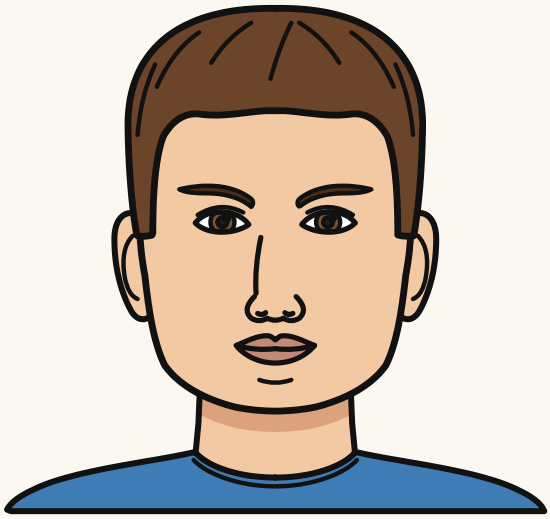
How to Draw a Male Face

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

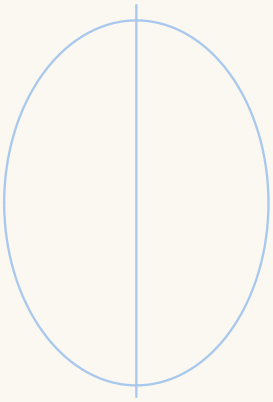
- A pencil
- A soft eraser
- A black fineliner
- Peach, brown and blue colored pencils
- White paper

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 →

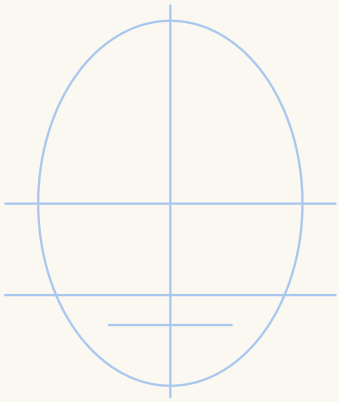
STEP 1 Sketch a head oval and a center line



Draw an egg shape that's taller than it is wide, about three units across for every four down. This oval is the skull, not the hair, so leave room above it. Run a light vertical line through the middle. Both halves of the face mirror each other across it.

💡 **Tip:** Turn your paper upside down and look again. A lopsided oval jumps out at you that way.

STEP 2 Add the three feature lines



Here's the rule that surprises most people: the eyes sit halfway down the head, not near the top. Draw the eye line exactly halfway between the top of the oval and the chin. Halfway between that line and the chin goes the nose line. The short mouth line sits one third of the way from the nose line down to the chin.

💡 **Tip:** Hold your pencil against the oval and pinch the length with your thumb. That's an easy measuring stick.

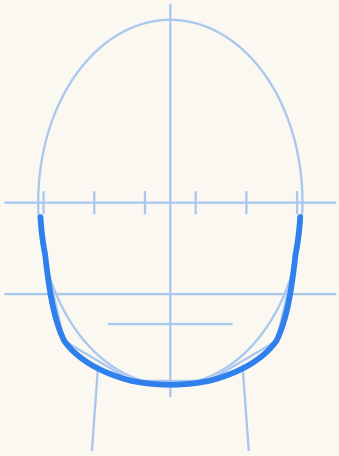
STEP 3 Mark five eye widths and a jaw guide



A front-view head is about five eyes wide. Tick the eye line into five equal parts across the oval. The second and fourth parts hold the eyes, and the middle part is the gap between them. Then draw the jaw guide: straight down from the cheeks to a corner just below the mouth line, then in to a flat chin. Add two neck lines under the jaw.

💡 **Tip:** If your five parts don't fit, adjust the ticks, not the oval. Small shifts are fine.

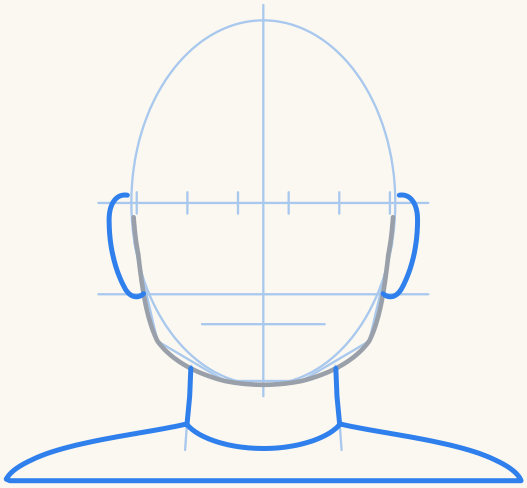
STEP 4 Draw the face shape with a square jaw



Start the outline at the side of the oval near the eye line and bring it down the cheek. Instead of curving into a point, turn a clear corner at the jaw guide and run a wide, almost flat line across the chin. That angle is what reads as male. Skip the top of the oval; hair will cover it.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the chin at least as wide as the mouth guide. A narrow chin makes him look much younger.

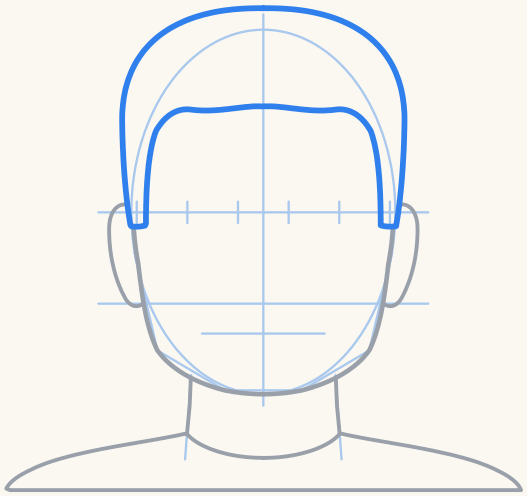
STEP 5 Add ears, a neck and the shoulders



The ears go between the eye line and the nose line. Draw each as a tall C that bulges out from the head and tucks back in at the lobe. I line the sides of the neck up roughly under the outer corners of the eyes, because men's necks are thick. Finish with a curved neckline and two shoulder lines sloping gently outward.

💡 **Tip:** Check that the tops of both ears touch the eye line. Uneven ears tilt the whole face.

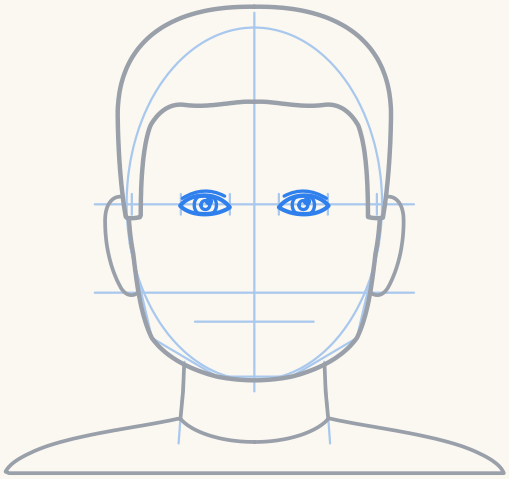
STEP 6 Draw short hair and the hairline



Draw the hair a finger's width above the oval and close to the head on the sides. Bring it down as short sideburns that stop at the eye line, just in front of the ears. The hairline crosses the forehead about halfway between the top of the oval and the eye line. I round the corners at the temples so it doesn't look like a helmet.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the hair shape as one closed outline first. Texture strokes come much later.

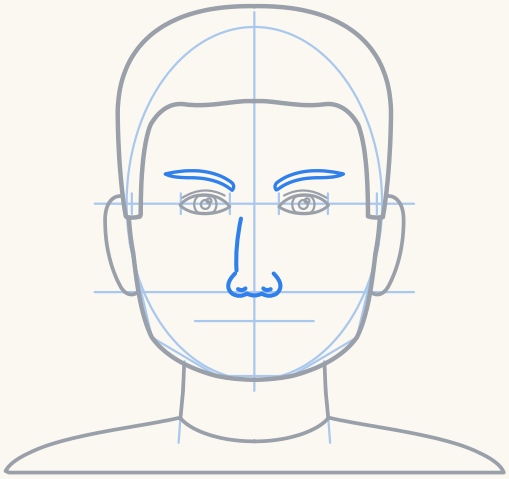
STEP 7 Draw the eyes on the eye line



Inside the second and fourth spaces, draw two almond shapes. The inner corners point toward the nose; the outer corners are a little flatter. Add a round iris in each, tucked under the upper lid so part of the circle is hidden, then a dark pupil and a tiny white highlight. A light curve above each eye shows the lid crease.

💡 **Tip:** Put both highlights on the same side of the pupil, or the eyes will seem to look in two directions.

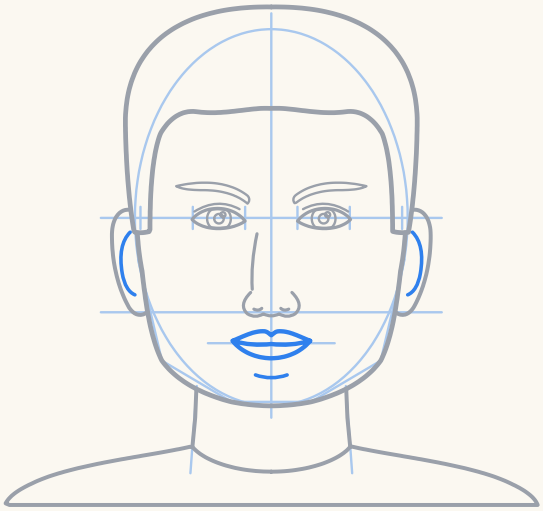
STEP 8 Add thick brows and the nose



Men's brows are usually thicker and lower than women's, so sit them close above the eyes. Make each one thickest near the nose and taper it toward the temple. For the nose, run one gentle line down from the inner end of a brow. Then draw the base on the nose line with two rounded wings and a soft tip, about as wide as the gap between the eyes.

💡 **Tip:** Skip the second bridge line. One line suggests the shape, while two make a long tube.

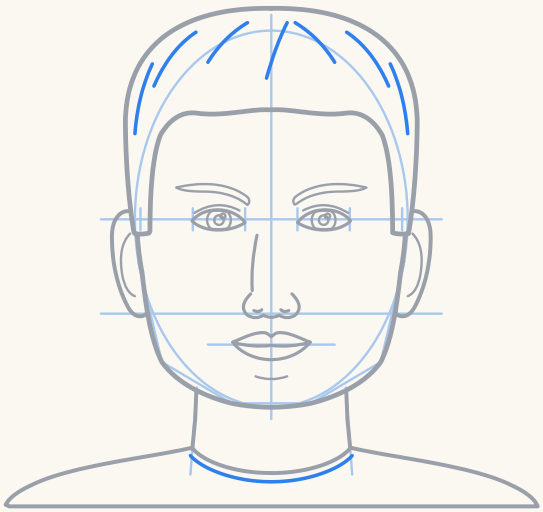
STEP 9 Shape the mouth and ear folds



Center the mouth on the mouth line, with the corners roughly under the inner edge of each iris. Keep the upper lip thin with a small dip in the middle and make the lower lip fuller. Lift the corners a touch for a relaxed look. A short curve under the lower lip marks the chin, and a C-shaped fold goes inside each ear.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the line between the lips first, then add the outer lip shapes around it.

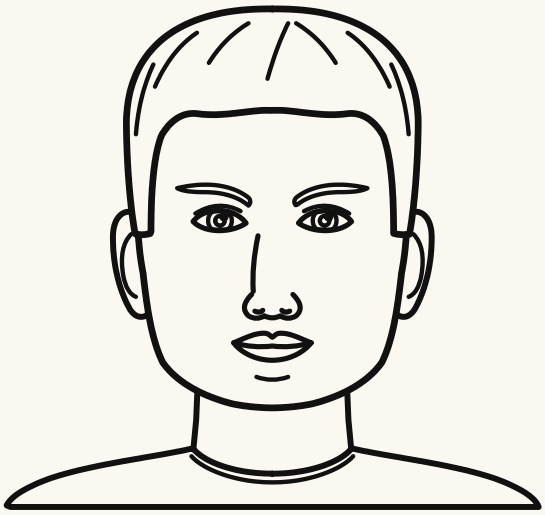
STEP 10 Add hair texture and the collar



Draw a few long, curved strokes that start near the top and sweep down and out, the way short hair grows from the crown. Five or six are plenty. At the neck, add a second curved line just below the neckline for the ribbed T-shirt collar.

💡 **Tip:** Leave gaps between hair strokes. Filling the whole cap with lines makes it look scribbled.

STEP 11 Ink the face and erase the guides

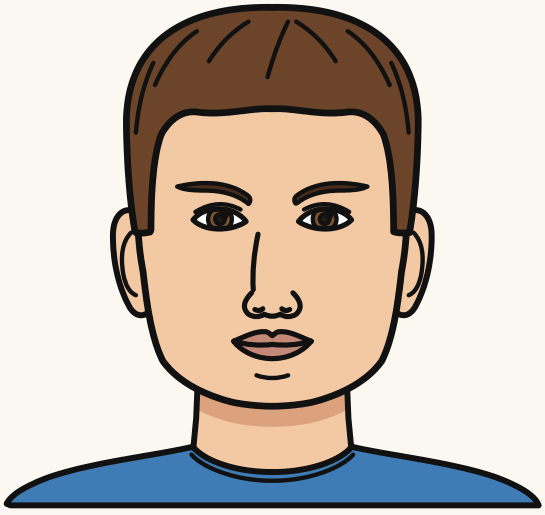


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Go over every keeper line with a black fineliner using slow, steady strokes. Let the ink dry for a minute, then erase the oval, the center line and all the proportion lines. Be gentle around the eyes, because small details smudge.

💡 **Tip:** Ink the long outlines in one smooth pass each. Stopping and starting leaves little bumps.

STEP 12 Color the face



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Fill the skin with a light peach. Add a band of tan on the neck right under the jaw, shaped like the jawline, because the head casts a shadow there and it pushes the chin forward. Use brown for the hair and a darker brown for the brows. Give the irises light brown, the lips a soft rose and the shirt any blue you like.

💡 **Tip:** Press lightly on the skin color and build it up in layers. Heavy first strokes look waxy.