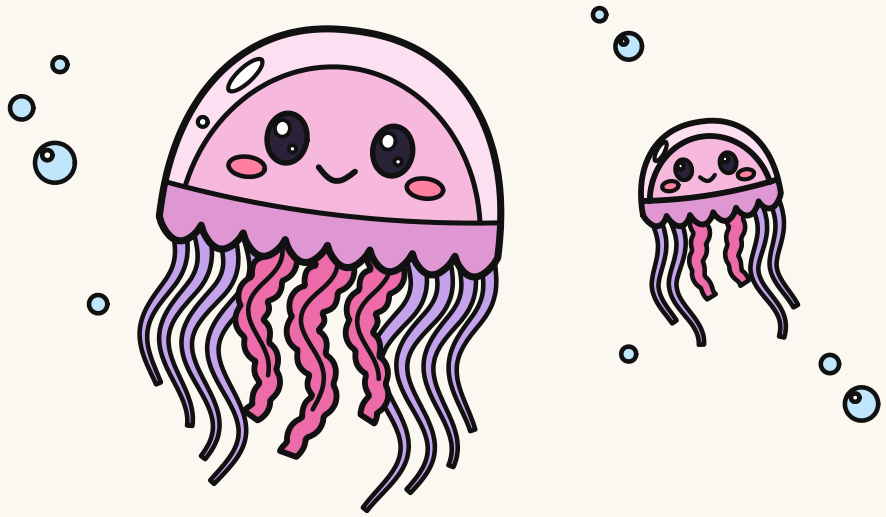
# How to Draw a Jellyfish

12 easy steps for beginners




## What you'll need

- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black fineliner
- Pink and purple colored pencils
- Paper turned sideways

## 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 →**

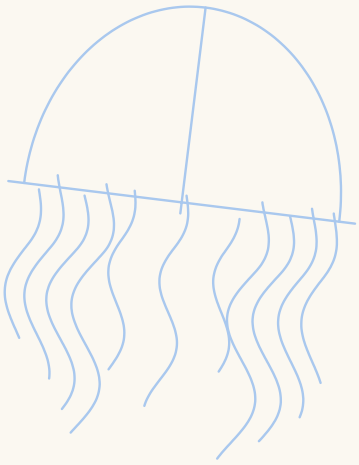
## STEP 1 Sketch the dome and rim guides



Draw a tall rounded arch on the left half of your page, like the top of an umbrella. Close it with a straight line underneath that pokes out a little on both sides. I tilt the whole thing slightly, top leaning right, because a leaning jellyfish looks like it's swimming upward. Add a light center line through the dome.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the arch about as tall as it is wide for a chubby, cute bell.

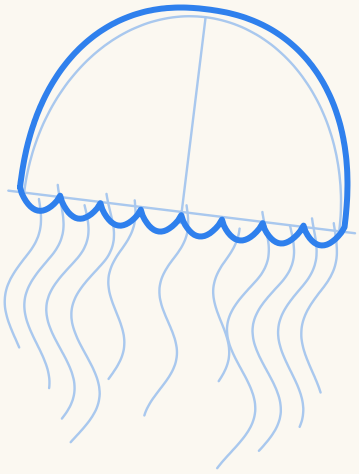
## STEP 2 Plan the S-curve guide lines



Here's the secret step. Hanging from the rim, draw eleven light wavy lines: three short ones in the middle for the frilly arms and four on each side for the tentacles. Make every line swing left, then right, then left again, all at the same moment. When the waves line up, the lines stay parallel and never cross. Let the outer ones be shorter than the inner ones.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the first wave, then copy its rhythm for every line after it.

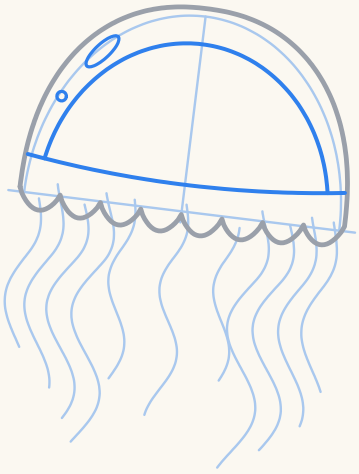
## STEP 3 Draw the bell with a wavy rim



Trace over the dome guide with a darker line, staying just outside it. At the bottom, swap the straight guide for a row of small bumps that bulge downward, like the edge of a cupcake wrapper. I fit eight bumps across. Fewer, bigger bumps look cartoony; many tiny ones get fussy and are harder to color.

💡 **Tip:** Sketch light dots where each bump meets the next, then join them.

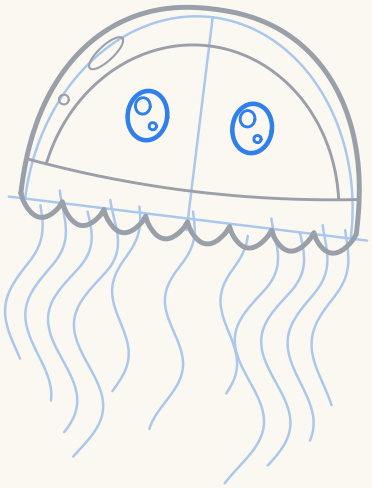
## STEP 4 Add the inner dome and lower band



Inside the bell, draw a second, smaller arch that follows the outer one, leaving a gap that's wider at the top than at the sides. That gap is what makes the jelly look see-through. Next, draw a gently curved line across the bell just above the bumps to make a band. In the top gap, put a thin oval shine and a tiny dot.

💡 **Tip:** Leave the shine shapes empty now; they stay white when you color.

## STEP 5 Give it big shiny eyes



Place two tall ovals in the middle of the inner dome, one on each side of the center line, with about two eye widths between them. Low eyes look younger and sweeter, so keep them below the halfway mark. Inside each oval, draw a medium circle near the top and a small one lower down. Those become the sparkles.

💡 **Tip:** Put both sparkles on the same side in each eye so the gaze matches.

## STEP 6 Draw a smile and rosy blush



A tiny U-shaped smile goes between the eyes and slightly lower. I keep it no wider than one eye; a big grin takes over the face. Then add a flat oval under each eye, toward the outside of the face. Check that the cheeks stay above the band line, or the face looks squashed.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the smile in one quick flick so it stays smooth.

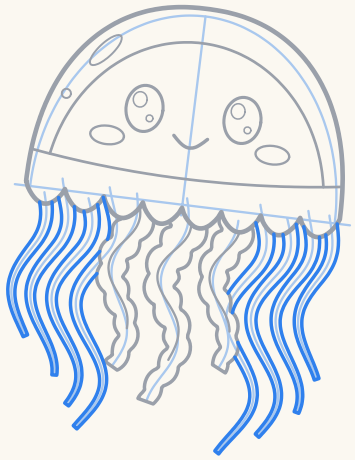
## STEP 7 Draw the frilly oral arms



Real jellyfish have frilly arms around their mouth, and these three ribbons copy that look. Follow the three middle guides and draw a bumpy edge on both sides of each, wide at the top and narrowing toward a soft point. Make the bumps on one side sit between the bumps on the other side. Add a wavy fold line inside each ribbon, and finish the middle ribbon first, since it hangs in front.

💡 **Tip:** Small, rounded bumps read as ruffles; sharp spikes look like a saw.

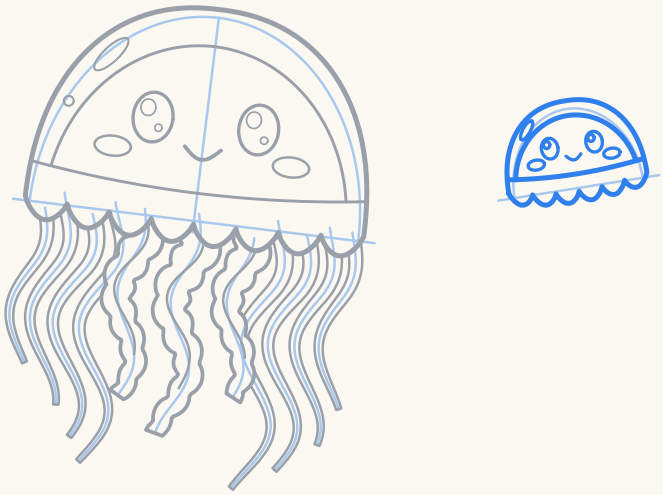
## STEP 8 Add the long thin tentacles



Now the eight outer guides become tentacles. Draw a thin line on each side of a guide, slightly wider under the rim and pinching to a narrow tip. Stop each line where it reaches a frilly arm. This takes patience, and it's where your parallel guides pay off: just follow the curve you already planned.

💡 **Tip:** Turn the paper so you always pull the pen down along the curve.

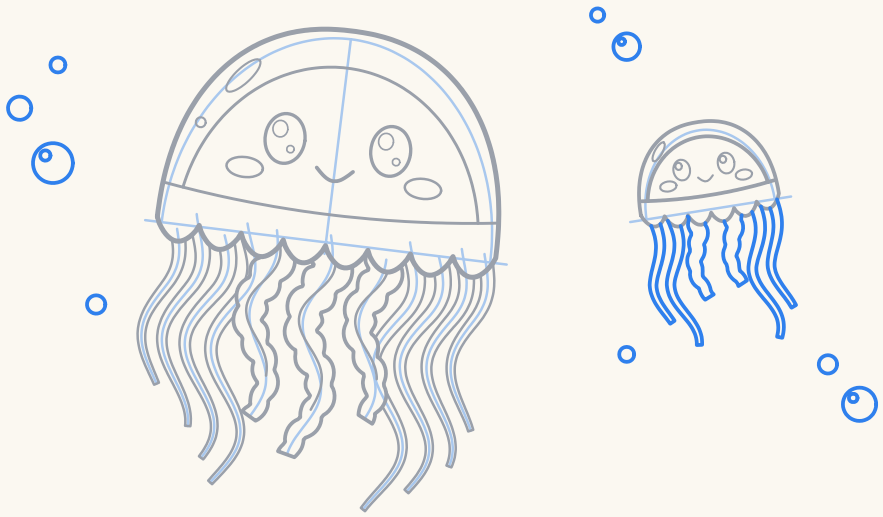
## STEP 9 Sketch a baby jellyfish bell




On the right side, a little higher than the big jelly, draw a mini version of steps 1 to 6: a small arch, a straight rim guide, a bumpy edge, an inner arch, a band, tiny eyes, a smile and blush. Tilt the baby the opposite way. Two jellies leaning toward each other look like they're chatting.

💡 **Tip:** Make the baby about half as wide as the big bell.

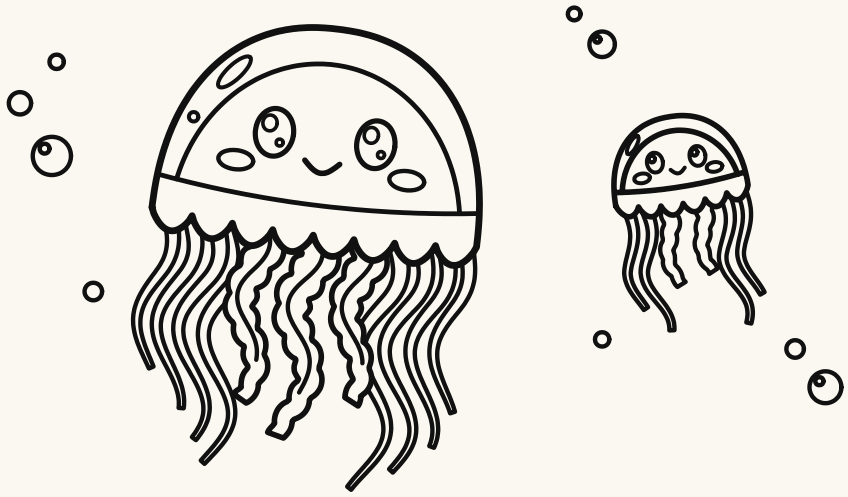
## STEP 10 Add baby tentacles and bubbles




Give the baby two short frilly arms and four thin tentacles, using the same S-curve rhythm on a smaller scale. Then scatter bubbles: a cluster on the left, a pair above the baby and a few lower down on the right. Mix big and tiny circles, and draw a small shine circle inside the larger bubbles.

💡 **Tip:** Group bubbles in threes so they look like they're rising together.

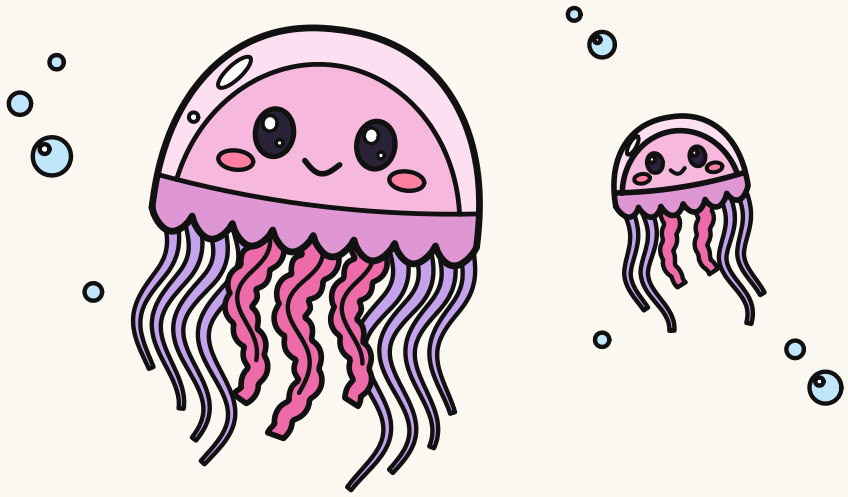
## STEP 11 Ink the lines and erase the guides



Go over every keeper line with your black pen. I ink the bell first, then the face, then the arms and tentacles, finishing with the baby and the bubbles. Wait until the ink is completely dry, then erase the dome guide, the rim lines, the center line and all eleven S-curves. Clean outlines are much nicer to color.

💡 **Tip:** Rest your hand on a scrap of paper so it doesn't smudge wet ink.

## STEP 12 Color your jellyfish



Fill the inner dome light pink and the outer gap an even paler pink, pressing very lightly so it looks clear. Color the band lilac. The frilly arms get hot pink and the tentacles light purple. Fill the eyes dark, keeping the sparkles white, then add rosy cheeks and light blue bubbles. Color the baby the same way.

💡 **Tip:** Color the tentacles along their curves, not straight across.