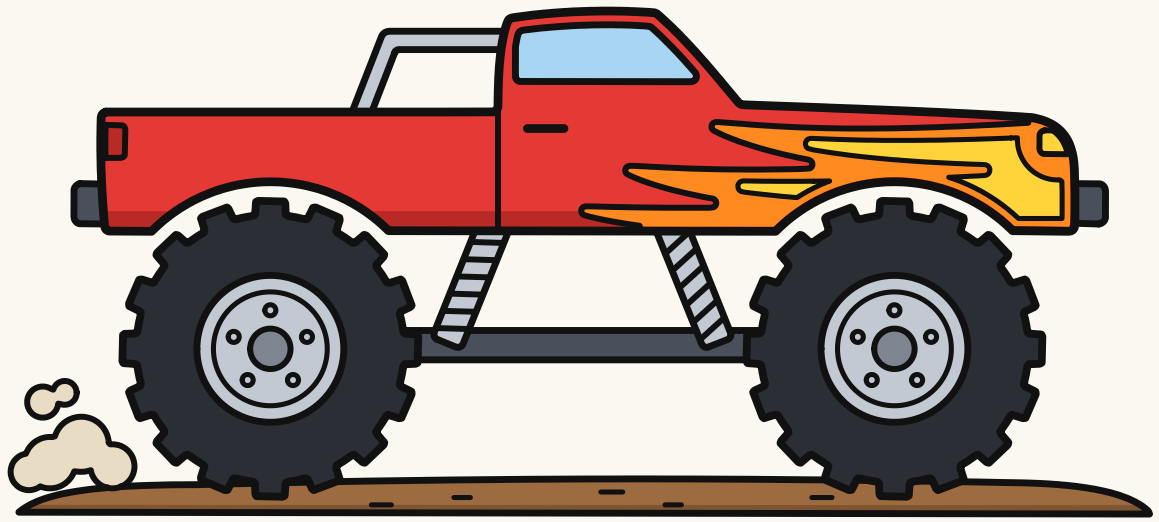
How to Draw a Monster Truck

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

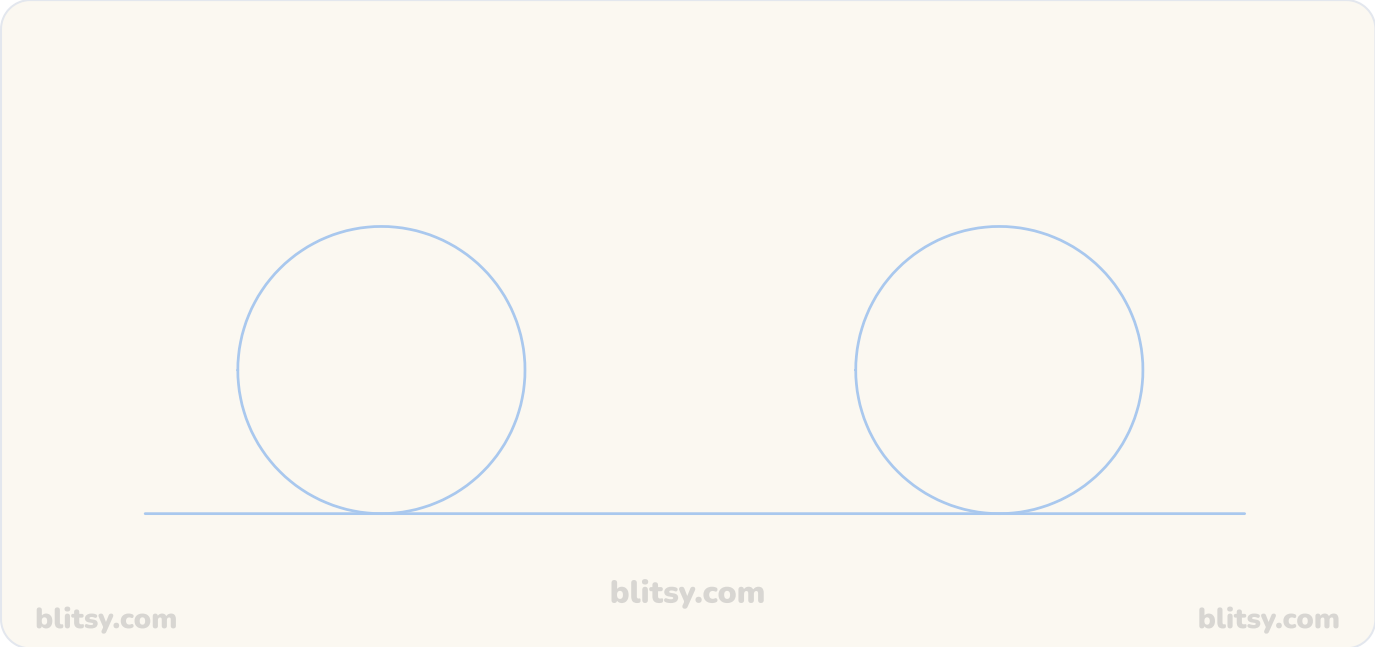
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black fineliner
- Colored pencils or markers
- Paper turned sideways

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 →

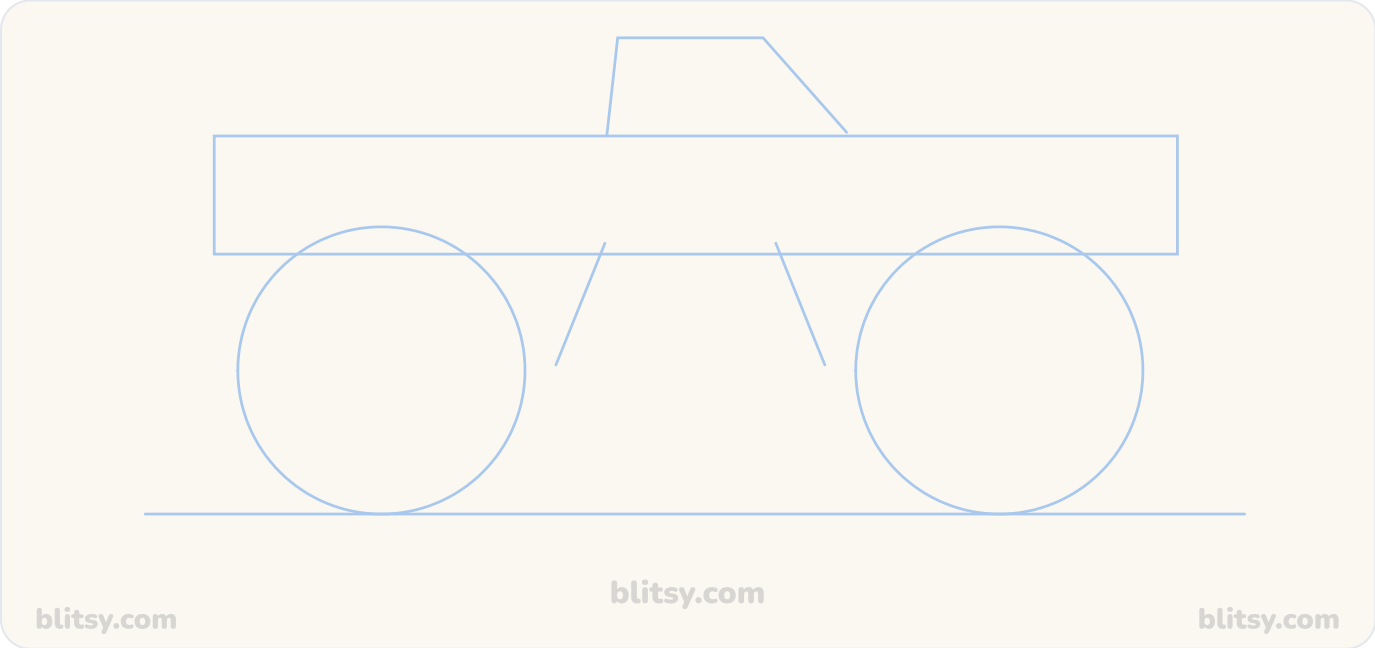
STEP 1 Draw a ground line and two big wheel circles



Start with a long, straight line near the bottom of your page. Sit two large circles on it, leaving a gap between them about one and a half circles wide. I make these wheels about half as tall as the whole drawing will be. If they look too large right now, they're probably just right.

💡 **Tip:** Trace around a cup if your circles keep coming out lopsided.

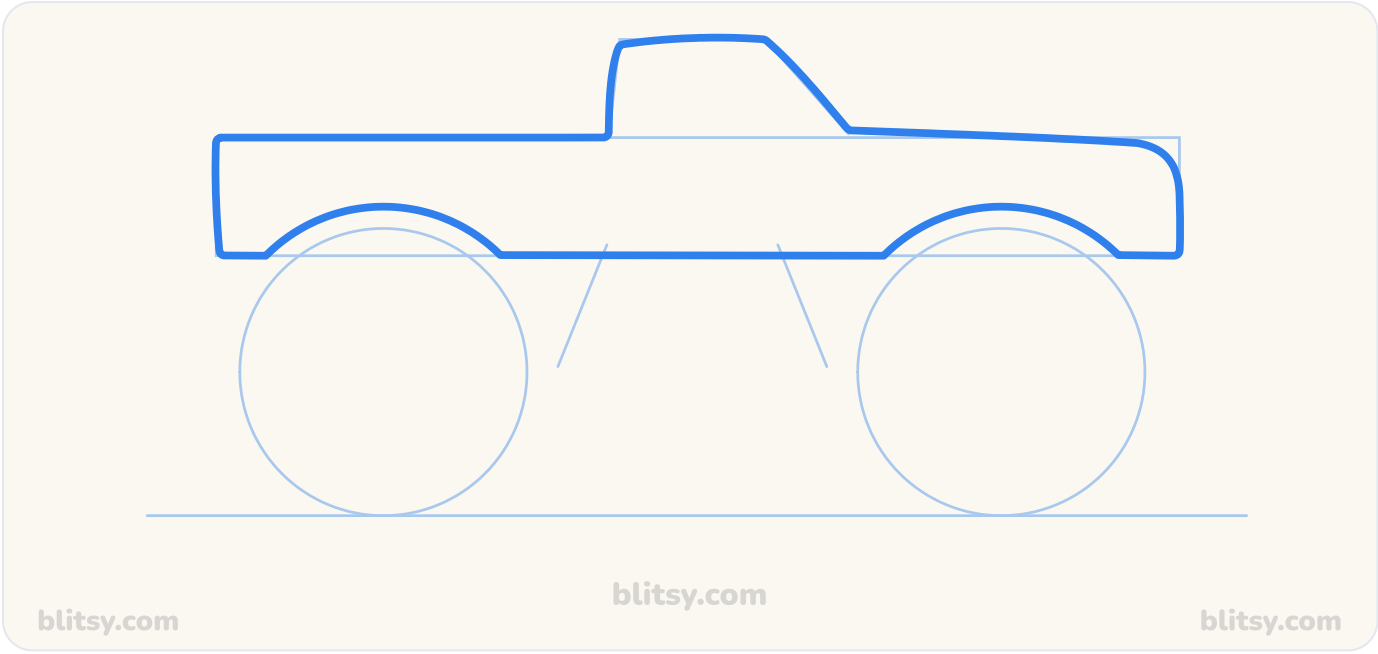
STEP 2 Sketch the body box, the cab and two lift lines



Draw a long, flat rectangle that floats above the wheels; its bottom edge should just touch the tops of the circles. On top of it, a little right of the middle, sketch the cab: a short upright line at the back, a flat roof and a slanted line down at the front. Then add two short slanted lines under the box, one inside each wheel. They mark where the springs will go.

💡 **Tip:** Press so lightly that you can barely see these lines.

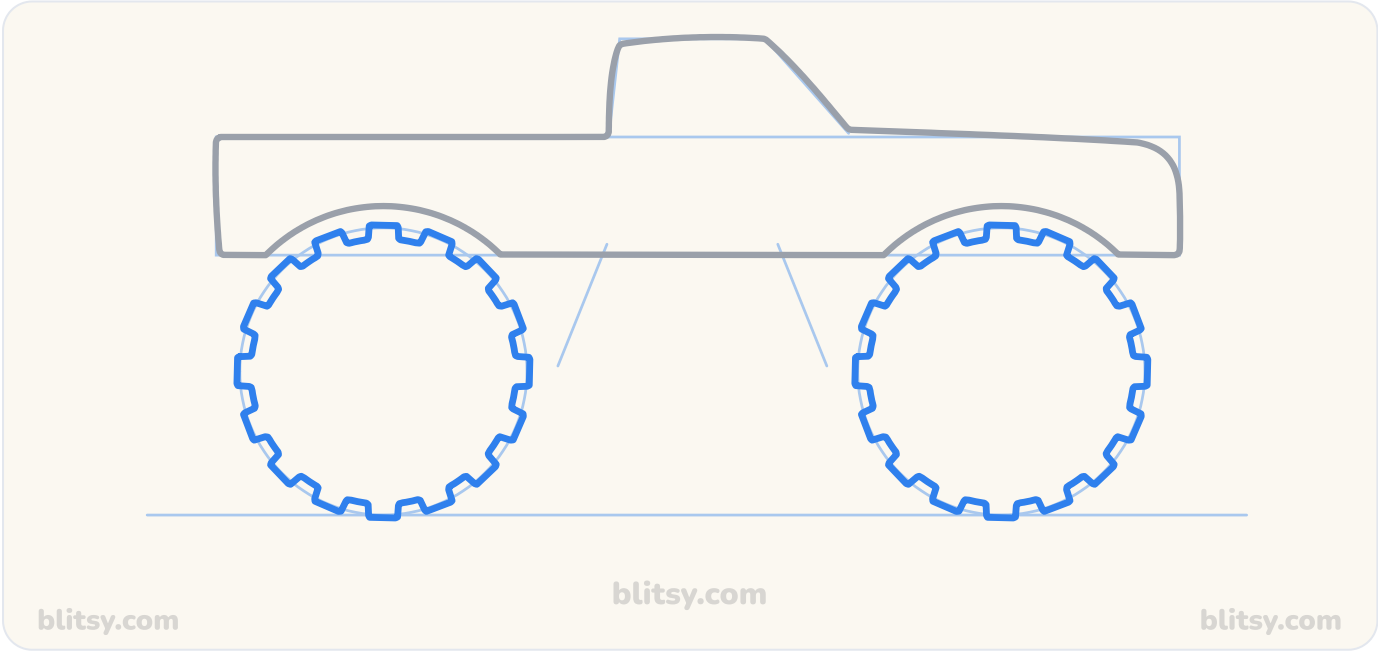
STEP 3 Trace the pickup body outline



Go around the guides with one confident outline. Begin at the tailgate, run along the flat bed, climb the back of the cab and cross the roof. Slide down the windshield, stretch the long hood forward and round off the nose. Along the bottom, curve up over each wheel in a big arch. I leave a clear gap between each arch and its circle, because the tread blocks fill part of it later.

💡 **Tip:** Draw each arch in one smooth swing of your wrist.

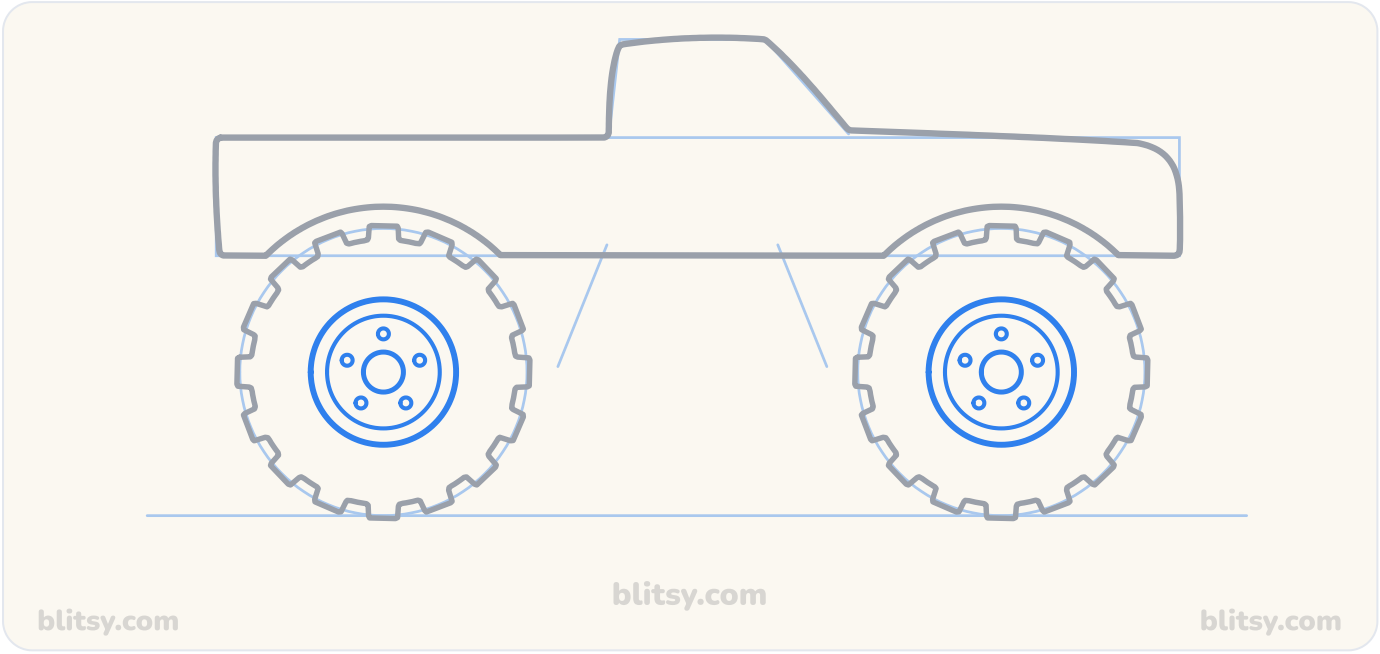
STEP 4 Turn the circles into chunky tires



This is the part that makes it a monster truck. Go around each wheel and add square tread blocks that stick out from the edge, like the teeth on a gear. I place four first, at the compass points, then fill the spaces between them so the blocks end up evenly spread.

💡 **Tip:** Leave a gap about one block wide between neighboring treads.

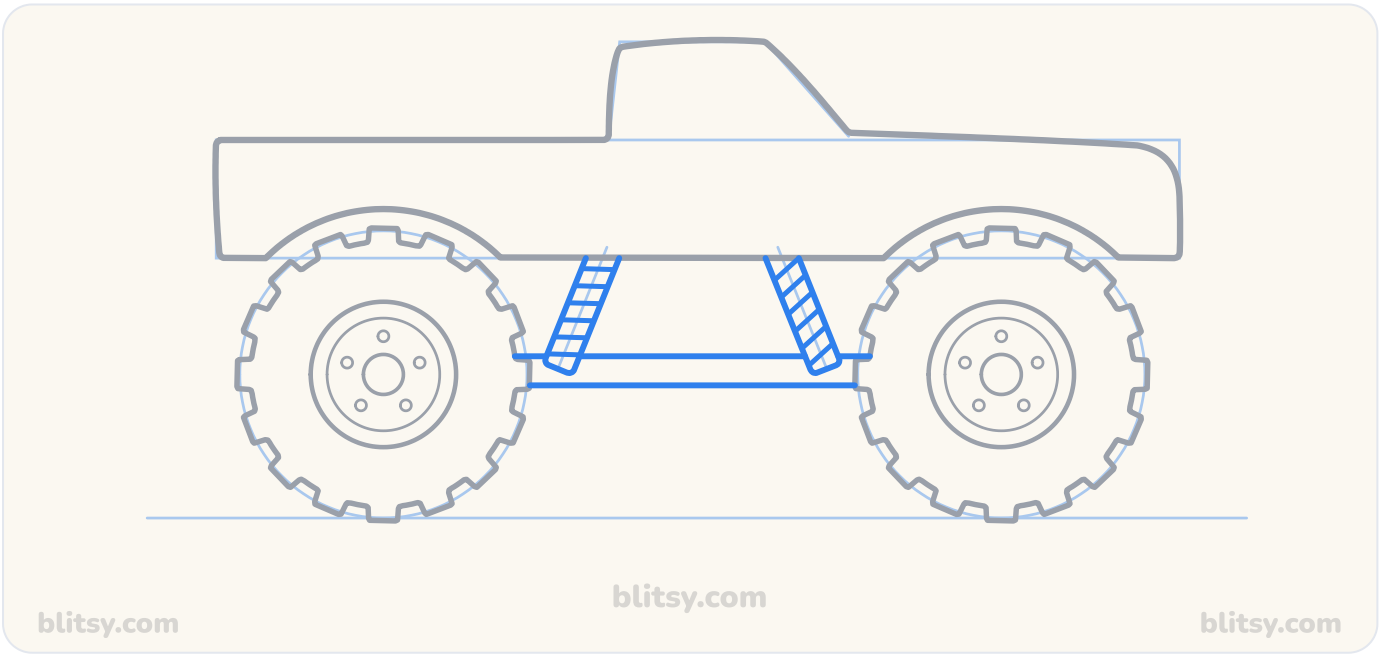
STEP 5 Add the rims, hubs and bolts



Inside each tire, draw a circle about half its width for the rim, a slightly smaller ring just inside it, and a small circle in the middle for the hub. Add five tiny bolt dots around the hub. Keeping the rims small leaves a thick band of rubber all around, which makes the tires look heavy.

💡 **Tip:** Place the hub first and measure the rim out from it.

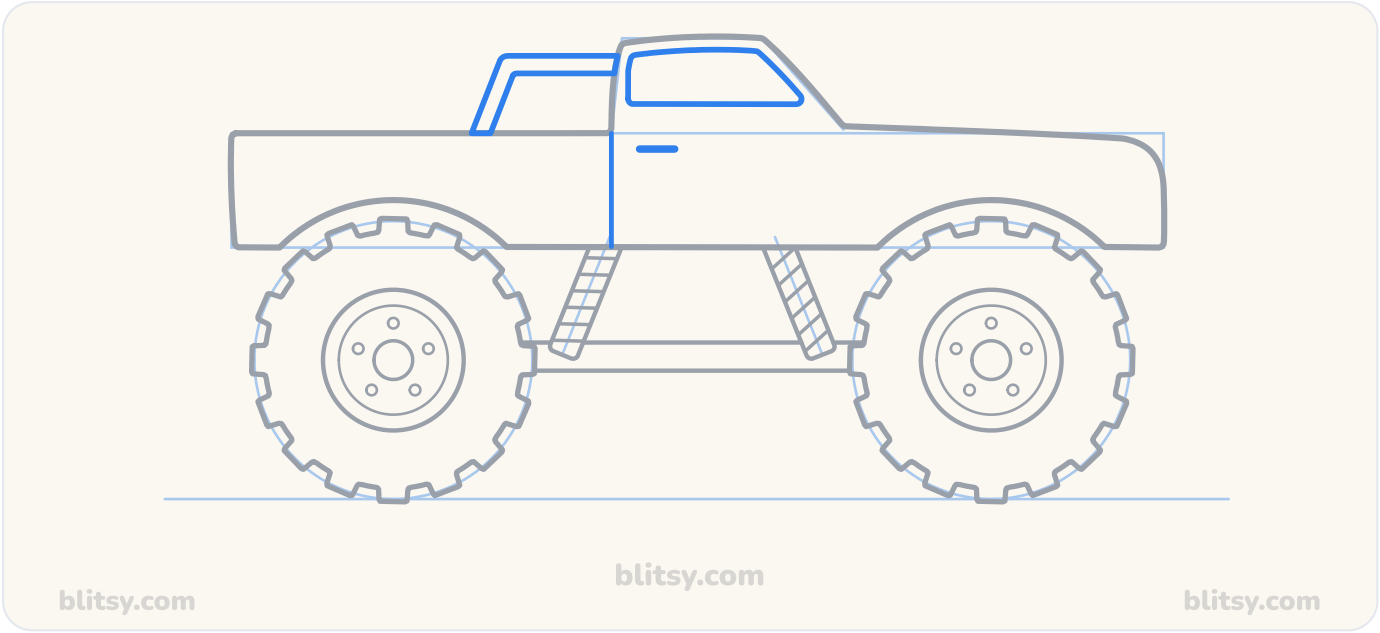
STEP 6 Draw the frame and the spring shocks



Between the wheels, draw a long flat bar that tucks behind both tires. Over each slanted guide line, draw a narrow tube from the bottom of the body down to the bar, then cross it with five or six short slanted lines for the coils. Kids often skip the springs, but they explain how a body can float that high.

💡 **Tip:** Slant every coil line in the same direction.

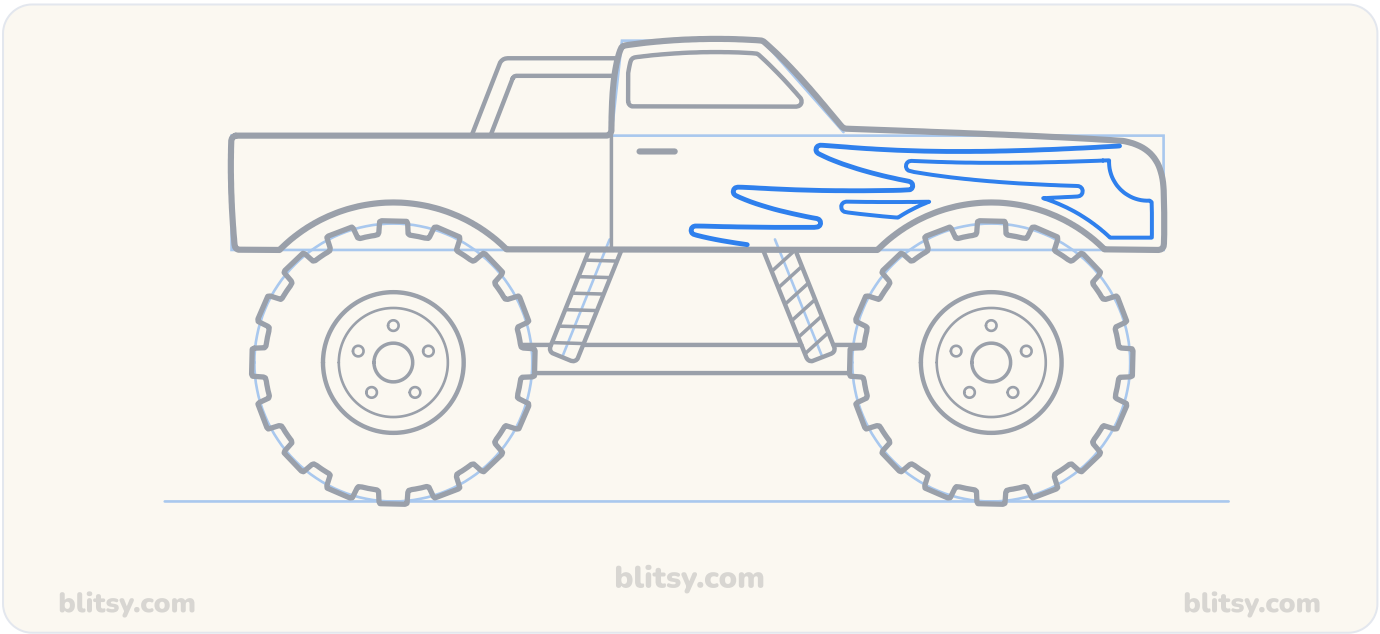
STEP 7 Draw the window, the cab line and the roll bar



Inside the cab, draw a window that follows the roof and windshield about a finger's width in from the outline. Run a line straight down from the back of the cab to the bottom of the body, where the cab meets the bed, and add a short handle below the window. Behind the cab, draw a thick roll bar that leans back from the bed.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the roll bar as two parallel lines with rounded corners.

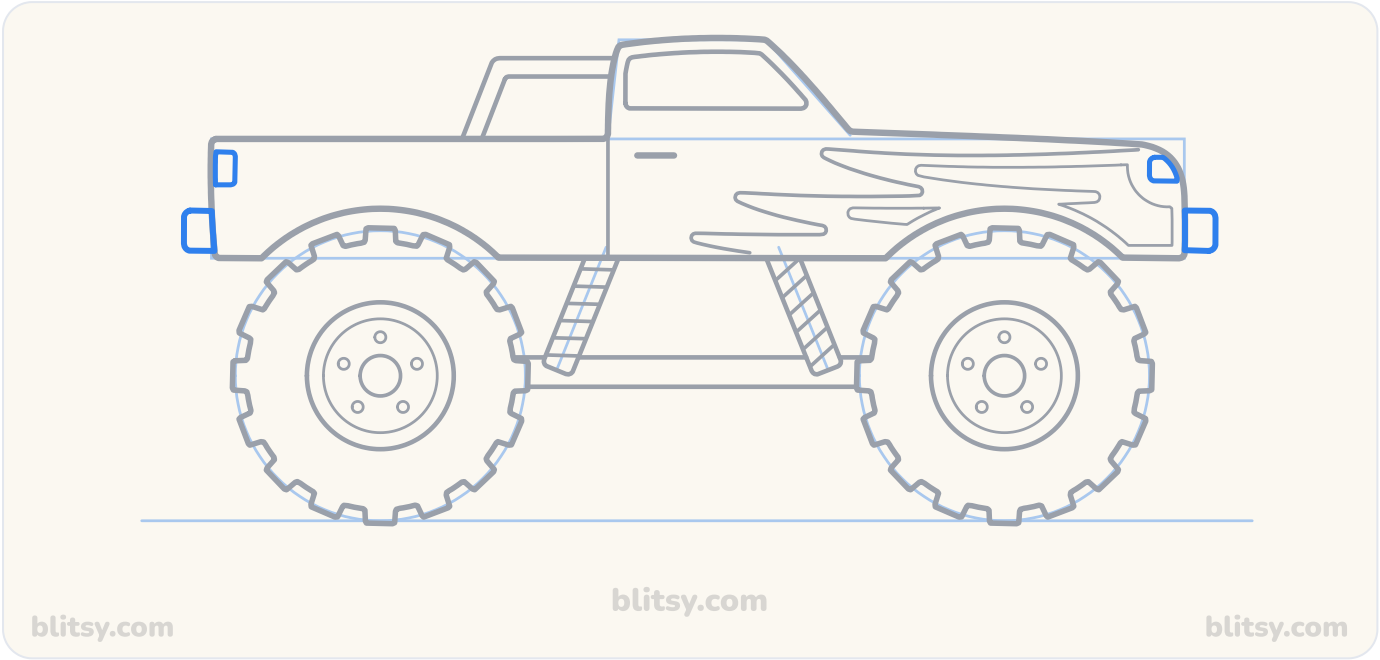
STEP 8 Paint on the flame decals



Starting at the nose, draw three long flame tongues that lick back along the hood and door. Make each one fat near the front and let it thin out to a point, with the middle tongue reaching back the farthest. Inside the top two, draw smaller copies for the yellow centers. Flames are the trickiest shape in this lesson, so younger kids can draw simple zigzag stripes instead.

💡 **Tip:** Curve each flame tip slightly upward, like it's catching the wind.

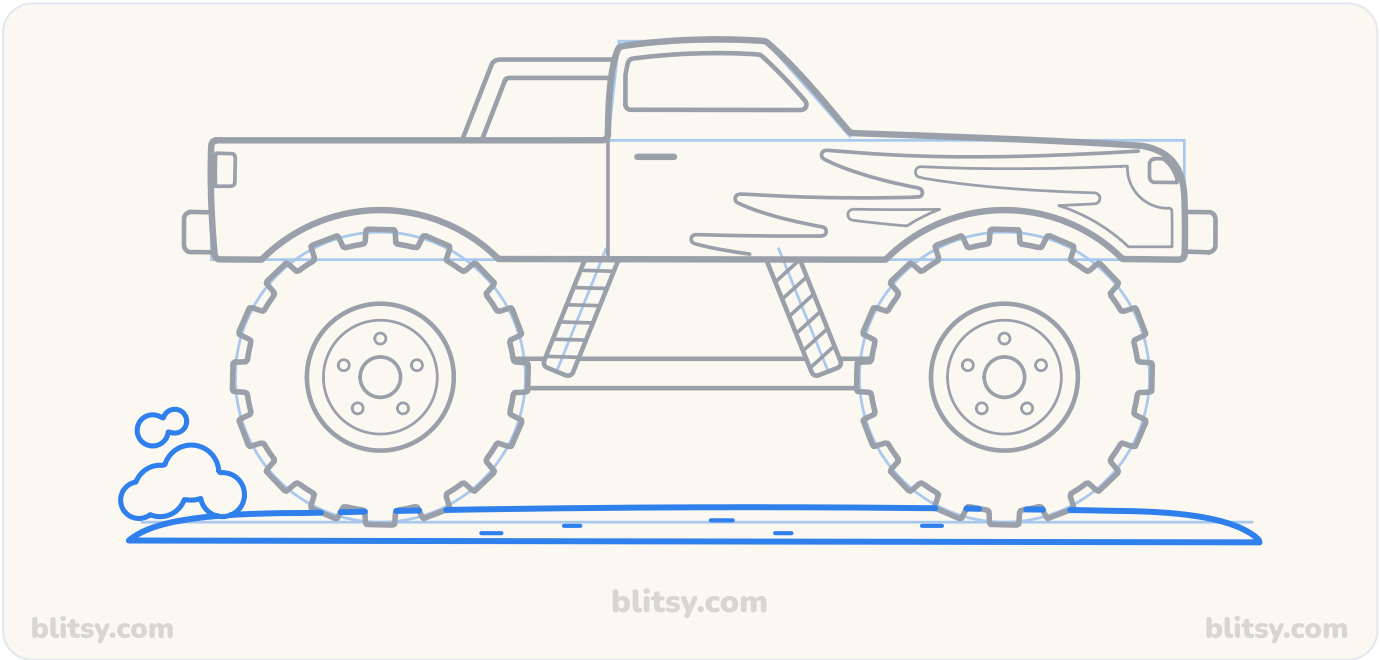
STEP 9 Add the lights and bumpers



Put a small rounded headlight at the top of the nose and a narrow tail light on the tailgate. Then draw a short, thick bumper on each end, sitting low near the bottom of the body. I like them a little chunky. Thin bumpers would look odd next to tires that big.

💡 **Tip:** Keep both bumpers at the same height.

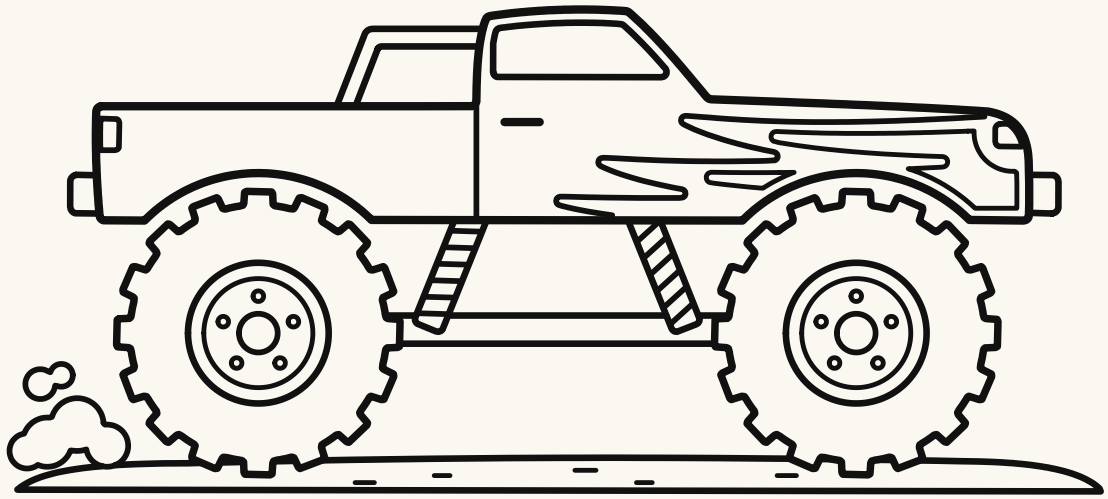
STEP 10 Draw a dirt mound and dust puffs



Give the truck something to drive on. Draw a long, low mound of dirt under the wheels, with the ends dipping down, and sprinkle in a few short dashes for pebbles. Behind the back tire, draw a couple of bumpy little clouds; those dust puffs hint that the truck is moving.

💡 **Tip:** Build each dust cloud from three or four overlapping bumps.

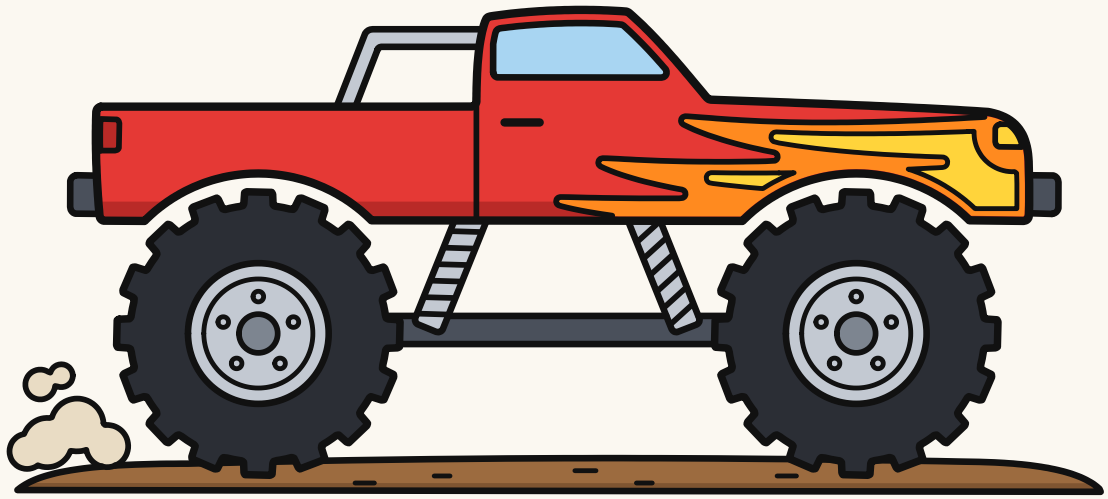
STEP 11 Ink the lines and erase the guides



Go over every line you're keeping with your fineliner. I ink the body first, then the details on its side, and save the tires for last because the tread blocks take the most patience. Let the ink dry for a minute. Then erase the box, the cab guide, the lift lines, the ground line and the original wheel circles.

💡 **Tip:** Turn the paper as you ink the treads so your hand never crosses wet lines.

STEP 12 Color the monster truck



Color the body bright red, pressing a bit harder along the bottom edge for a darker shadow strip. Fill the flames orange with yellow centers, and make the headlight yellow too. The window goes light blue. Use black for the tires and silver for the rims and springs, then dark gray for the frame and bumpers. Finish with brown dirt and pale tan dust.

💡 **Tip:** Color the black tires last so dark wax doesn't smudge onto the red.