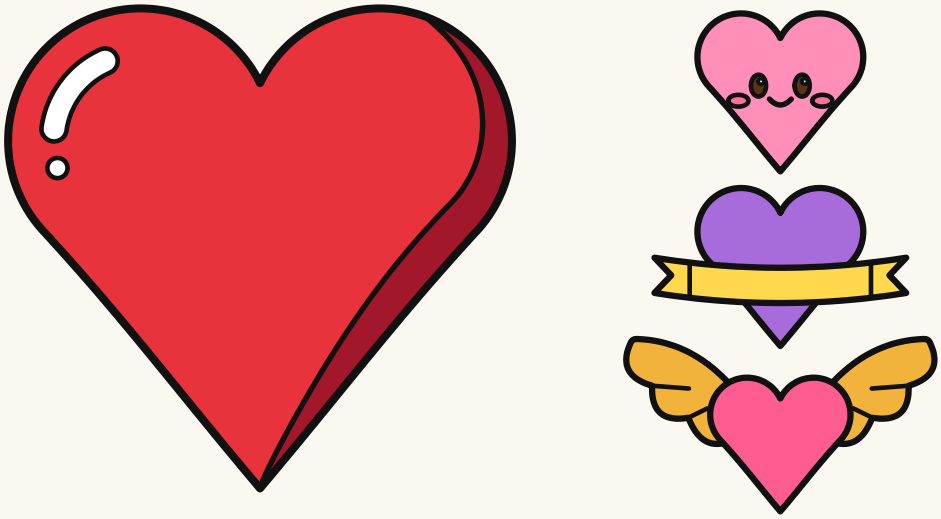
How to Draw a Heart

10 easy steps for beginners



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What you'll need

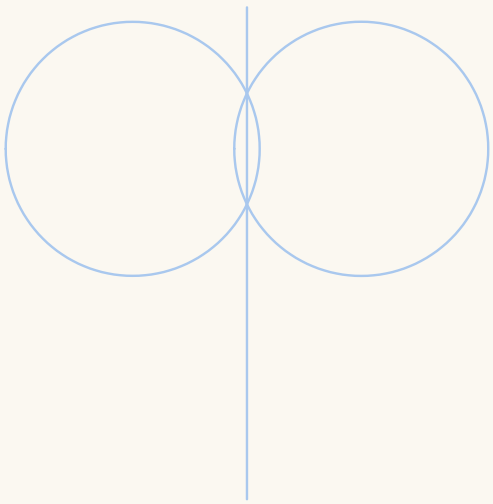
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A ruler
- Two matching coins or caps
- A black marker
- Colored pencils or crayons

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 →

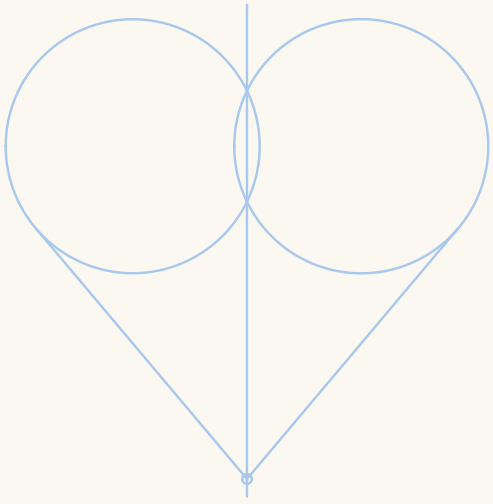
STEP 1 Draw a center line and two circles



Draw a light vertical line a little left of the middle of your page; it is the fold line of your heart. Near the top of it, draw two circles of the same size, one on each side, overlapping a tiny bit across the line. I like tracing two matching coins here, because two equal circles are the whole secret of an even heart.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the circles at the same height; a ruler laid across their middles shows it at once.

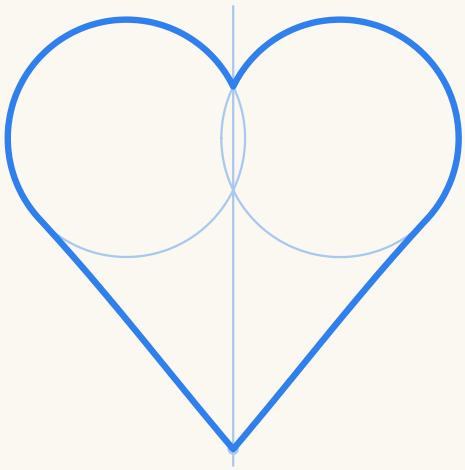
STEP 2 Add a V down to the point



Mark a dot on the center line a little less than one circle's width below the bottom of the circles. From that dot, draw a straight line up to the outer edge of each circle so it just touches it. You now have something like an ice cream cone holding two scoops. I measure that drop with the ruler rather than guessing it.

💡 **Tip:** A lower dot makes a tall, slim heart; a higher one makes a short, chubby heart.

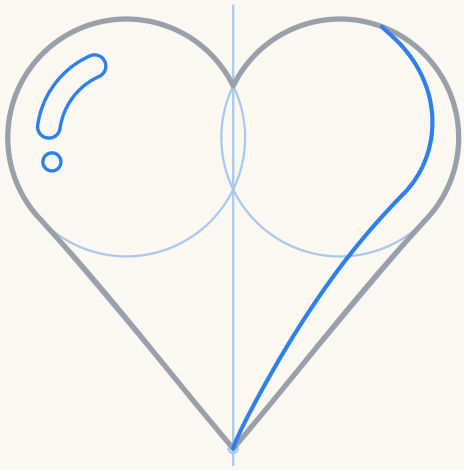
STEP 3 Trace the heart outline



Now press a bit harder. Start at the dip where the circles cross, follow the top of the right circle around to the V, then run down the line to the point. Repeat on the left side. Skip the inner halves of the circles completely. The dip at the top and the point at the bottom should both sit exactly on the center line.

💡 **Tip:** Draw each side in the same direction, top to bottom, so both halves feel the same in your hand.

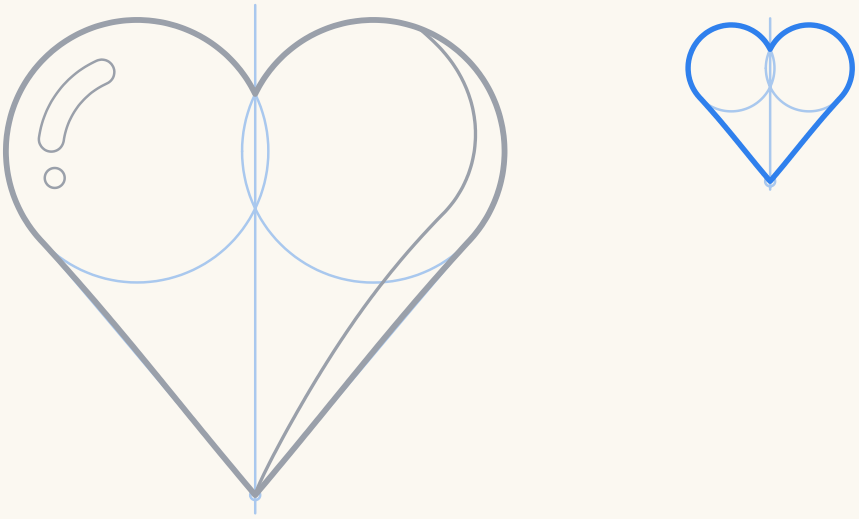
STEP 4 Mark the dark side and the shine



I find this is the step that changes everything. To make the heart look puffy, it needs a shadow side. Inside the right edge, draw a curve that starts at the top of the right bump, swings inward a finger's width at its fattest, then thins out until it meets the point. On the upper left bump, draw a small curved bean and a dot for the shine. Light and shadow on opposite sides is what makes it look round.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the shine well away from the edge so a sliver of red shows around it.

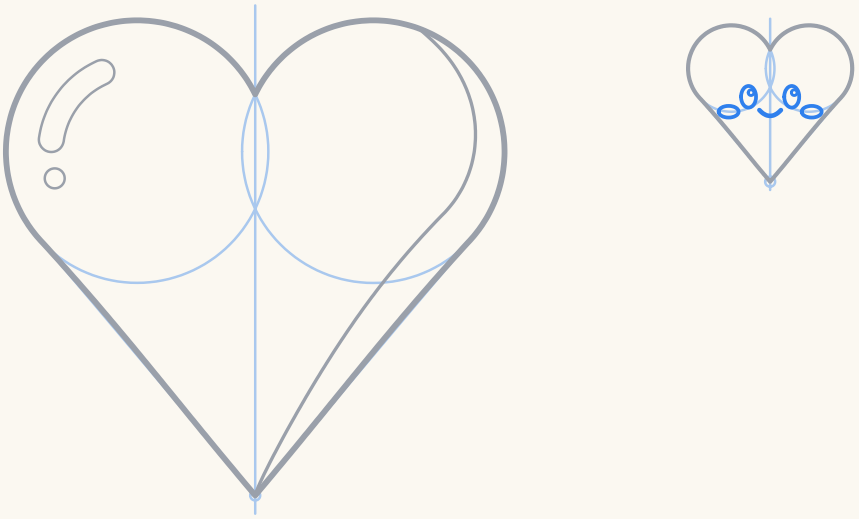
STEP 5 Draw a small pink heart



Move to the top right corner of the page. Build a smaller heart the same way: a short center line, two little circles and a V. Then trace the outline. A small one shows quickly whether the method has really stuck.

💡 **Tip:** Make it about a third as wide as the big heart so the page stays balanced.

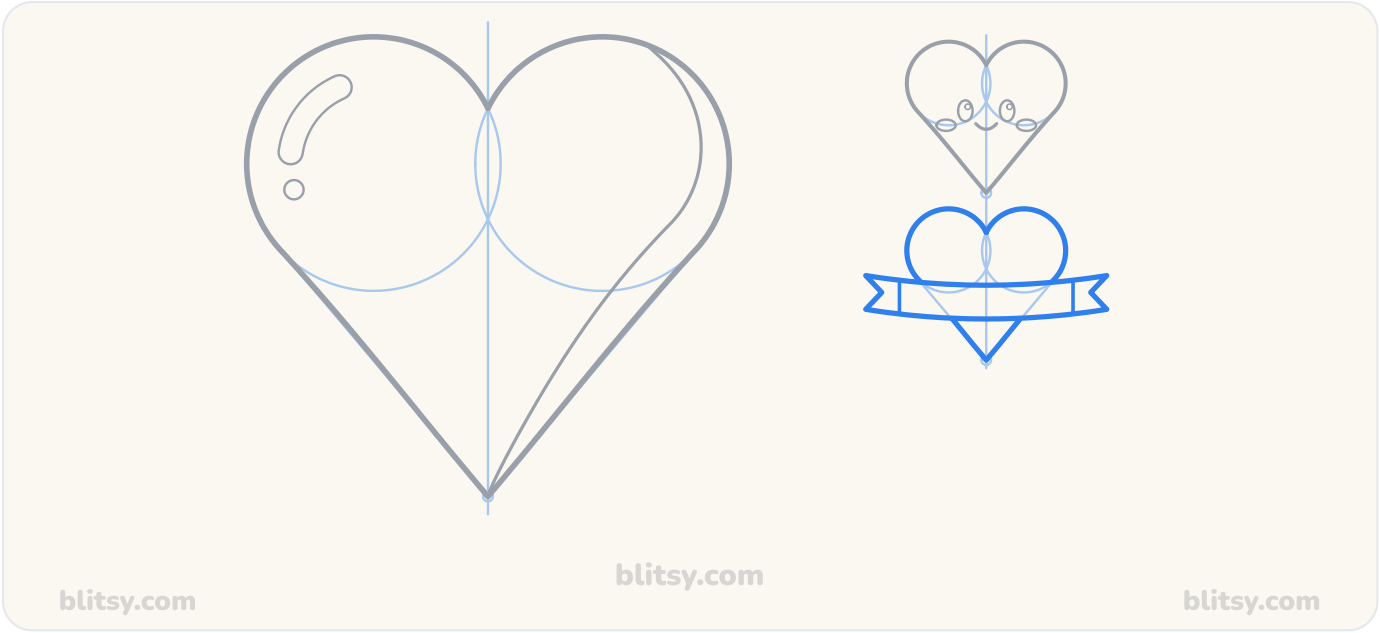
STEP 6 Give the little heart a sweet face



Put the face below the dip, in the widest part of the heart. Draw two tall oval eyes with a tiny circle of shine in each, a small U for the smile between them and two flat ovals for cheeks. In my experience, most beginners place the face too high, right where the bumps are, and then the heart looks squashed.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the eyes close together; a wide gap makes the face look sleepy.

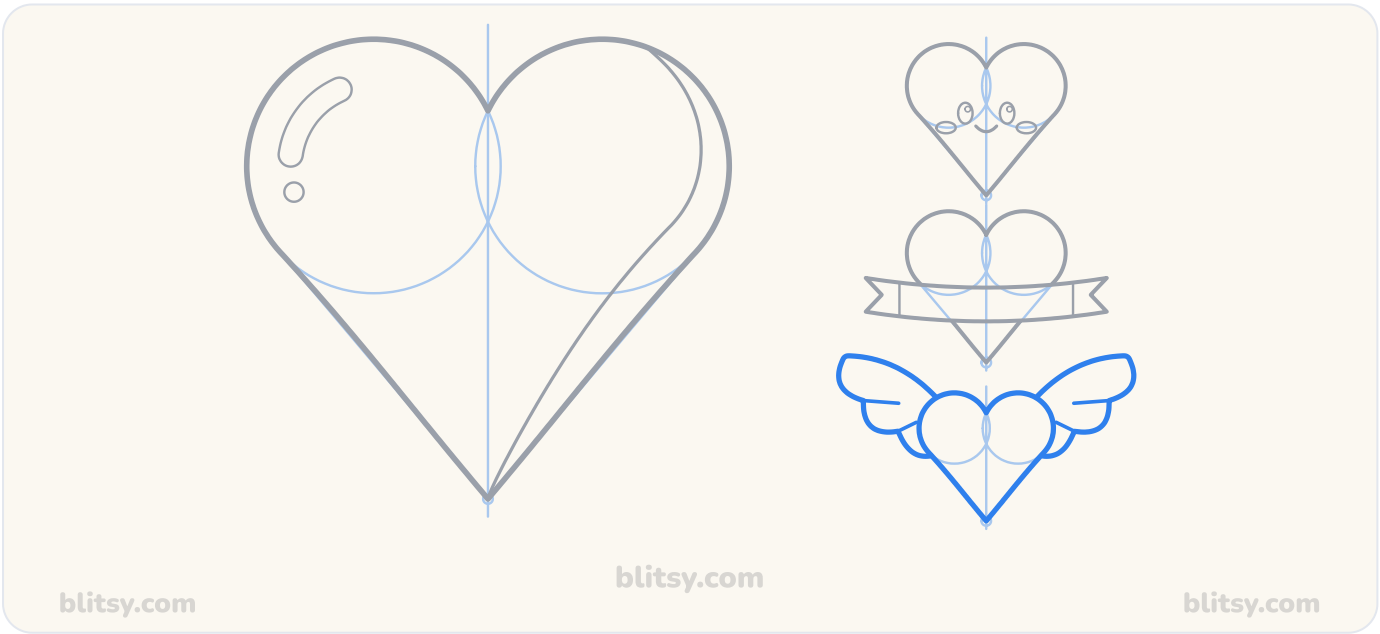
STEP 7 Wrap a banner across a second heart



Under the cute heart, build another small heart with guides. Before you outline it, draw a long ribbon straight across its lower half, a little wider than the heart on both sides, with a gentle sag in the middle. Cut a V notch into each end. Then outline the heart only where it peeks out above and below the ribbon, and add a short line near each end to show the fold.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the ribbon first, so you never have to erase heart lines that it covers.

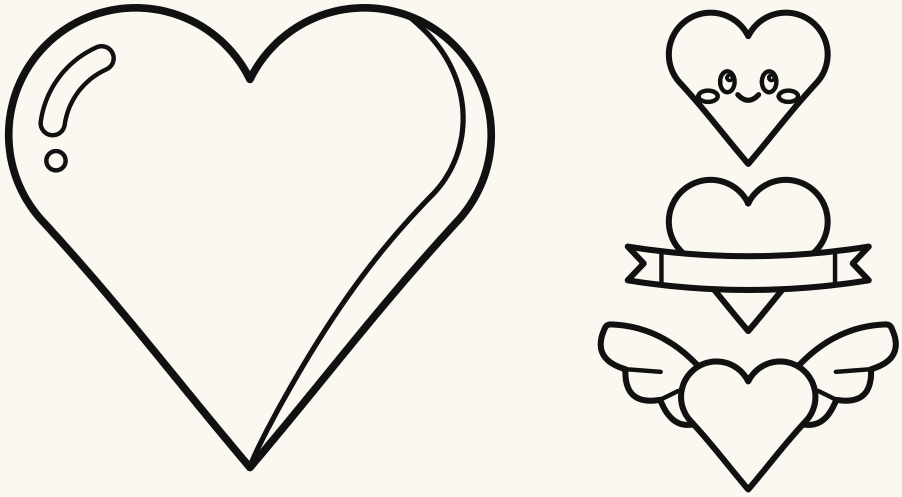
STEP 8 Give the last heart tiny wings



Build one more small heart at the bottom. From the side of each bump, sweep a curve up and out to a rounded tip, then come back toward the heart with three round bumps underneath, like the edge of a cloud. Add a short line between the bumps for feathers. The wings should tuck behind the heart, so stop their lines where they reach it.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the right wing, then copy it on the left by counting the bumps.

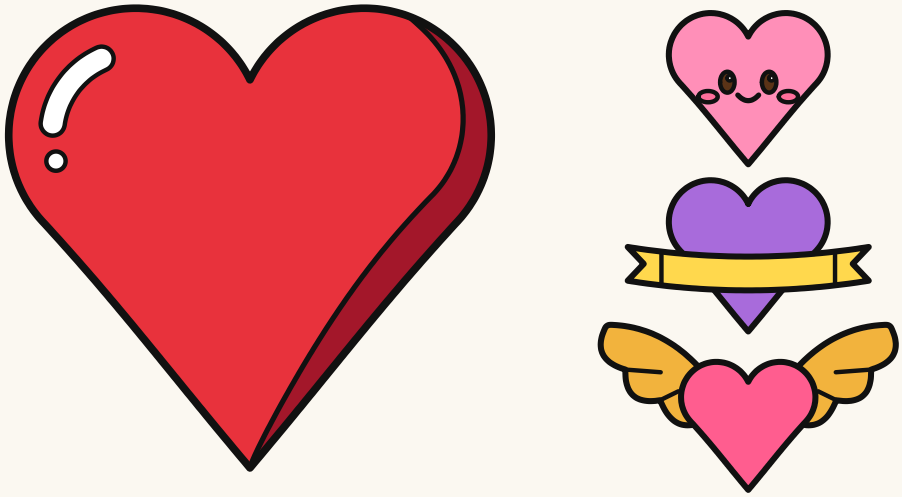
STEP 9 Ink the lines and erase the guides



Trace every keeper line with a black marker: the big outline, the shadow curve, the shine, then the three small hearts with the face, the banner and the wings. I ink the big outline a little thicker than the details, which helps it stand out. Once the ink is dry, erase all the circles, center lines and V guides.

💡 **Tip:** Erase in one direction with light strokes so the paper doesn't crease.

STEP 10 Color the hearts



Color the big heart red and the strip along its right edge dark red, and leave the shine white. Then do the little ones: the face heart pink with brown eyes and rosy cheeks, the banner heart purple with a yellow ribbon, and the winged heart hot pink with gold wings. Leave the tiny eye shines white so the eyes sparkle.

💡 **Tip:** Color the dark strip first; it's easier to keep the lighter red neatly beside it.