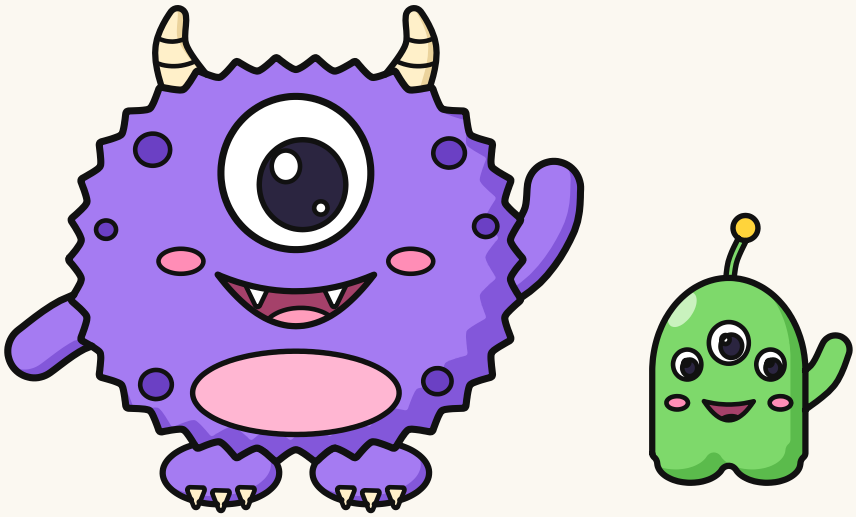
# How to Draw a Monster

11 easy steps for beginners




## What you'll need

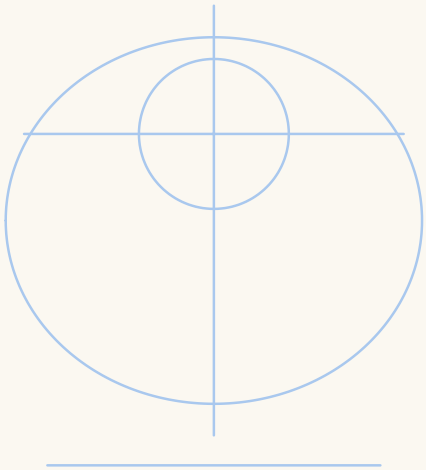
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black marker
- Colored pencils
- Plain paper

## 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 →**

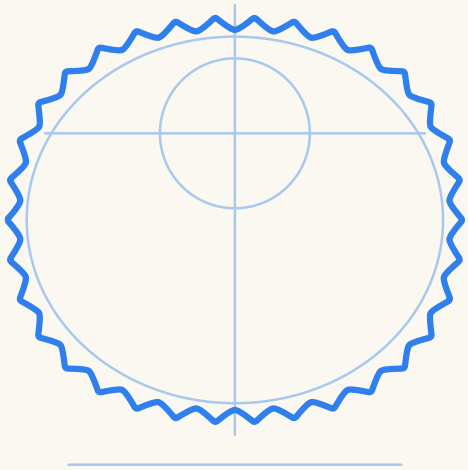
## STEP 1 Sketch a body oval and guide lines



Draw a big oval, a bit wider than it is tall, on the left half of the page. Add a vertical line down its middle and a crossing line about a third of the way down; that's where the eye will sit. Center a circle on that crossing for the eye, then draw a flat line below the oval where the feet will stand.

💡 **Tip:** Keep your pencil loose and light. Nothing from this step will survive to the end.

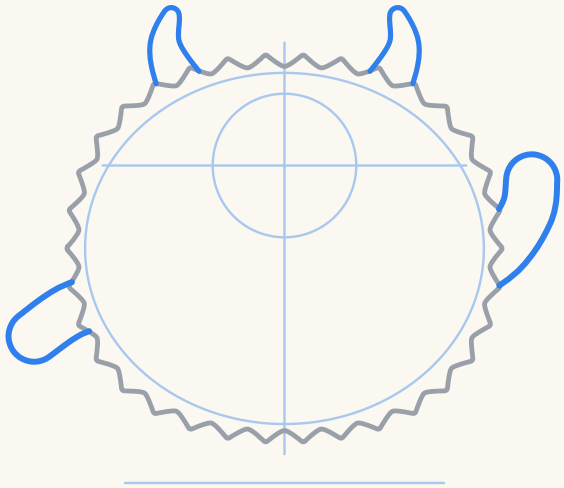
## STEP 2 Turn the oval into a fluffy fur outline



Now go around the oval with small zigzag tufts, sitting just outside the guide line. I make each tuft about as wide as a fingertip and keep them roughly the same size all the way round. That even rhythm is what reads as soft fur. Big, uneven spikes look like a cactus or a burst balloon instead.

💡 **Tip:** Turn the paper as you go, so your hand always zigzags in its most comfortable direction.

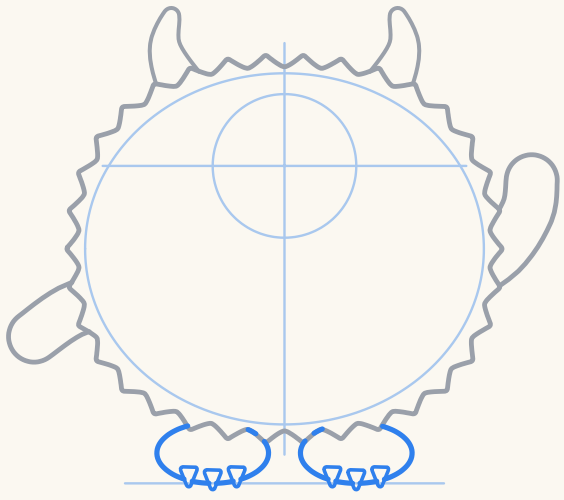
## STEP 3 Add little horns and stubby arms



On top, draw two short curved horns that bend slightly toward each other. Only their upper part shows, because they disappear behind the fur. For the arms, let one reach out sideways near the bottom and lift the other one up as if it's waving hello. Both are just thick rounded tubes; no fingers needed.

💡 **Tip:** Stop each arm line right where it meets the fur, and the arm looks tucked behind it.

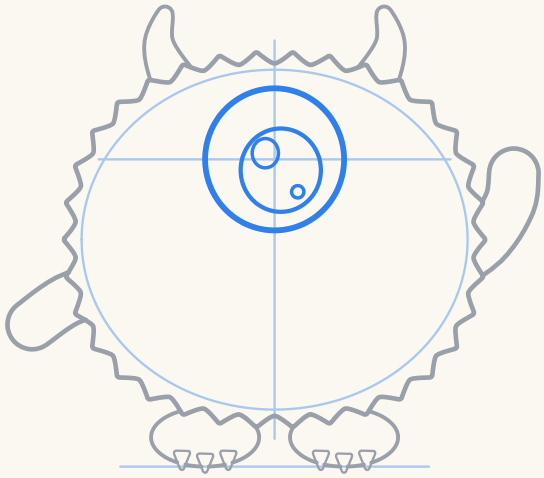
## STEP 4 Draw the feet with tiny claws



Two flat ovals sit on the ground line, peeking out from under the body. Leave a small gap between them so the monster doesn't look like it's standing on one lump. Along the bottom edge of each foot, add three little pointed claws. Small kids can skip them, but they give the feet a bit of monster attitude.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the claws tiny and blunt. Long sharp ones tip the whole mood toward scary.

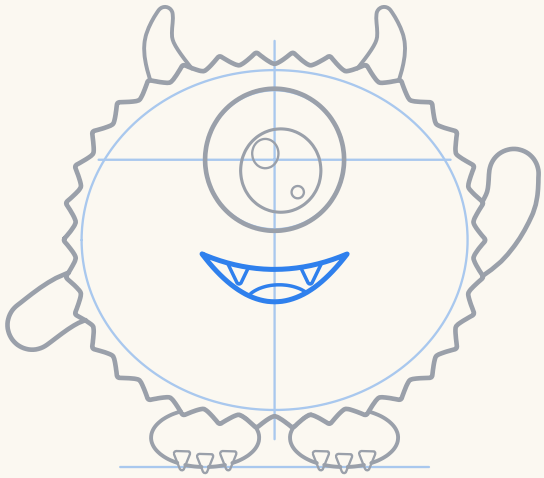
## STEP 5 Give it one big shiny eye



Trace firmly over the eye circle from step 1. Inside it, draw a large round pupil, nudged slightly down and to the right, so the monster seems to look at you. Finish with a big oval shine near the top of the pupil and a tiny dot near its lower edge. In my experience, that one shine does more for cuteness than any other line in the drawing.

💡 **Tip:** Make the pupil fill more than half the eye. A small pupil gives a staring, nervous look.

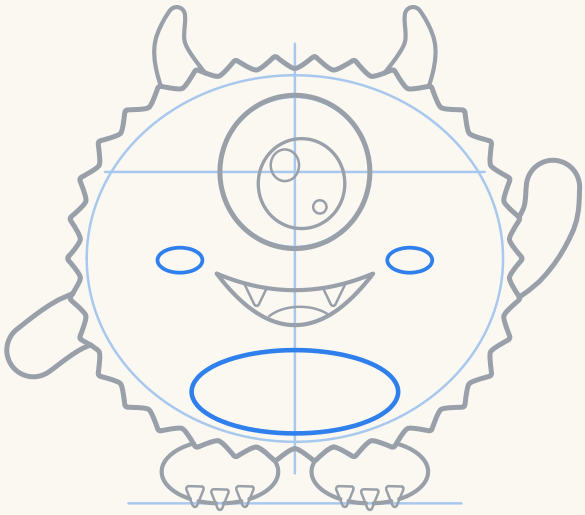
## STEP 6 Draw a wide smile with fangs and a tongue



Below the eye, draw a gentle upward curve for the top lip, then a deeper curve underneath to close the mouth into a crescent. Hang two small rounded fangs from the top lip, spaced apart rather than in the middle. A soft curve near the bottom of the mouth becomes the tongue. Most beginners make the mouth too tall; a slim crescent stays friendly.

💡 **Tip:** Space the fangs evenly from the center line. Lopsided fangs look like a mistake, not a choice.

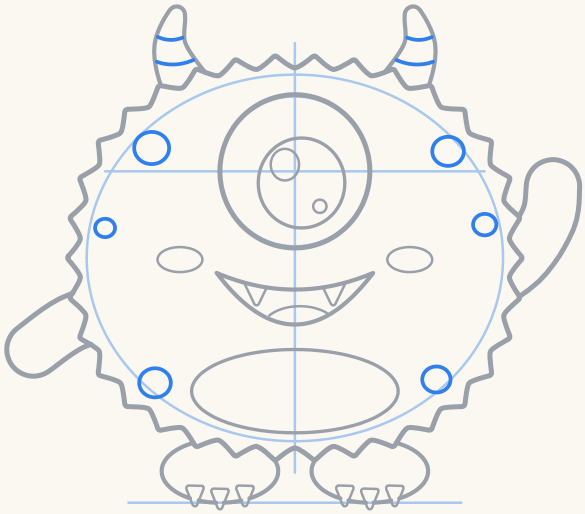
## STEP 7 Add a round belly and two cheeks



Draw a wide flat oval low on the body for the belly patch, leaving a small gap under the mouth. Then place a small flat oval on each side of the face, at mouth height and a little outside the eye. Those cheeks will be pink later. They're why the face reads as happy rather than hungry.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the belly centered on the vertical guide, even though the arms are uneven.

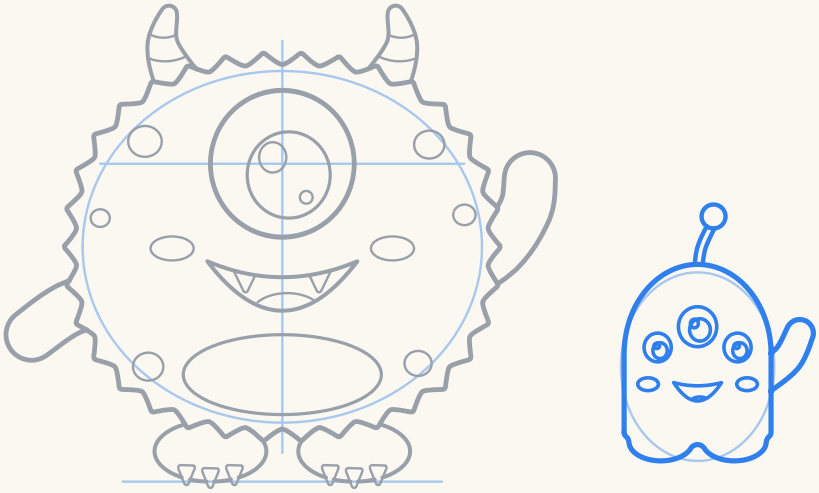
## STEP 8 Sprinkle polka dots and horn lines



Scatter a few round spots over the fur in empty places: near the top corners, on the sides and beside the belly. Vary their sizes a little. Then draw two curved stripes across each horn, following its bend. I always keep spots away from the eye and mouth, because crowding the face makes it hard to read.

💡 **Tip:** Use an odd number of spots on each side. Exact mirror patterns look stiff.

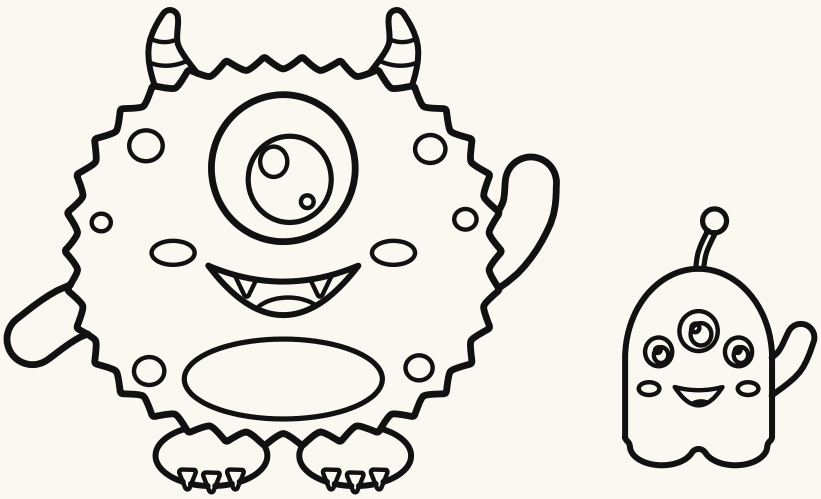
## STEP 9 Draw a tiny jelly friend



Here's where mixing features pays off. To the right, sketch a tall light oval and shape it into a smooth gumdrop body with two round feet at the bottom. This one gets three eyes instead of one, a little smile, cheeks, a waving arm and an antenna with a ball on top. Smooth skin next to fur makes the two look like different species.

💡 **Tip:** Put the middle eye a touch higher and bigger than the others. A straight row looks robotic.

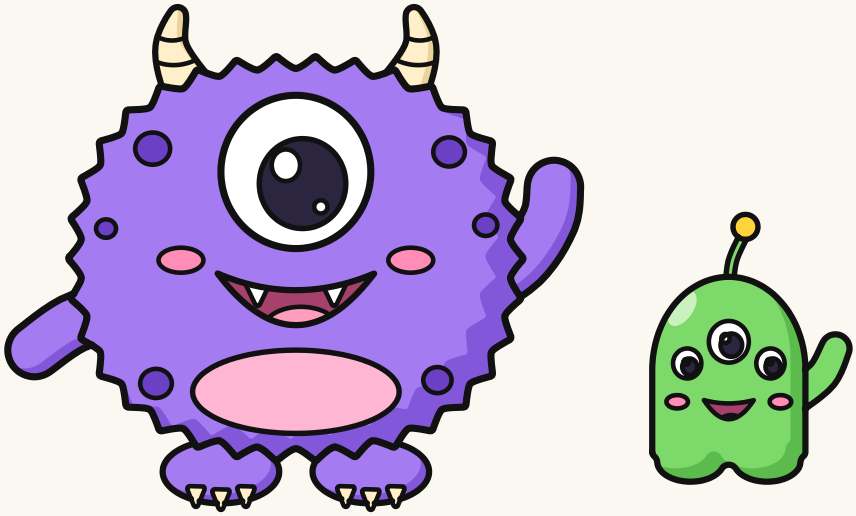
## STEP 10 Ink the lines and erase the guides



Go over every keeper line with the black marker, both monsters included. The zigzag fur takes the longest, so go slowly and keep the points crisp. Wait until the ink is properly dry, then erase the oval, the cross lines, the ground line and the friend's guide oval.

💡 **Tip:** Ink the big outer lines first and the small face details last, so your hand never rests on wet ink.

## STEP 11 Color both monsters



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Color the fur purple, along with the arms and feet, then add dark purple spots and a band of shadow along the right edge. The belly, cheeks and tongue are pink, the horns and claws cream, the mouth dark pink and the pupil black, with the shines and fangs left white. Finish the friend in green with a darker green shadow and a yellow antenna ball.

💡 **Tip:** Leave the eye white bright and clean. Even a light smudge of purple there dulls the whole face.