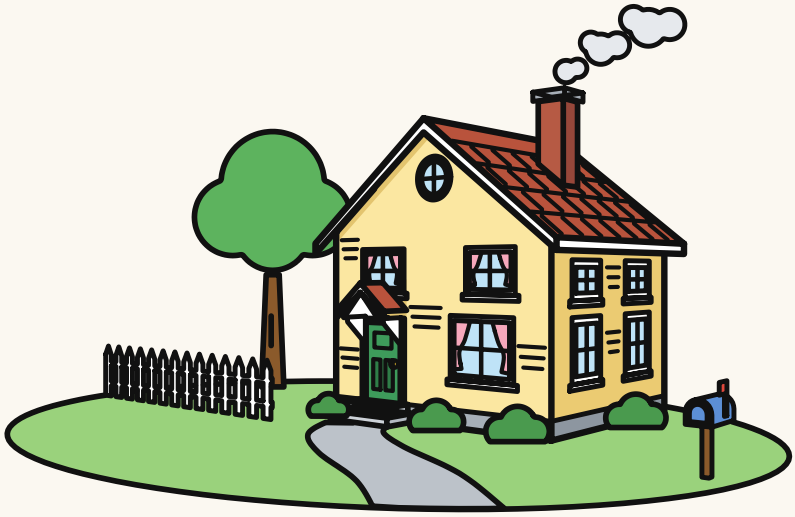
How to Draw a House

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

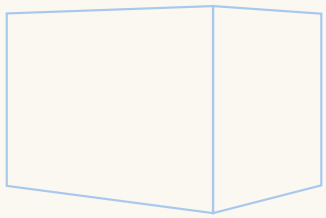
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A ruler
- A black fineliner
- Colored pencils

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 →

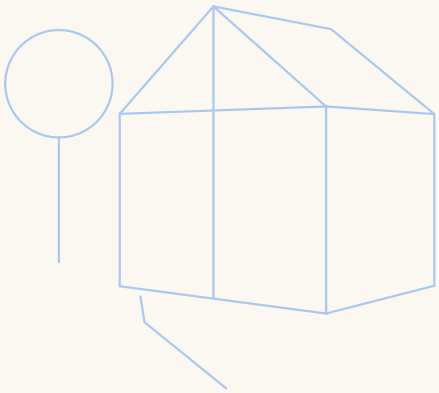
STEP 1 Sketch a box in perspective



Lightly draw a rectangle a little left of center. That's the front wall. On its right, add a narrower shape whose top and bottom edges tilt toward each other as they go away from you. I tell beginners to tilt the lower edge up and the upper edge down, just a little. That tiny slant is what makes the house look three-dimensional.

💡 **Tip:** Keep every vertical line truly vertical; only the top and bottom edges slant.

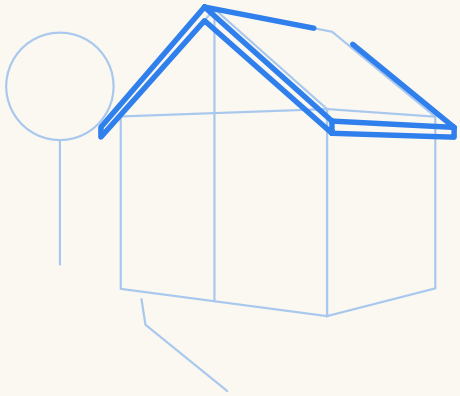
STEP 2 Add the roof triangle and slope



Draw a faint line straight up from the middle of the front wall and mark the roof peak on it, about half the wall's height above the top. Connect the peak to both top corners for the gable triangle. From the peak, draw the ridge going back, parallel to the side wall's top edge. Sketch a circle on a stick for the tree and a curvy line for the path.

💡 **Tip:** The ridge line should lean the same way as the side wall's top edge.

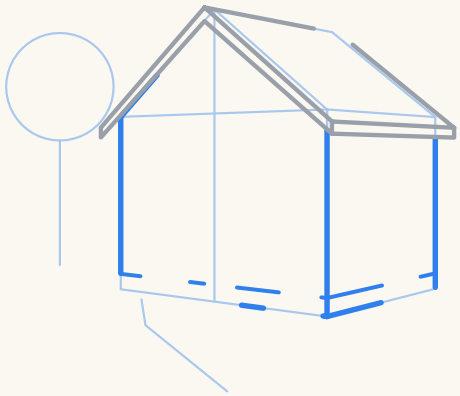
STEP 3 Draw the roof with an overhang



Press a bit harder now. Go over the two sides of the gable, letting them stick out past the walls; that overhang makes a roof look real instead of pasted on. Draw a second line inside each slope for a white trim board, then outline the long roof side with a thin board along its lower edge. Leave a small gap near the top right for the chimney.

💡 **Tip:** Draw each long roof line in one slow stroke instead of several short ones.

STEP 4 Outline the front and side walls



Trace the walls under the roof, using your guide box, and draw a second line just above the ground for a stone foundation. You can leave short gaps along the base where bushes will go. I like doing that because it saves erasing. If the side wall looks too wide, nudge its far edge closer; a narrow side wall reads as distance.

💡 **Tip:** Lift your pencil where a bush will cover the wall instead of erasing later.

STEP 5 Build the chimney and smoke



Near the top of the long roof side, draw a tall narrow box for the chimney. Its base follows the roof slope, so the left side ends higher than the right. Add a slightly wider cap on top. For the smoke, draw three bumpy puffs drifting up and to the right. Small kids love this part, and it's very forgiving.

💡 **Tip:** Make the smoke puffs grow bigger as they float away from the chimney.

STEP 6 Draw the door, porch roof and steps



On the left side of the front wall, draw a tall door with a frame around it, a small window near the top, two panels and a round knob. Above it, add a tiny copy of the main roof held up by two small brackets. Under the door, stack two flat steps, the lower one wider.

💡 **Tip:** The porch roof should be only a bit wider than the door frame.

STEP 7 Add windows and a round window



Start with the front: one big window beside the door and two smaller ones upstairs, each with a frame and a ledge. On the side wall the windows look skinnier, because that wall turns away from you, so draw them as narrow rectangles. Finish with a round window centered under the peak.

💡 **Tip:** Line up the tops of the upstairs windows with your ruler before drawing their sides.

STEP 8 Draw the crossbars and curtains



Put a plus sign in every window, splitting it into four panes. In the front windows, draw a curved curtain hanging from each top corner and tucked in at the side. The side windows are too narrow for curtains, so they only get crossbars. This is the step that makes the house feel lived in.

💡 **Tip:** Curve the inner curtain edge like a backward C to make the fabric look soft.

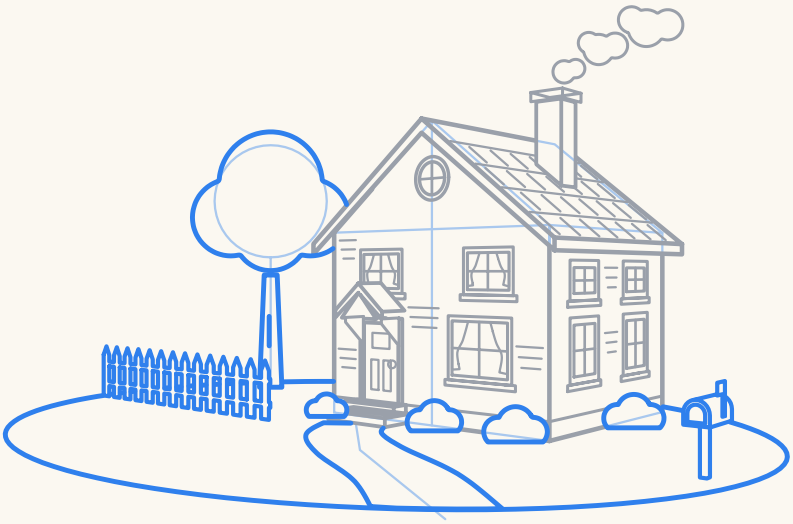
STEP 9 Add shingles and siding



On the long roof side, draw four lines running the same way as the ridge. Between each pair, add short strokes, shifting them over on every row so they look like overlapping shingles. On the walls, add a few small groups of three lines to suggest wooden siding. A few hints are enough.

💡 **Tip:** Stagger the shingle strokes like bricks so no two rows line up.

STEP 10 Grow the yard around the house



Over the tree guide, draw a bumpy crown and a trunk that widens at its base. Add the curving path from the steps toward you, wider at the front, then a big oval lawn, a few round bushes along the walls and a mailbox on a post at the right. On the left, draw a picket fence with two rails.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the path wider near the bottom of the page, since that part is closer to you.

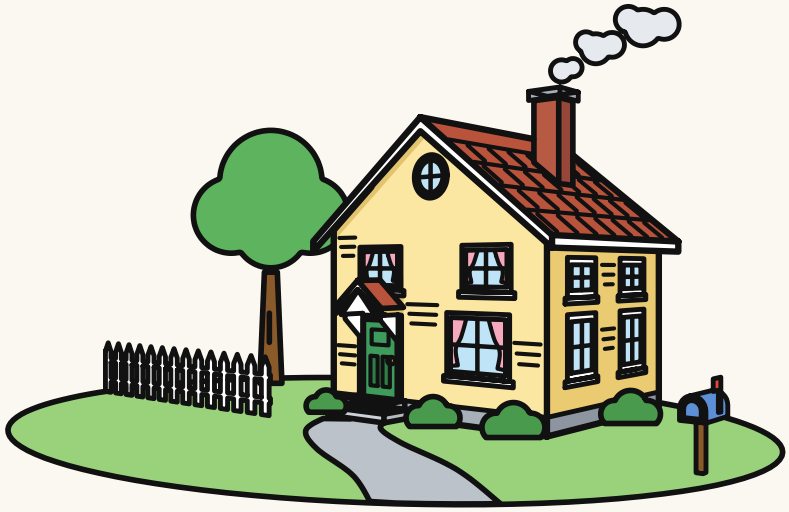
STEP 11 Ink the lines and erase the guides



Trace every line you want to keep with your black pen, working from top to bottom so your hand never drags through wet ink. Give it a minute to dry, then erase the guide box, the roof triangle and the tree circle. If a guide is hard to see, you pressed lightly enough.

💡 **Tip:** Test your pen on scrap paper first to check it doesn't smear.

STEP 12 Color your cozy house



Color the front wall pale yellow and the side wall a slightly deeper yellow; that one change makes the house look solid. Make the roof and chimney red, the door and bushes green, the glass light blue and the curtains pink. Leave the trim and fence white, then add gray for the path and smoke, brown for the trunk and a green lawn.

💡 **Tip:** Shade the side wall slightly darker than the front to make it look turned away.