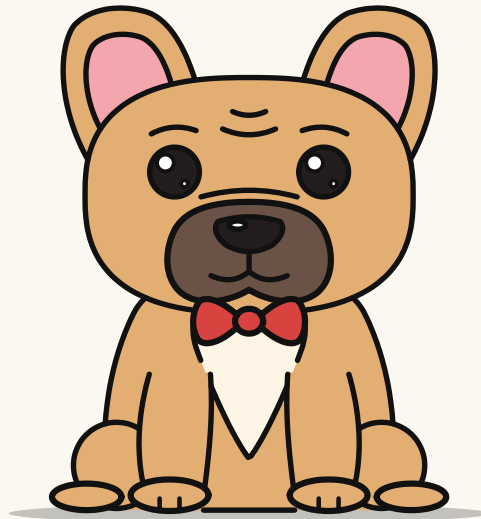


How to Draw a French Bulldog

11 easy steps for beginners



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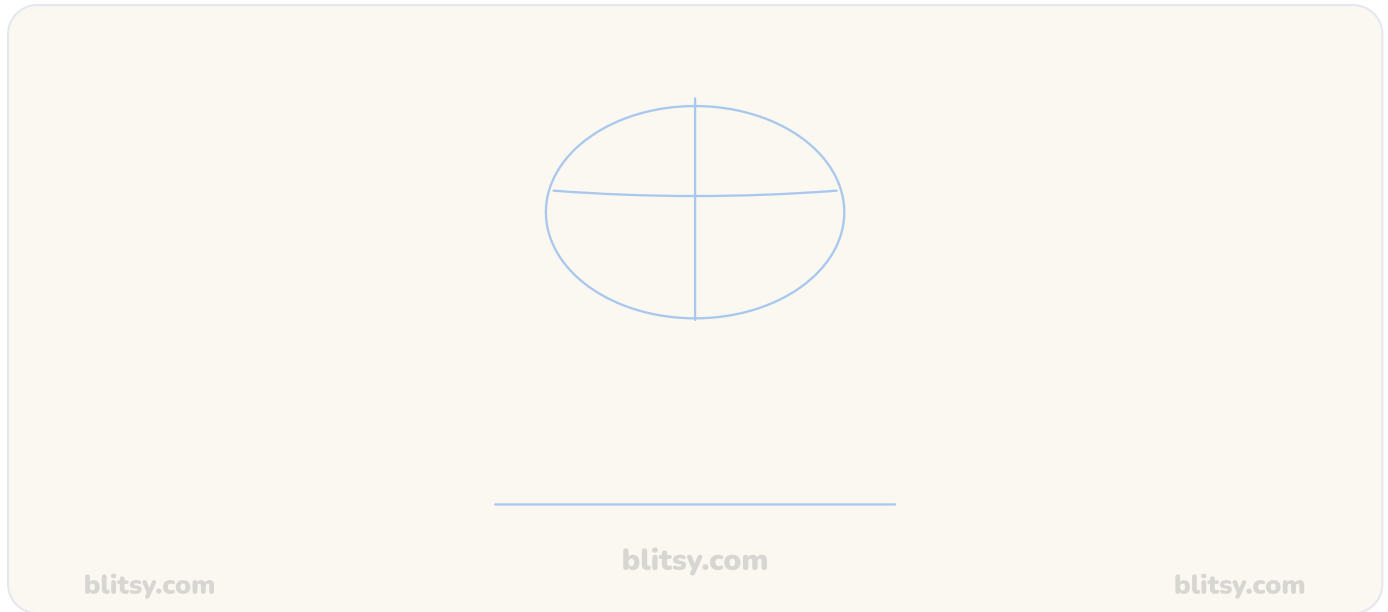
What you'll need

- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black marker or fineliner
- Colored pencils or crayons
- Plain paper

How to use this guide

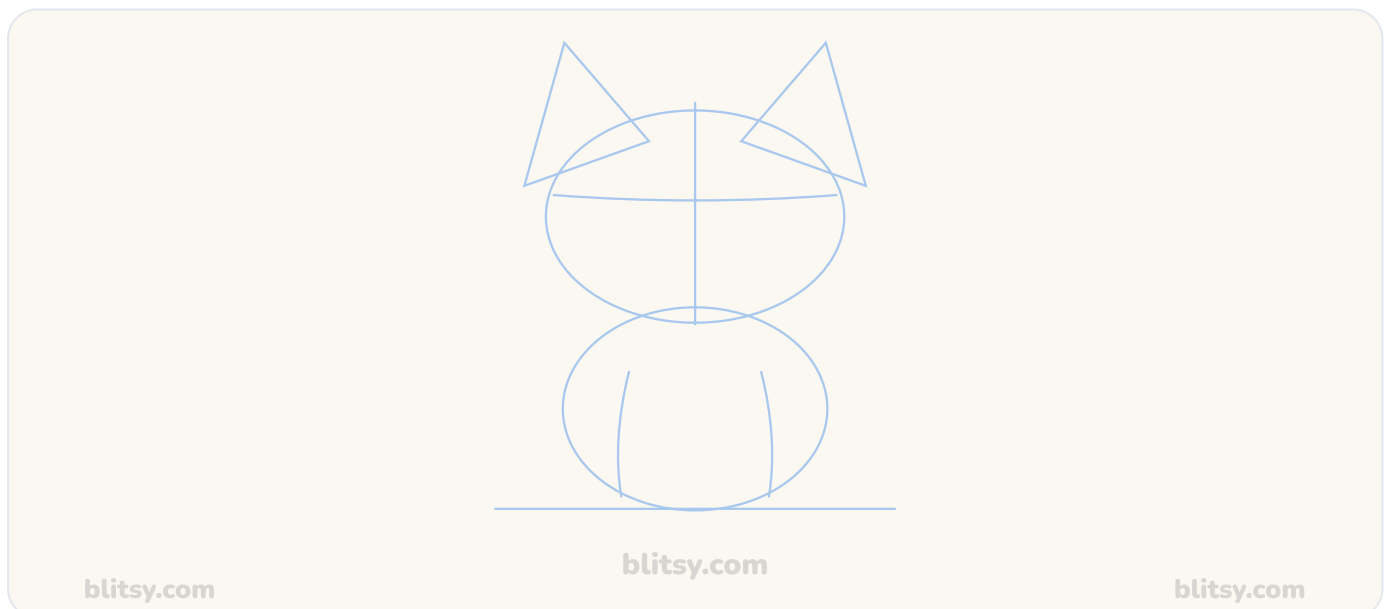
New lines for each step are shown in **blue**; lines you already drew are gray. Draw lightly first, then ink and erase near the end.

[Read the full tutorial online →](#)

STEP 1 Sketch a wide head oval and a ground line

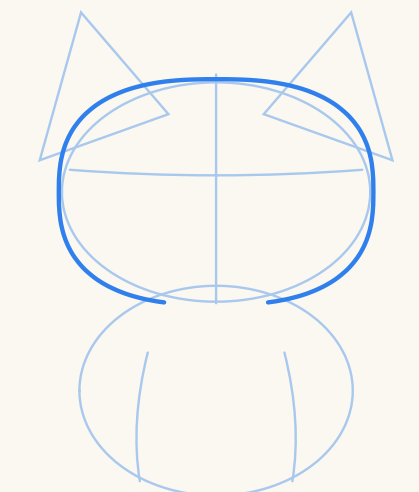
Start low on the page with a straight ground line. Then go up near the top and draw an oval that's clearly wider than it is tall, because a French bulldog's head is broad and flat on top. Split it with a vertical line through the middle and a gentle curve across, a little above halfway. That curve is where the eyes will sit.

 **Tip:** Leave a thumb's width of empty paper above the oval. The ears need that room later.

STEP 2 Add guides for the ears, body and legs

On each top corner of the head, draw a tall triangle leaning slightly outward. Below the head, add a round body oval that sits on the ground line and tucks up under the chin. Two curved lines inside the body mark where the front legs will go. Frenchies stand with their front legs wide apart, and that stance is part of the look.

 **Tip:** Let the ear triangles reach as high as the head is tall from the cross line up. Bigger is safer than smaller.

STEP 3 Outline a square-shaped head

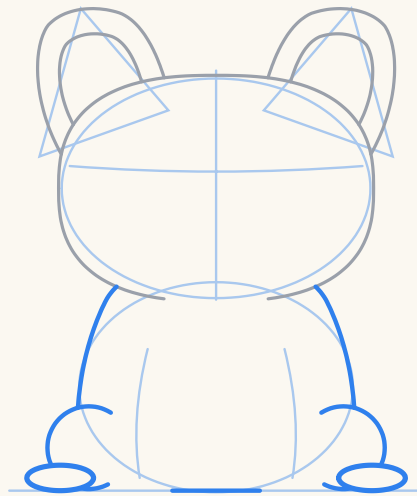
Now trace over the head oval, but push the corners out so it turns into a rounded square. The top stays fairly flat and the cheeks bulge out to the sides. I leave a small gap at the bottom middle, where the bow tie will cover the chin anyway. This boxy shape is what separates a bulldog from a puppy or a teddy bear.

 **Tip:** Think of a pillow seen from the front: flat top, puffy sides, soft corners.

STEP 4 Draw the big upright bat ears

Using the triangles as a rough guide, draw each ear as a tall shape with a wide, rounded top instead of a sharp point. The inner edge starts on top of the head and the outer edge flares out past the cheek. Stop the ear lines where they meet the head. Inside each ear, draw a smaller copy of the same shape for the pink lining.

 **Tip:** Round the ear tips generously. Pointed tips turn the dog into a fox or a cat in one stroke.

STEP 5 Shape the stocky chest and hips

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From under each cheek, draw a line that swings out and down to the ground. Keep it chunky, since this breed is built like a little barrel. At the bottom on both sides, add a round hip and a flat oval back foot that pokes out sideways. The body line stops wherever a hip sits in front of it.

Tip: If the chest looks slim, push both side lines out a bit further. Frenchies are wide all the way down.

STEP 6 Add short, bowed front legs

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Follow the leg guides with two short columns, each with a slight outward bend on its outer side. That small bow gives the legs their sturdy bulldog feel. End each leg in a chunky oval paw resting on the ground, and split the paw with two tiny toe lines. Leave the tops of the legs open so they blend into the chest.

Tip: Keep the legs short. A Frenchie with long legs starts to look like a boxer.

STEP 7 Draw the flat muzzle and big nose

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Here's the face that makes the breed. Draw a wide, short muzzle low in the head, almost touching the bottom, with two round jowl bumps at the bottom like a soft letter W. Near its top, add a big rounded nose and a small shine mark inside it. A short line down from the nose splits into a wide smile.

 **Tip:** Keep the muzzle flat and wide. If it starts poking downward like a snout, shorten it.

STEP 8 Add round eyes and forehead wrinkles

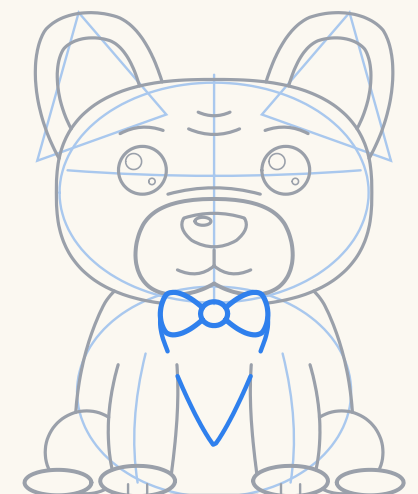
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Place two round eyes on the cross line, far apart, close to the sides of the head. Wide-set eyes are a real Frenchie trait and they make the face sweeter. Add a large shine and a tiny dot in each eye, short curved brows above them, two little wrinkles on the forehead and one curved fold right above the muzzle.

 **Tip:** Draw the wrinkles as short, soft curves. Long ones make the dog look old and worried.

STEP 9 Draw the white chest blaze and a bow tie

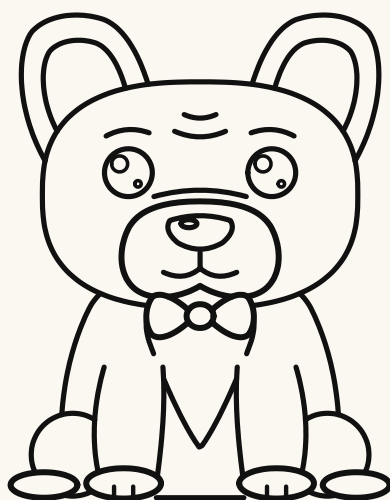
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Under the chin, draw a bow tie: two rounded wings with a small circle knot in the middle. From under the bow tie, draw a long V shape down the chest, between the legs. That's the white blaze many fawn Frenchies have. I like how a bow tie suits the breed's serious little face.

 **Tip:** Make both bow tie wings the same size by drawing the knot first and measuring out from it.

STEP 10 Ink the lines and erase the guides

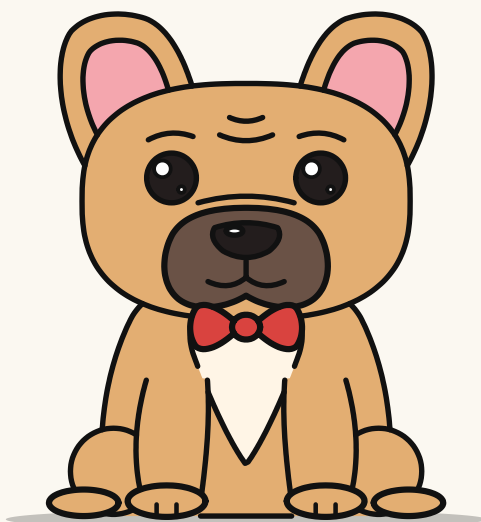
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Go over every final line with a black marker, slowly. I start at the ears and work down, so my hand never rests on wet ink. Skip the triangles, the ovals and the cross lines. Once the ink has dried for a minute, erase all the pencil underneath and you'll have a clean outline.

 **Tip:** Turn the paper as you ink the round ear tops. Your hand curves more easily in one direction than the other.

STEP 11 Color your French bulldog

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Light brown covers almost the whole dog, from the ear tips to the paws. The muzzle gets dark brown, which is the classic black mask on a fawn Frenchie, softened a little so the nose still shows. Use pink inside the ears, cream or white on the chest blaze and red for the bow tie. Eyes and nose are black, with the shine marks left white.

 **Tip:** Color the big light brown areas with gentle side strokes first, then the small dark parts on top.