How to Draw a Mouse

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

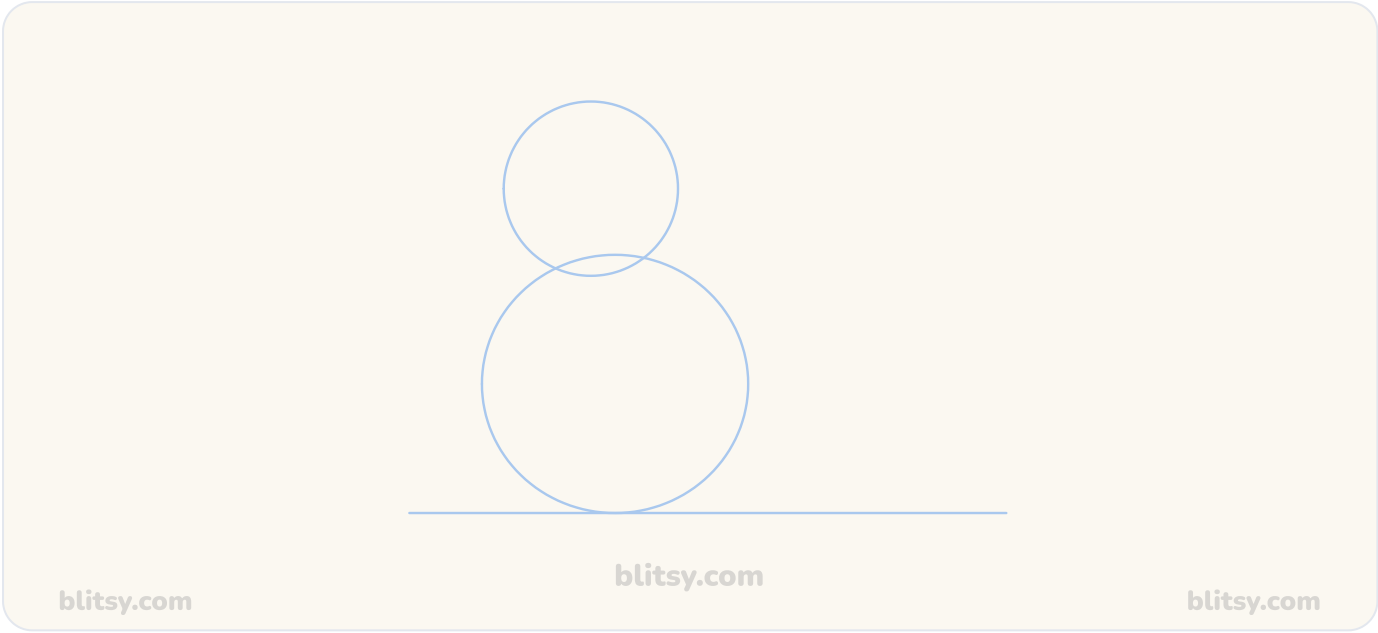
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black fineliner
- Colored pencils or markers
- Plain paper

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 →

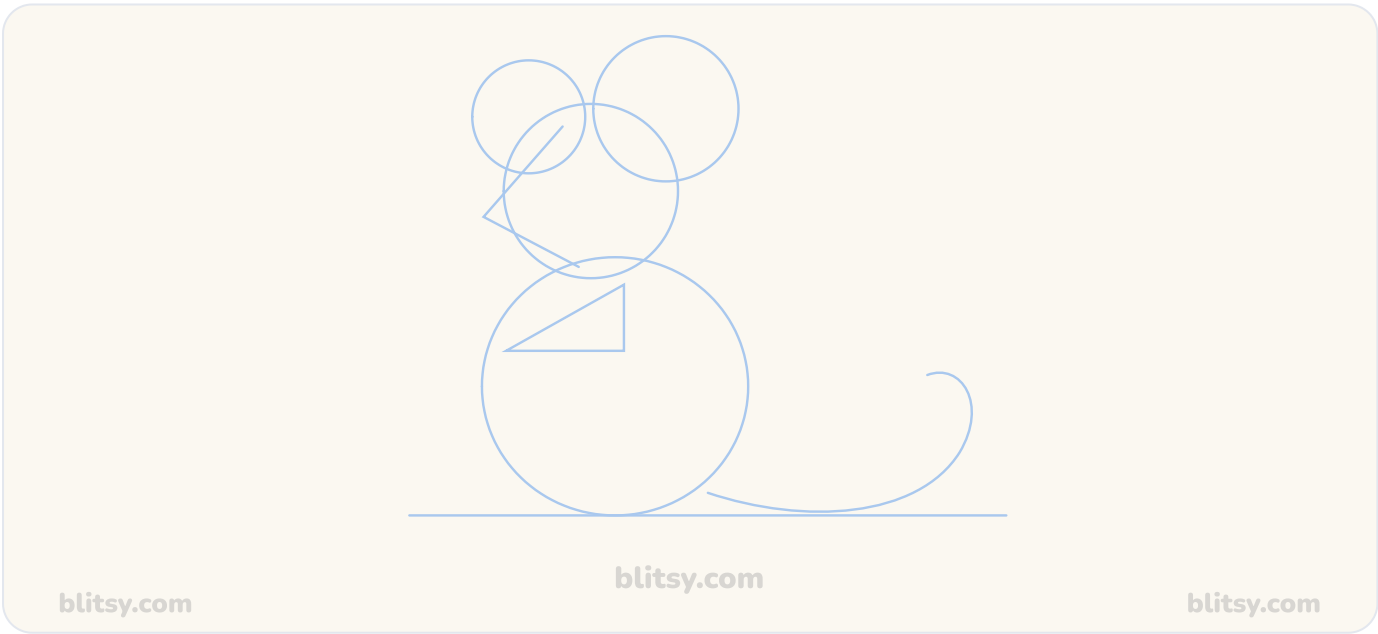
STEP 1 Sketch the head and body guides



Draw a light ground line near the bottom of the page first. Resting on it, sketch a big round shape for the body. Then put a smaller circle on top for the head, overlapping the body a little. The head circle should be about two thirds as wide as the body, which keeps the mouse looking young and cute.

💡 **Tip:** Hold the pencil far back from the tip. You'll press lighter without trying.

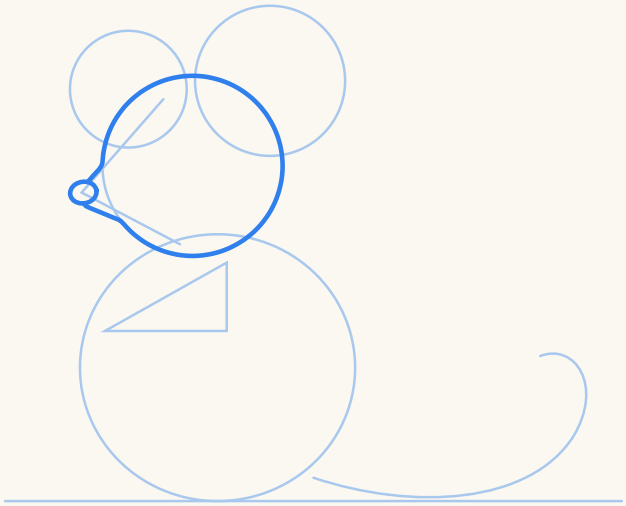
STEP 2 Add guides for the ears, snout, cheese and tail



Now place two circles on top of the head for the ears. Make the right one large, almost as big as the head, and the left one a bit smaller because it's turned away from us. On the left of the head, sketch a pointed triangle for the snout. Below the chin, draw a small triangle where the cheese will go, then a long curving line from the bottom right for the tail.

💡 **Tip:** Let each ear circle overlap the head a little. Ears floating apart look pinned on.

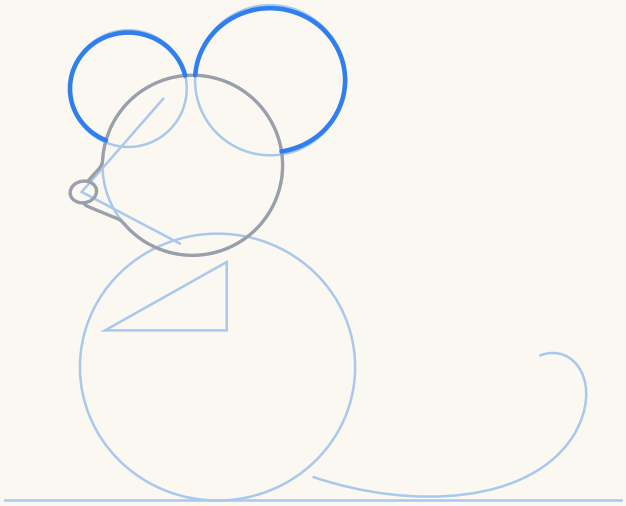
STEP 3 Draw the head with a pointy snout



Go over the head circle with a firmer line, but where it meets the snout triangle, curve smoothly into the point instead of making a sharp corner. The snout should be short, roughly a third of the head's width. At the tip, draw a small oval for the nose. I sketch the snout's top edge first, because it sets the angle of the face.

💡 **Tip:** Round off the very tip of the snout. A needle point looks like a shrew.

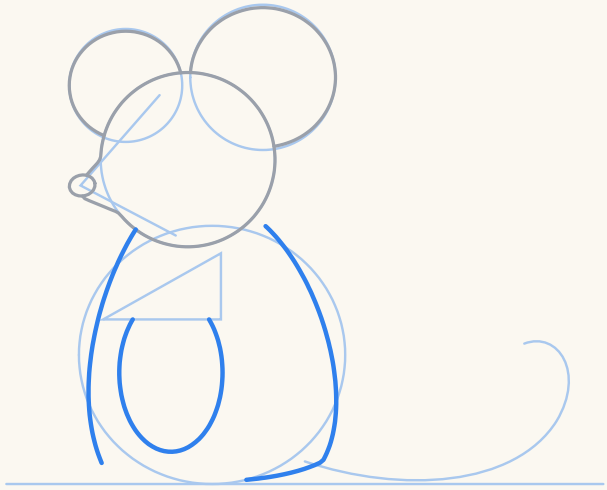
STEP 4 Shape the two big round ears



Trace the ear circles, stopping wherever the head covers them. Mouse ears are thin and very round, so keep the curves even all the way around. Most beginners make them too small, and the drawing slides toward a rat.

💡 **Tip:** If one ear comes out egg-shaped, turn the paper and draw the curve from another side.

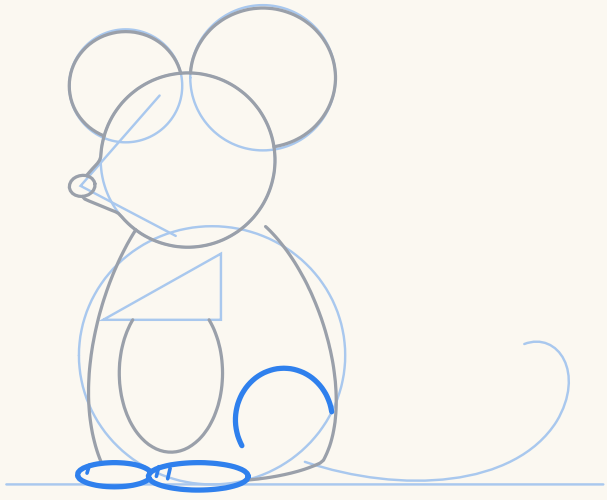
STEP 5 Draw the pear-shaped body



Start just under the head on each side and draw the body down and outward, like a pear that's wider at the bottom. Let the right side bulge out a bit more than the left, since that's the back. Flatten the bottom where it sits on the ground. Inside, draw a tall oval for the cream belly, a little left of center.

💡 **Tip:** Skip the bits where the feet will go. Short gaps there save erasing later.

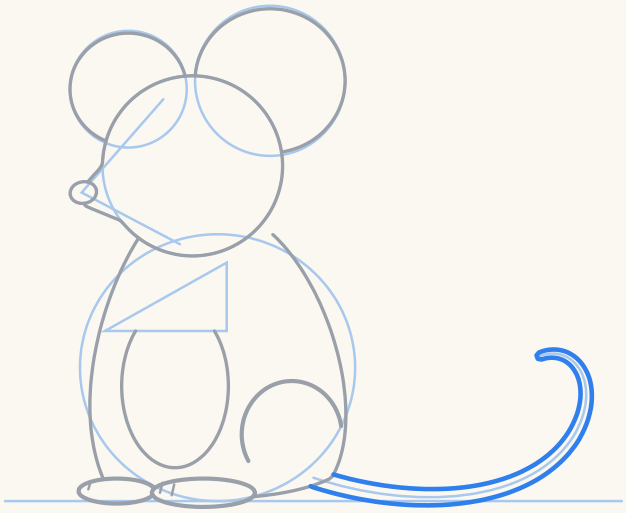
STEP 6 Add the back leg and tiny feet



On the lower right of the body, draw a curved line like an upside-down U for the haunch. That one line tells the viewer the mouse is sitting on its back legs. Along the ground, add two flat ovals for the feet poking out at the front, the nearer one slightly bigger and overlapping the other. A couple of short lines on each foot hint at toes.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the feet small and long, more like jelly beans than circles.

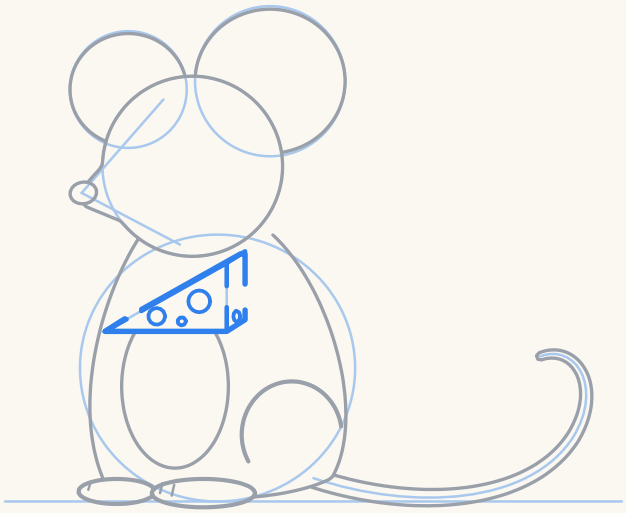
STEP 7 Draw the long curly tail



Follow the tail guide from behind the body, along the ground and up into a soft curl at the end. Draw it as two lines close together, slightly wider where it leaves the body and thin at the tip. A mouse's tail is about as long as its body, so don't cut it short.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the top line of the tail first, then copy it just below like a train track.

STEP 8 Draw a cheese wedge with holes



Over the cheese guide, draw a triangle with its point to the left. To make it solid, add a thin side face on the right and a narrow strip along the slanted top, both shifted up and to the right by the same small amount. Add three or four round holes. Real mice prefer grains and seeds; the cheese idea comes from cartoons, but it's fun to draw.

💡 **Tip:** Vary the hole sizes. Matching holes make the cheese look like a button.

STEP 9 Add the arms and little paws



From just under each cheek, bring a short chubby arm down to the cheese. The right arm bends out a little before its paw reaches the side of the wedge. The left one reaches the tip. Finish each arm with a small oval paw that overlaps the cheese, which is what makes it look held instead of floating.

💡 **Tip:** Tuck the top of each arm under the head. No shoulder line is needed.

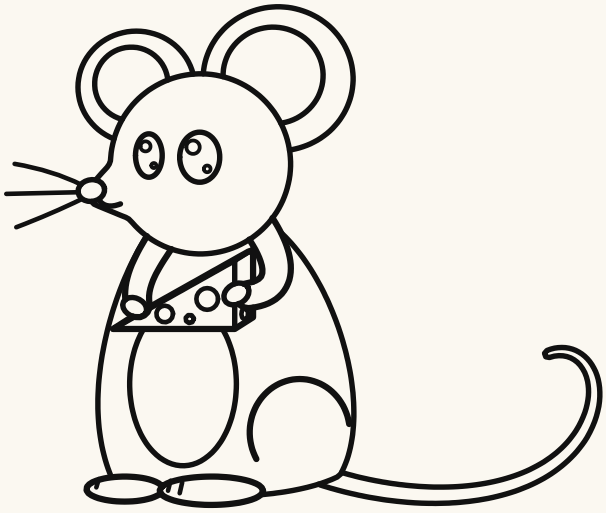
STEP 10 Draw the eyes, inner ears and whiskers



Place two big oval eyes on the face. The right eye is the full-size one; the left eye is a little narrower and sits closer to the snout, because the head is turned. Leave a round shine near the top of each, plus a tiny one lower down. Add a small smile under the nose, a circle inside each ear for the pink part, and three whiskers fanning out from the nose.

💡 **Tip:** Flick each whisker outward in one quick stroke so it tapers.

STEP 11 Ink the lines and erase the guides



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With the black pen, trace every line you want to keep, face included. Leave all the guide shapes in pencil. Wait a minute for the ink to dry before you erase. I usually ink the eyes first, while my hand is still fresh.

💡 **Tip:** Erase in one direction, not back and forth, so the paper stays smooth.

STEP 12 Color your mouse



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Color the fur light brown, including the ears and arms. Add tan along the right side of the body and head for shading. Fill the belly cream, then switch to pink for the inner ears and nose. Use it on the paws, the feet and the tail too, plus a soft spot on the cheek. The eyes go black around the white shines. Finish the cheese in yellow, with gold on the side face and orange in the holes.

💡 **Tip:** Lay down the light brown first, then go over the shade edge with tan.