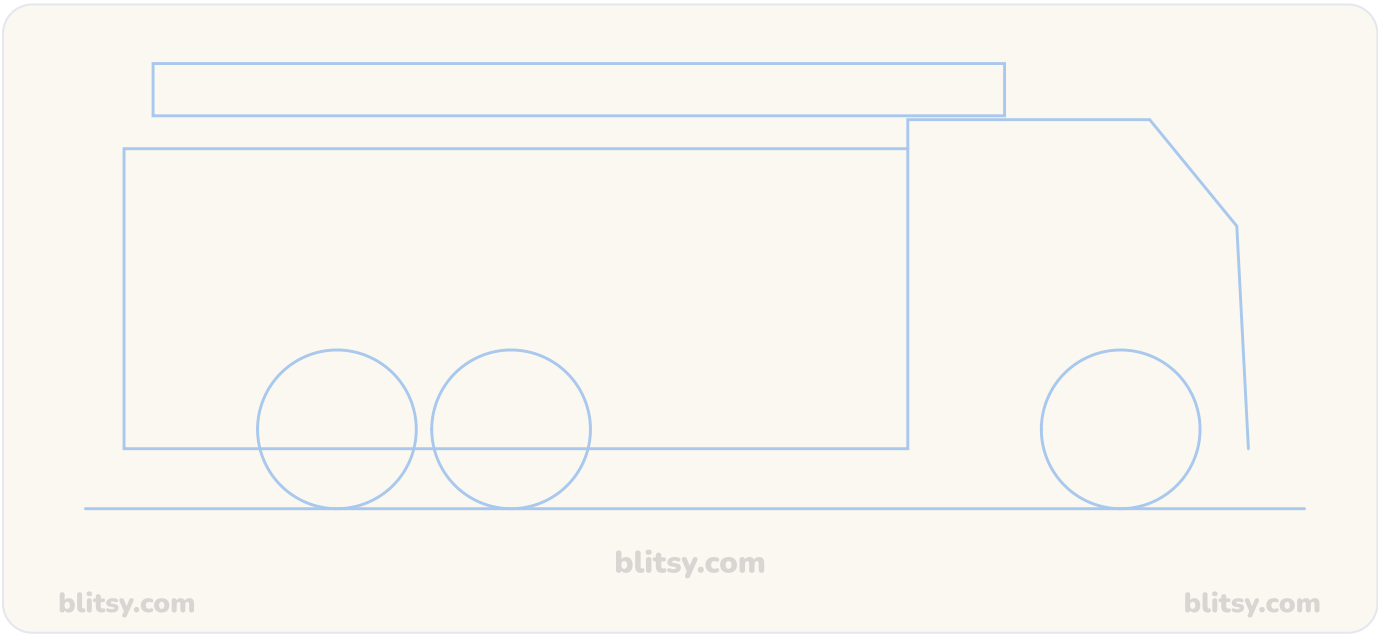
STEP 1 Draw a ground line and three wheels



Rule a long line across the lower part of your page. Stand three circles of the same size on it: two nearly touching on the left, and one alone far to the right. The pair holds up the heavy back end; the single wheel sits under the cab. I leave a gap of about three wheels before the front one, because a fire engine is long.

💡 **Tip:** Trace a bottle cap or a coin so all three wheels match.

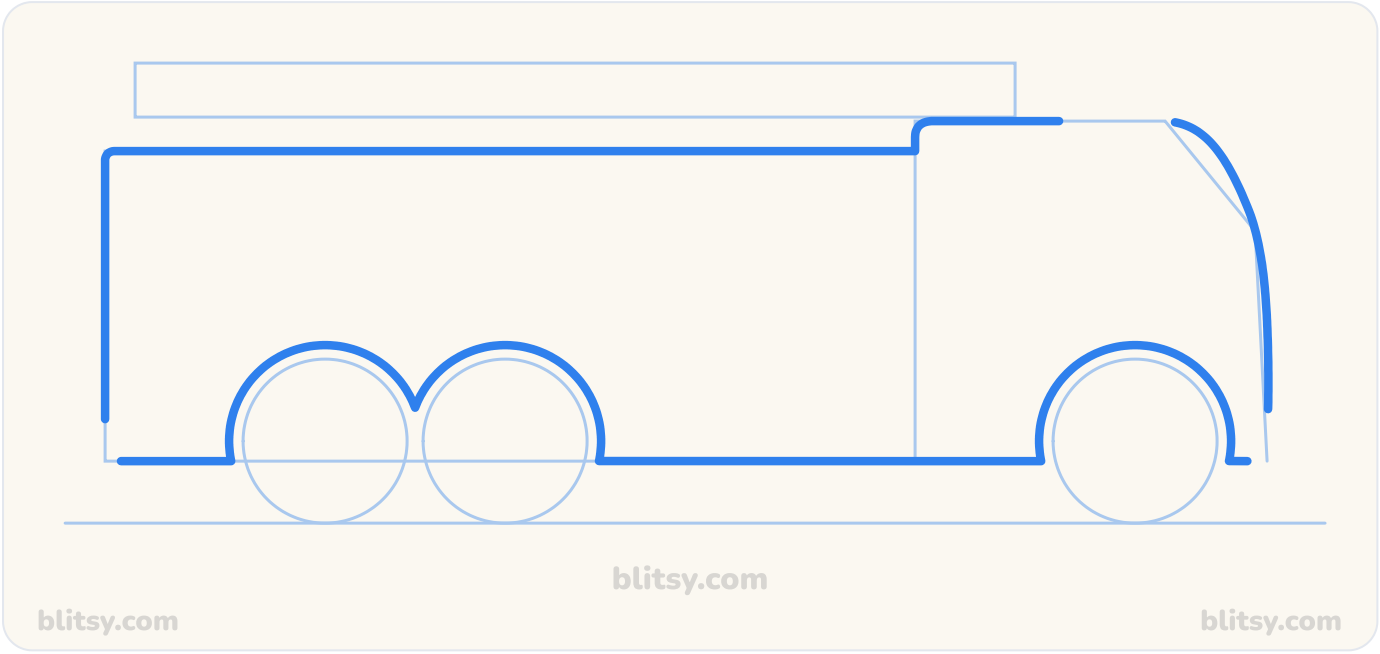
STEP 2 Sketch boxes for the body, the cab and the ladder



Draw a long rectangle that covers most of the page width, with its bottom edge running through the middle of the back wheels. On the right, add the cab: a taller box with a sloped corner at the front where the windshield goes. Above the long box, sketch a thin flat rectangle for the ladder. Keep all three very light, since they will disappear soon.

💡 **Tip:** Make the cab roof a little higher than the body, so the two parts read as separate.

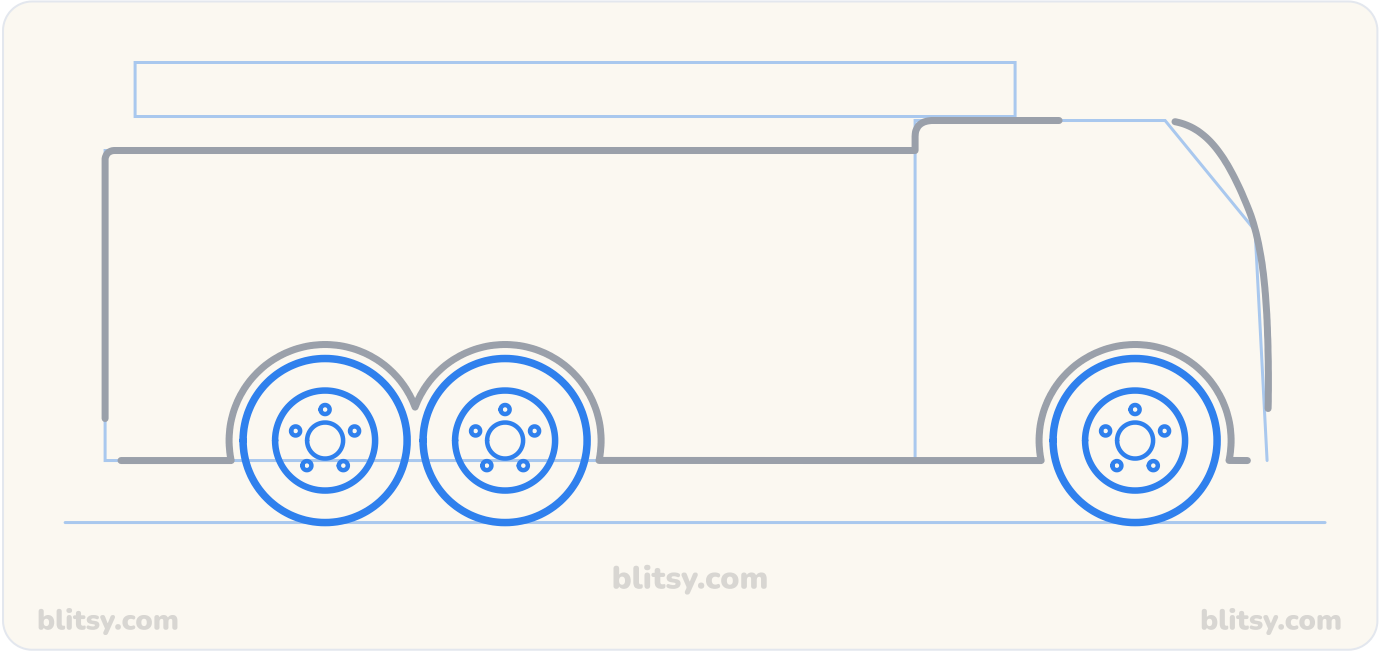
STEP 3 Trace the outline of the fire truck



Now go over the boxes with a darker line. Round the corners slightly, curve the windshield into a smooth bend, and lift the lower edge into an arch over each wheel. Over the back pair the arches join, like a wide letter M. Leave a little space between every arch and its circle; that gap makes the wheel look tucked inside.

💡 **Tip:** Leave small breaks where the bumpers and the light bar will cover the outline.

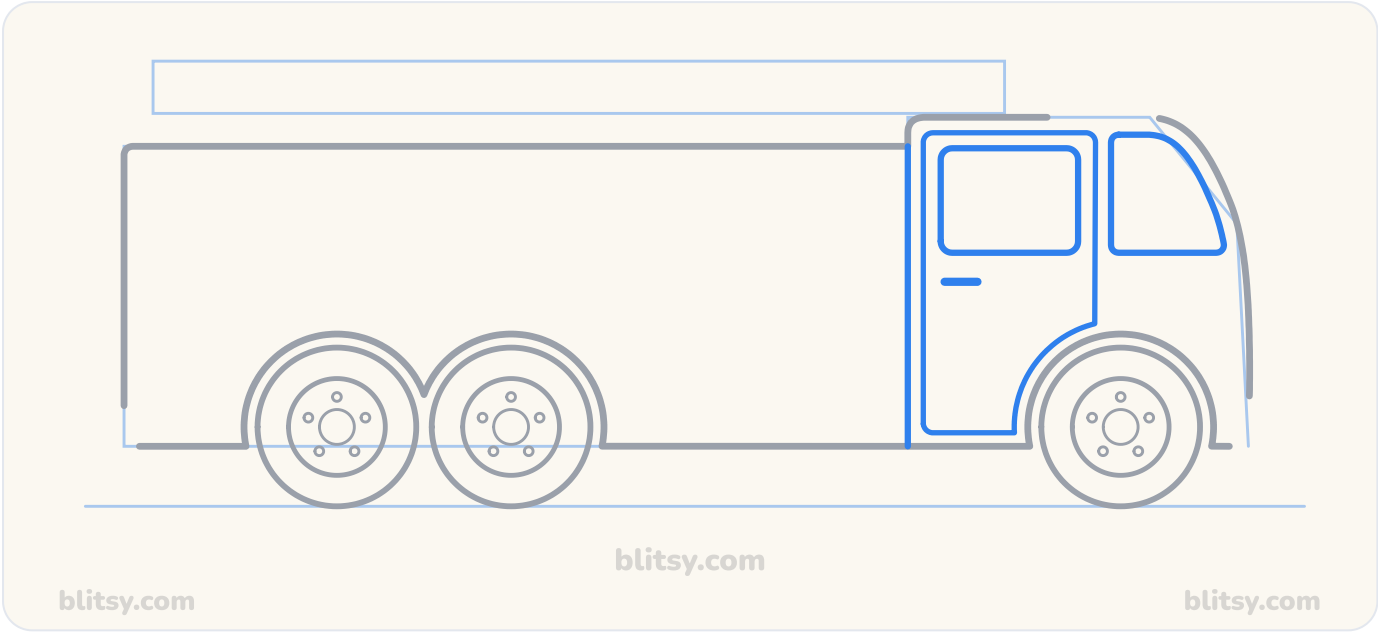
STEP 4 Turn the circles into tires with rims



Inside every wheel, draw a smaller circle a bit more than half as wide for the rim. Put a tiny circle in the very middle for the hub, then add five small dots around it for the bolts. Big rubber tires with small rims make the engine look strong and heavy.

💡 **Tip:** Place the bolts like the points of a star so they stay evenly spaced.

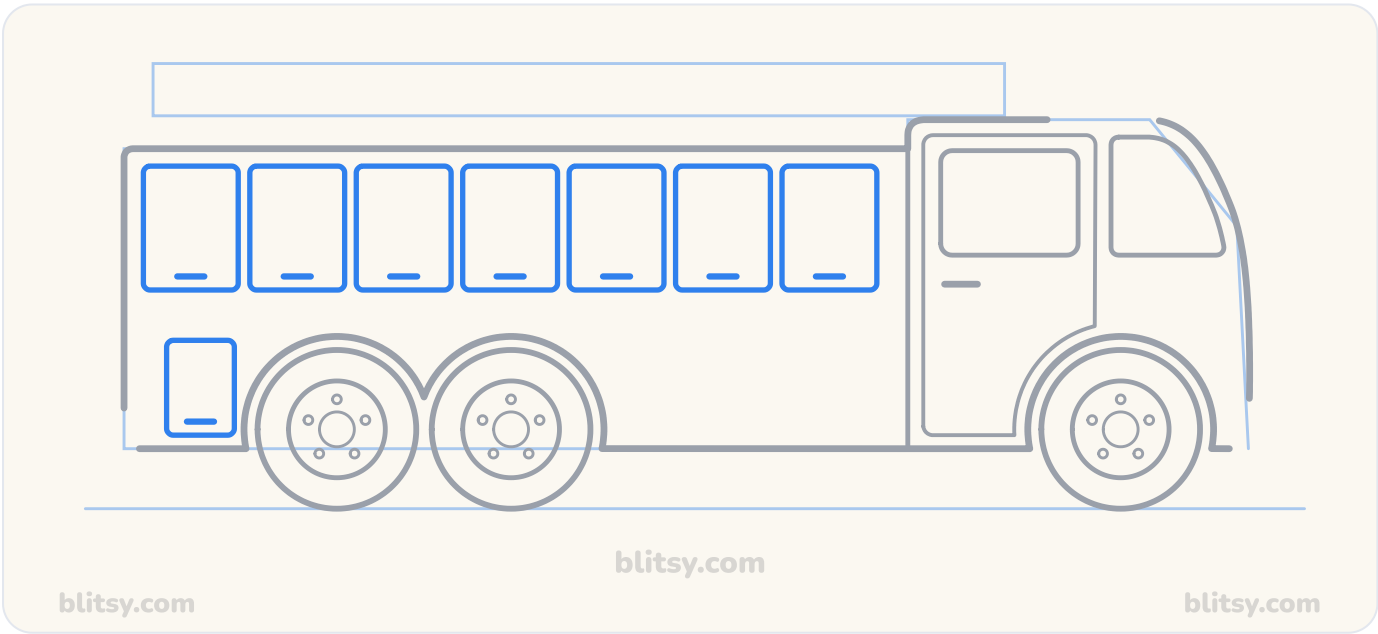
STEP 5 Add the cab door and the windows



Draw a straight line down where the cab meets the body. Inside the cab, outline a tall door whose lower front corner curves around the wheel arch. Near the top of the door, add a big rounded window. In front of it, draw a second window that follows the slope of the windshield. Finish with a short thick handle under the big window.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the tops of both windows level with each other.

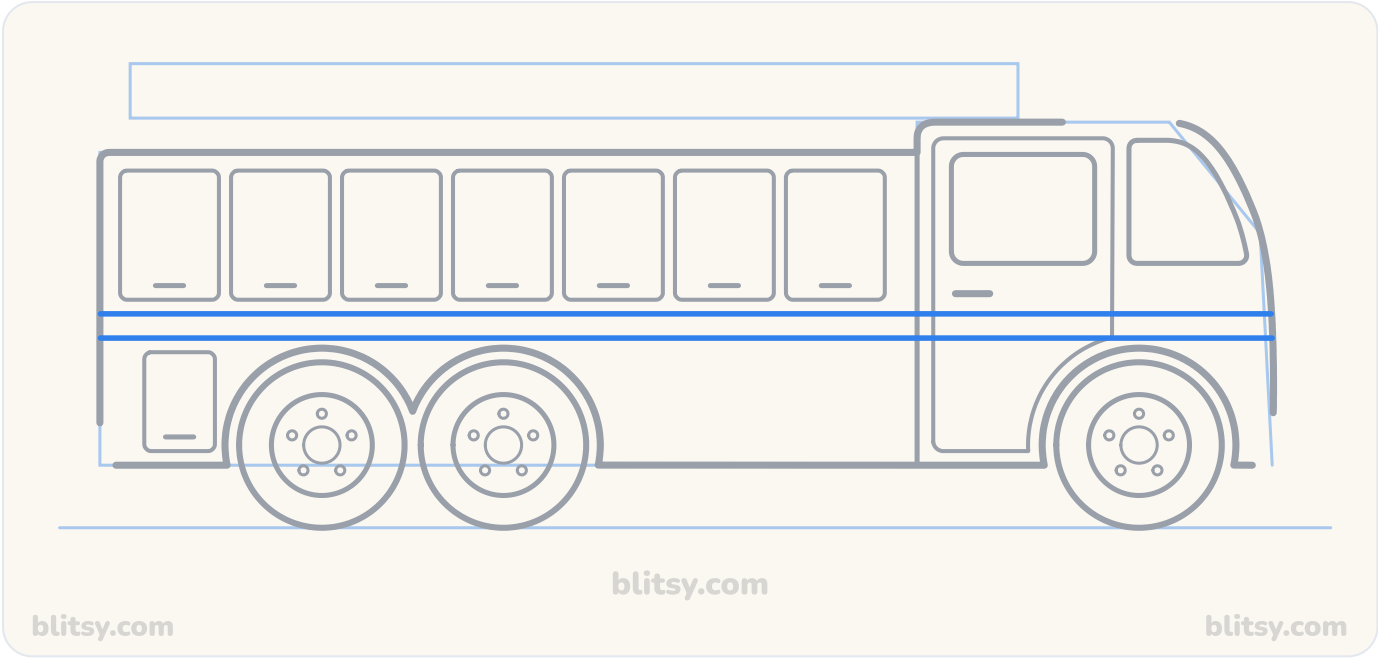
STEP 6 Draw the compartment doors on the body



Firefighters store their tools behind these doors, so a real engine has lots of them. Draw a row of seven tall rounded rectangles across the upper part of the body, with a thin gap between each. Add one smaller door low down behind the back wheels. A short line near the bottom of every door makes the handle.

💡 **Tip:** Mark the middle door first, then fit three on each side of it.

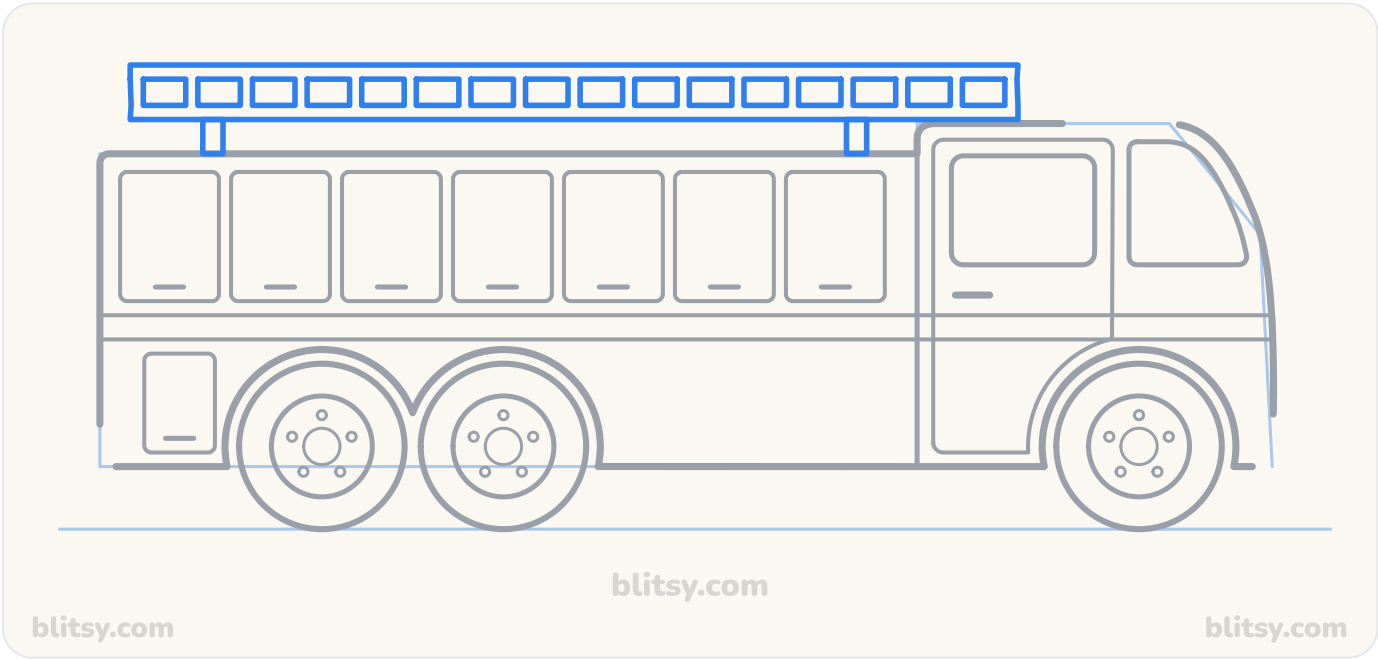
STEP 7 Run a stripe along the side



Just under the row of doors, draw two straight lines that run the full length of the truck, from the back end to the nose. This band becomes the white stripe. I always use a ruler here. A wavy stripe stands out more than almost any other wobble in the picture.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the stripe above the wheel arches so it never gets cut off.

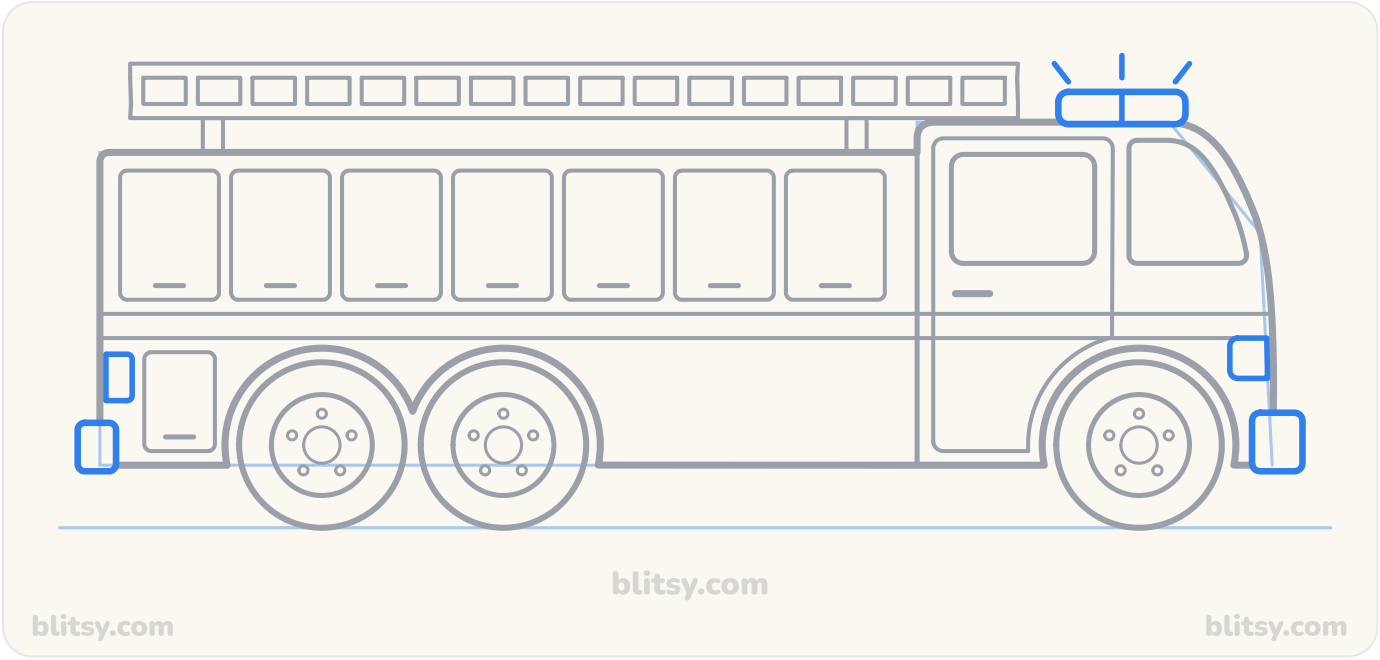
STEP 8 Lay the ladder on the roof



Inside the thin box on top, draw two long rails, one at the top and one at the bottom. Join them with short upright rungs spaced evenly from end to end, like a train track standing on its side. Under the ladder, add two small posts so it rests on the roof instead of floating in the air.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the two end rungs first, then one in the middle, and fill the spaces between them.

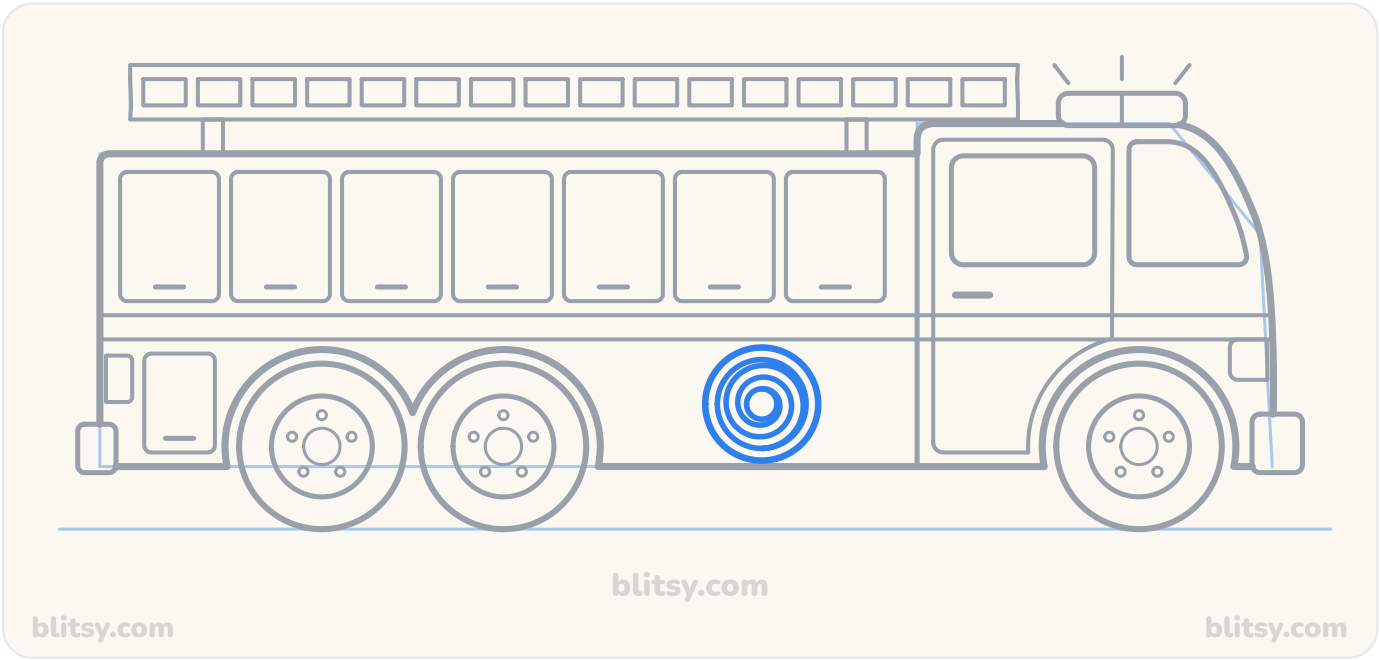
STEP 9 Add the light bar, the lights and the bumpers



On the front of the cab roof, draw a rounded light bar with a line through its middle. Three short dashes above it show the lights flashing. Put a small square headlight low on the nose and a narrow tail light at the back, then add a chunky bumper at each end.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the flash dashes leaning outward, like rays from the sun.

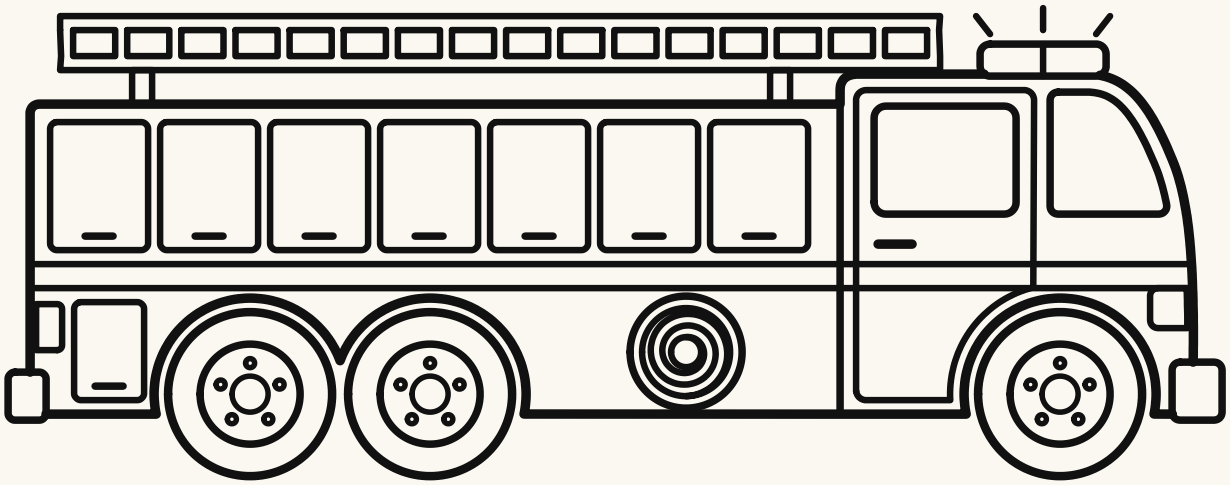
STEP 10 Draw the rolled hose reel



In the open space between the back wheels and the cab, draw a circle for the reel. Inside it, add a slightly smaller circle, then spiral a line inward toward the center, as if the hose were wound up tight. Add a tiny hub in the middle. Younger kids can draw three rings instead.

💡 **Tip:** Turn your paper slowly as you draw the spiral instead of twisting your wrist.

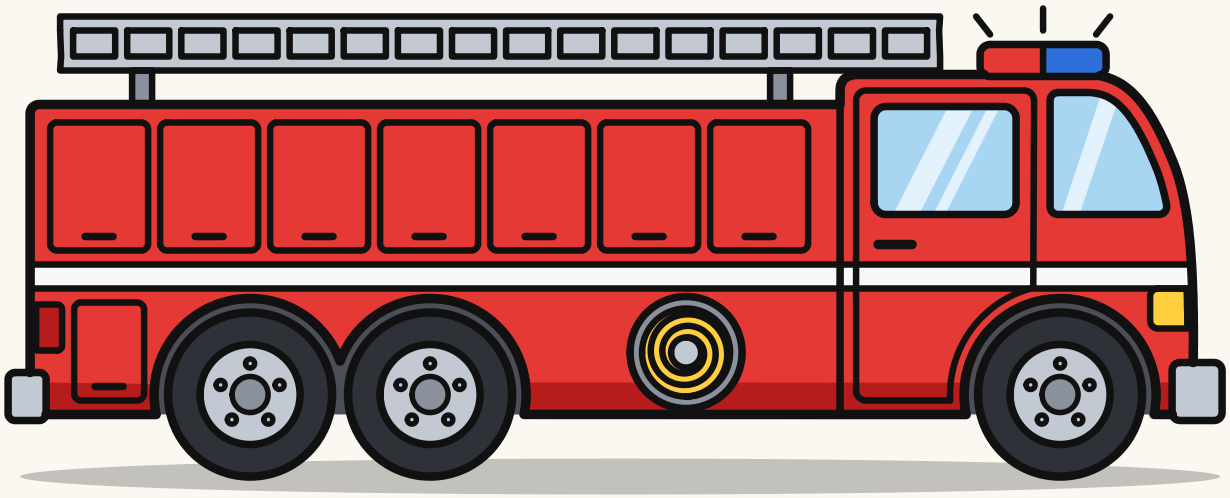
STEP 11 Ink the lines and erase the guides



Trace every line you want to keep with your black marker. I start with the long outline and save the small bolts and the spiral for the end. Give the ink a minute to dry, then erase the ground line, the boxes and the original wheel circles.

💡 **Tip:** Use the ruler with the marker too, but lift it straight up so the ink doesn't smear.

STEP 12 Color the fire truck



Fill the body and cab with bright red, and press harder along the bottom edge for a darker shadow. Leave the stripe white. Color the windows light blue, the hose and headlight yellow, and the ladder, bumpers and rims light gray. The back half of the light bar is red and the front half blue. Tires go black last.

💡 **Tip:** Leave a thin white streak on each window so the glass looks shiny.