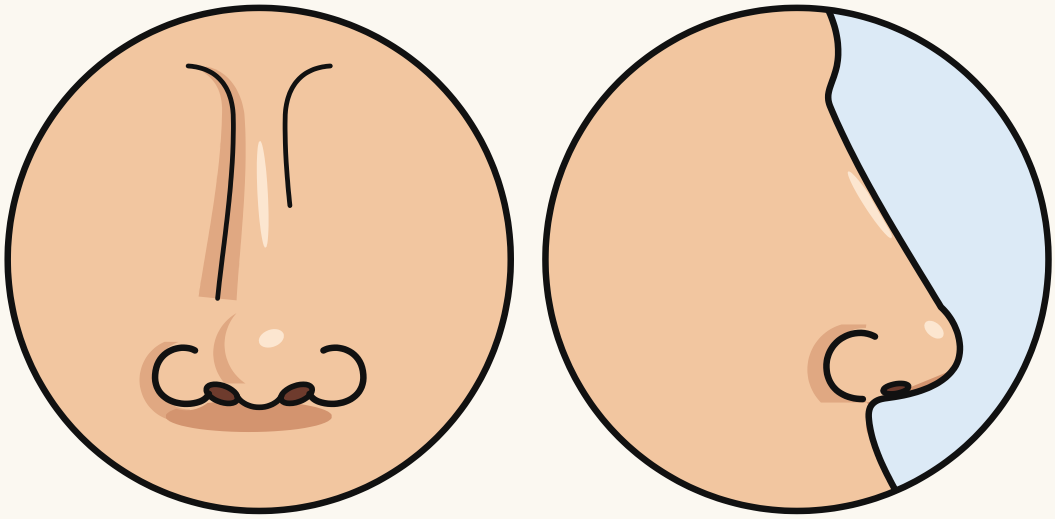
How to Draw a Nose

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

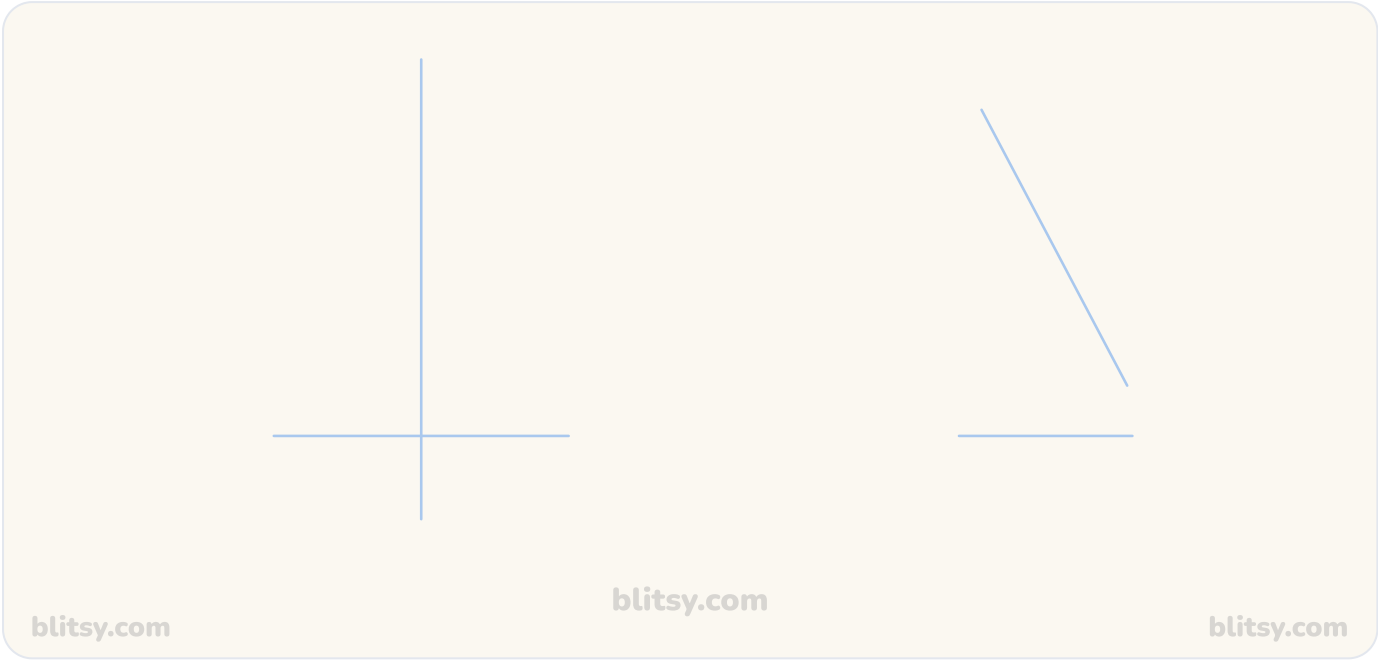
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black fineliner
- Peach, tan and brown colored pencils
- White paper

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 →

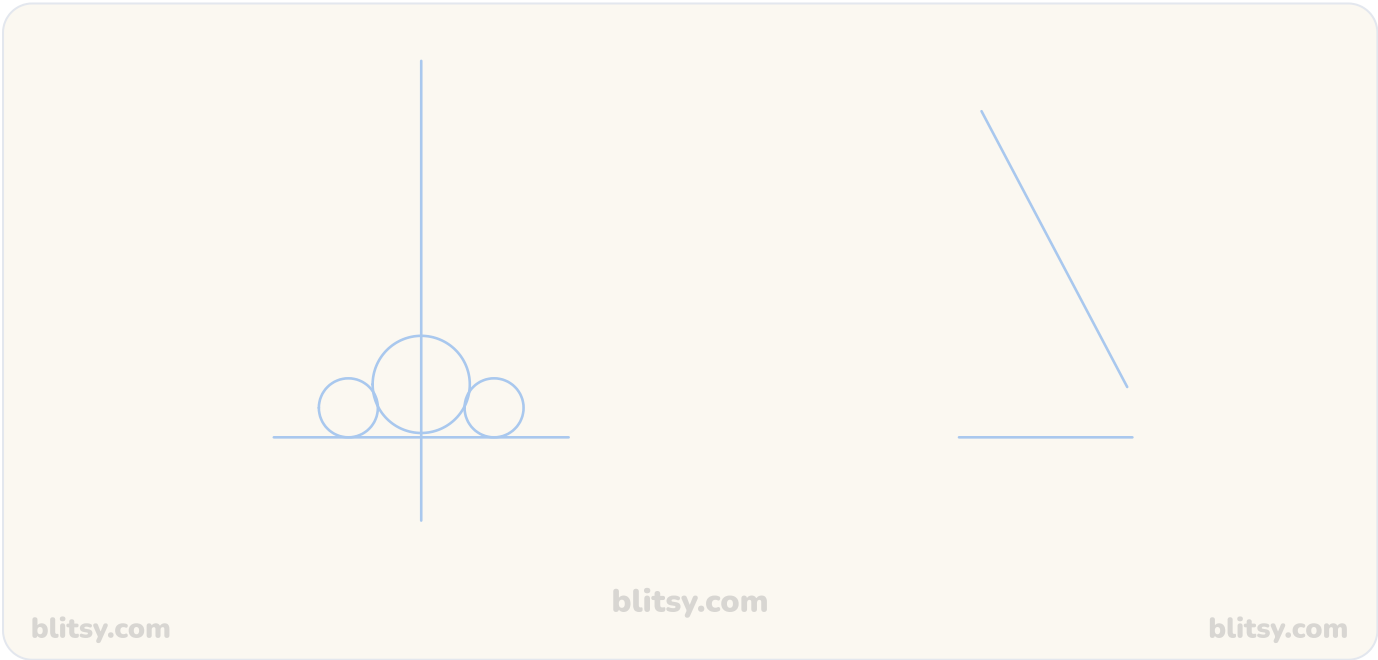
STEP 1 Draw the center, base and slope lines



Turn your paper sideways and think of it as two halves. On the left, draw a vertical center line and a short level line across its lower part, where the bottom of the nose will sit. On the right, draw a matching base line and a straight line slanting down toward it. That slant is the bridge in profile.

💡 **Tip:** Press so lightly that you can barely see the lines. Every one of them gets erased later.

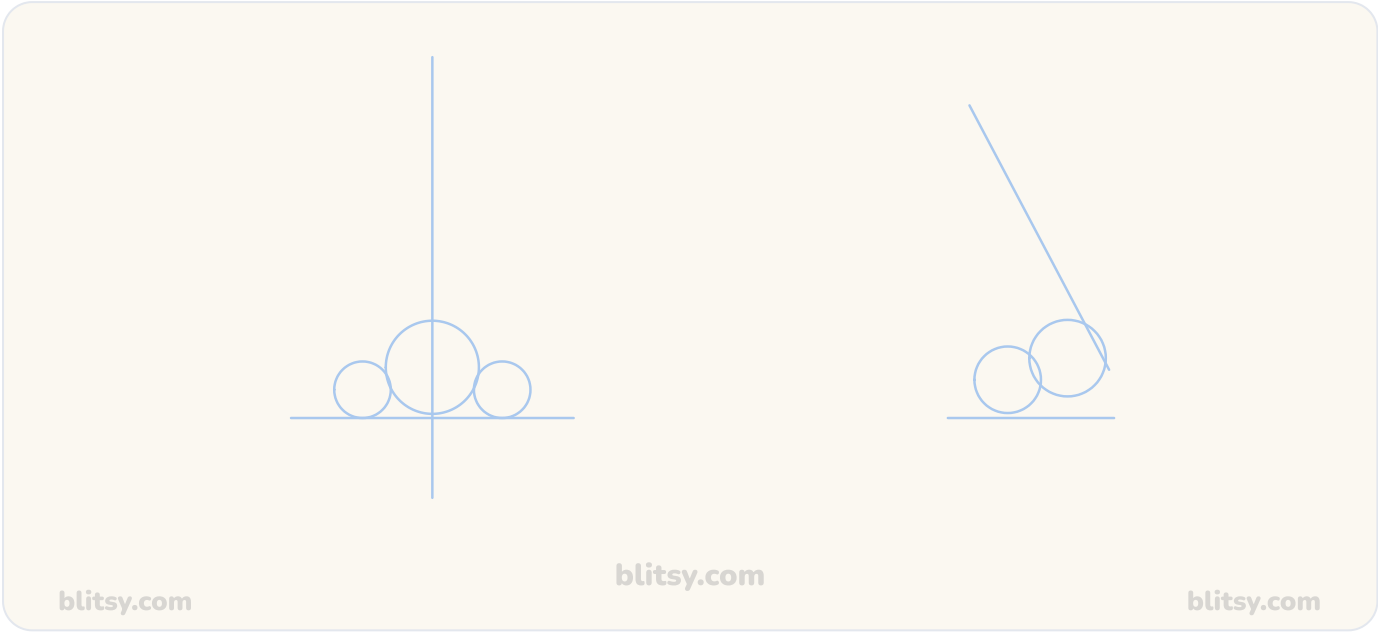
STEP 2 Add the ball and two wing circles



On the base line, right on the center line, draw a circle for the tip of the nose. Then draw a smaller circle on each side, a little lower and about two thirds the size, so the three just touch. I call this the ball and wings. On most people the group is about as wide as the gap between the eyes.

💡 **Tip:** Keep both wing circles the same size. Uneven wings make the nose look bent.

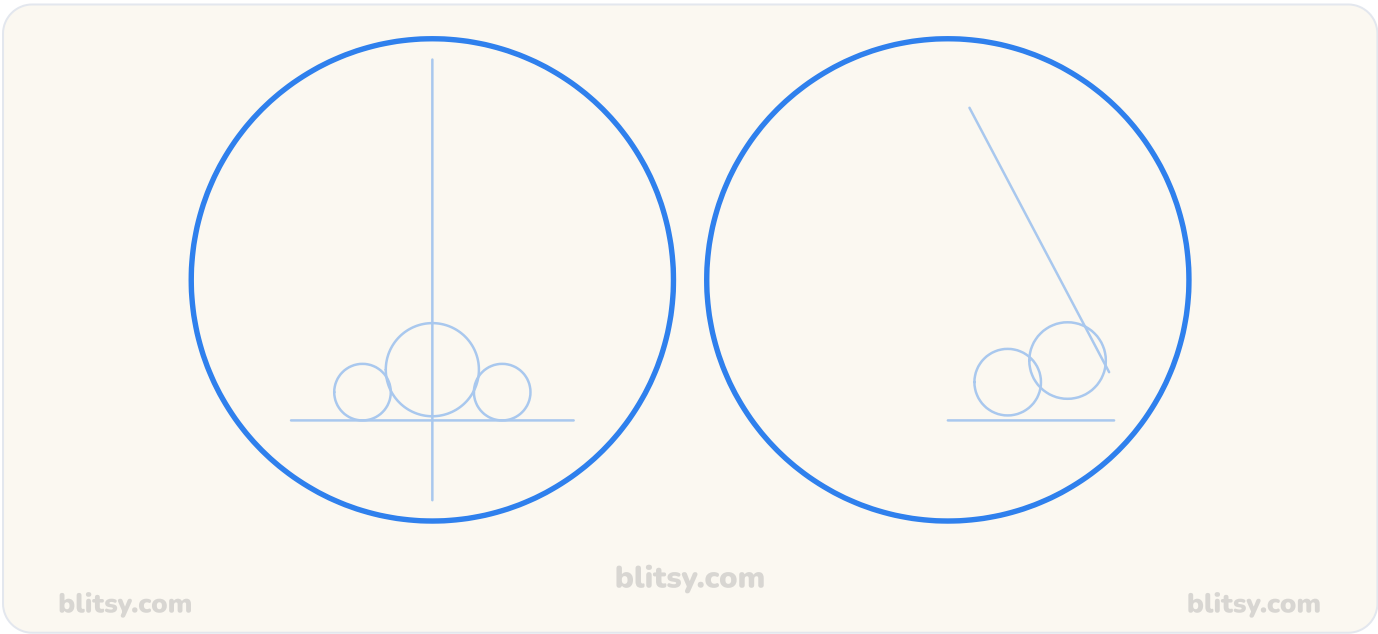
STEP 3 Place the tip and wing for the side view



Now the profile. Put a circle at the bottom end of the slanted line, so the line just grazes its front. That's the same tip ball, seen from the side. Behind it and slightly lower, add one wing circle of about the same size. From the side you only see one wing, because the other one hides behind the nose.

💡 **Tip:** Let the wing circle overlap the tip a little. If they float apart, the nose looks stuck on.

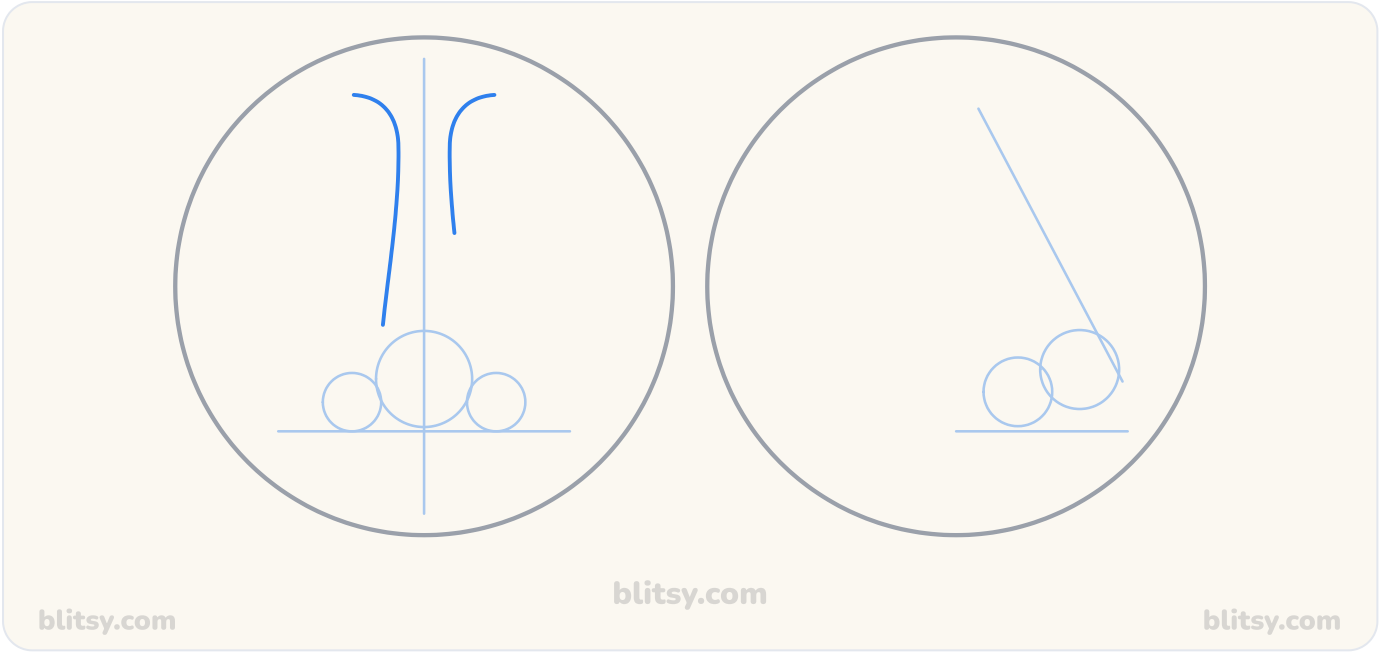
STEP 4 Draw a frame around each view



Draw a large circle around each set of guides, with plenty of room above the nose for the bridge. Each frame is a close-up window on a face, so you can color skin inside it instead of leaving a nose floating in the air. Drawing a nose inside a full face? Skip this step.

💡 **Tip:** Trace a plate or a bowl for the frames. Hand-drawn big circles wobble for almost everyone.

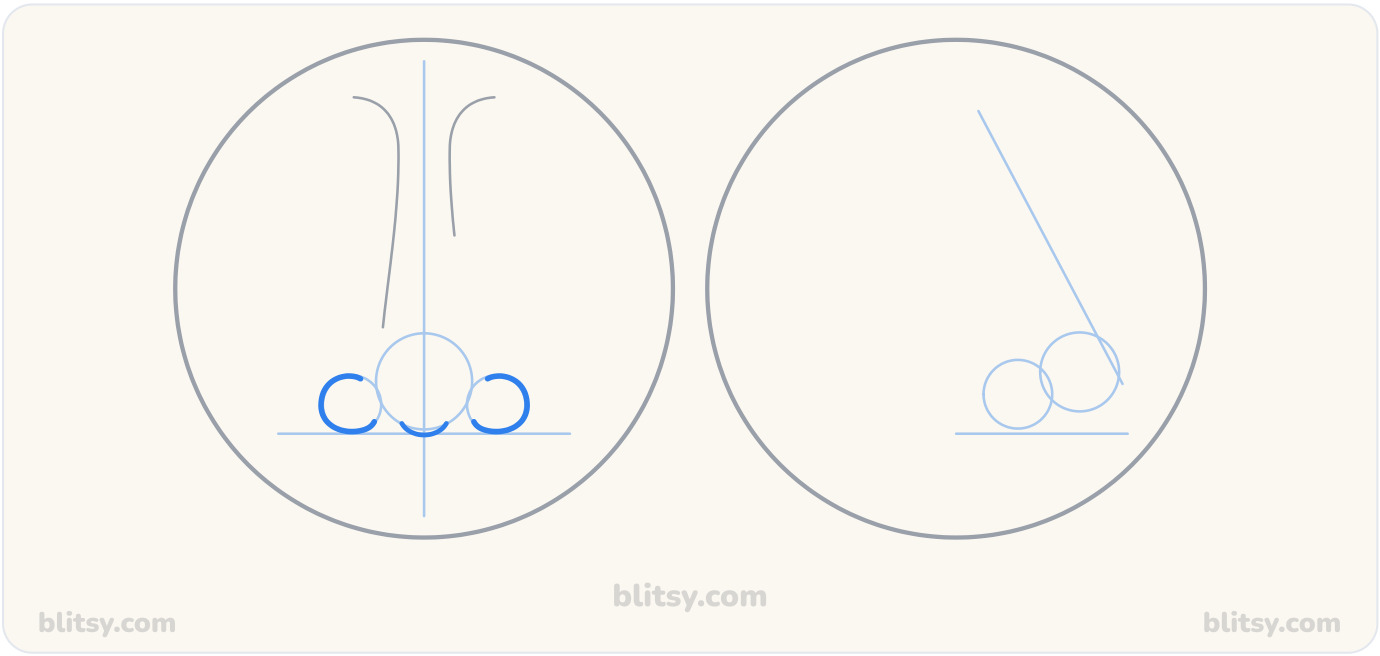
STEP 5 Sketch two soft bridge lines



Start each bridge line high up, at the inner end of where the eyebrow would be, curving it gently down and in. Then let it run straight down toward the ball. I end the left line just above the tip and stop the right one shorter, because the lit side barely needs a line.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the bridge lines thinner than everything else. Heavy ones turn the nose into a pipe.

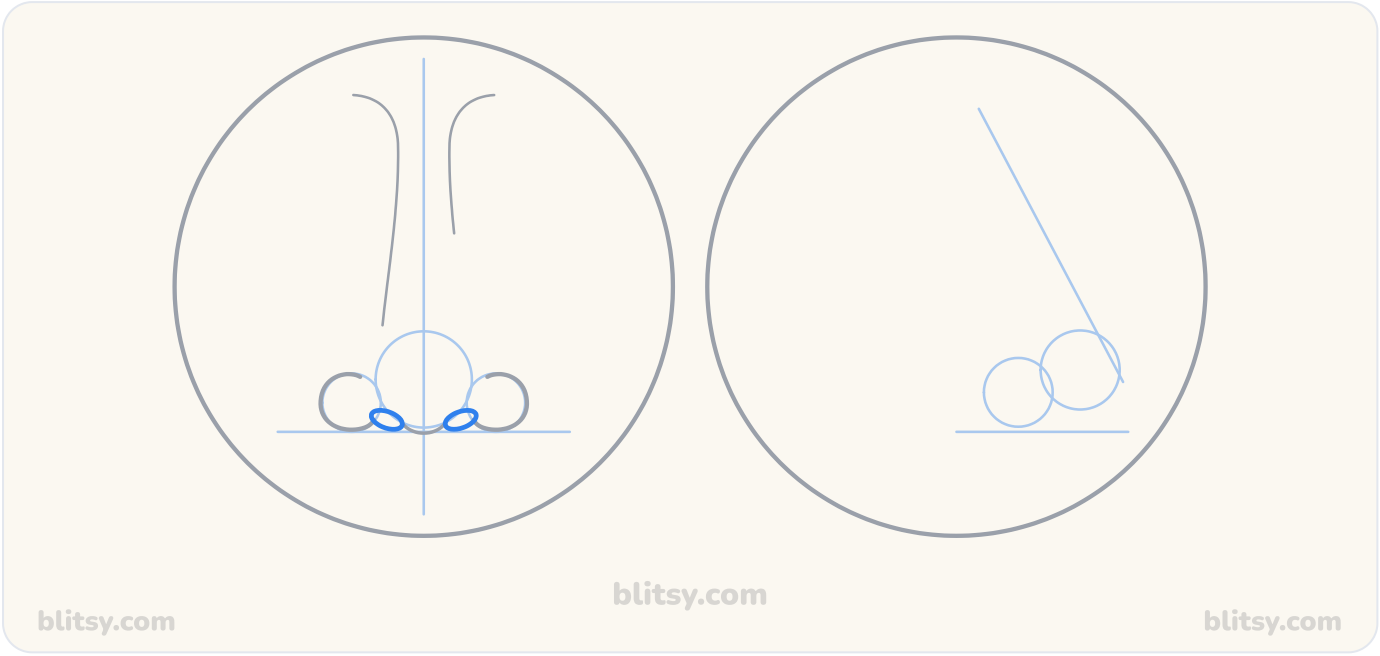
STEP 6 Shape the wings and the tip curve



Trace around the outside of each wing circle with a C-shaped curve. Start at the top of the wing, swing out and down, and hook the line back in underneath, toward the middle. Between the two hooks, draw a shallow U along the bottom of the tip ball. This little U is the underside of the tip, and it pulls the whole nose together.

💡 **Tip:** Leave a small gap where each wing meets the tip ball. Closed loops look like bubbles.

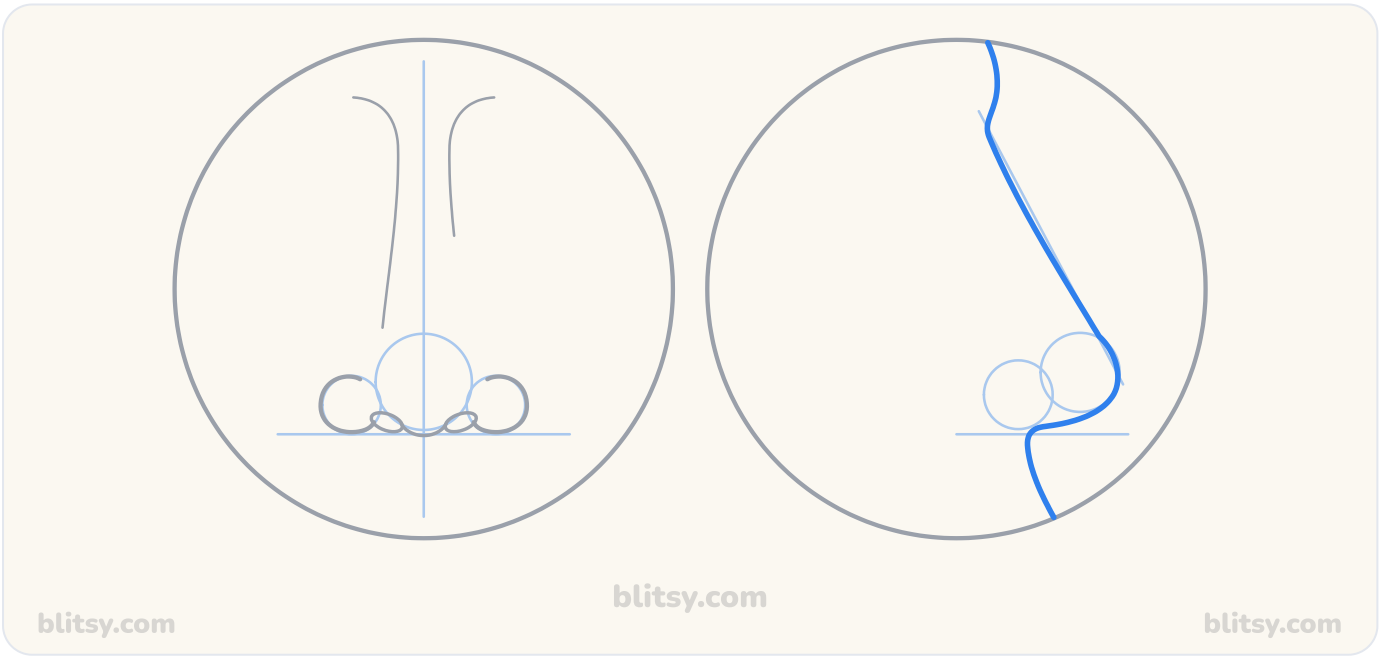
STEP 7 Add bean-shaped nostrils



Each nostril sits where the wing hook ends, tucked under the tip. Draw it as a small bean, tilted so the end nearest the center is a bit lower. Honestly, this is where most noses go wrong: big round holes look like a snout.

💡 **Tip:** Make the nostrils smaller than you think. You can always widen them, but shrinking is hard.

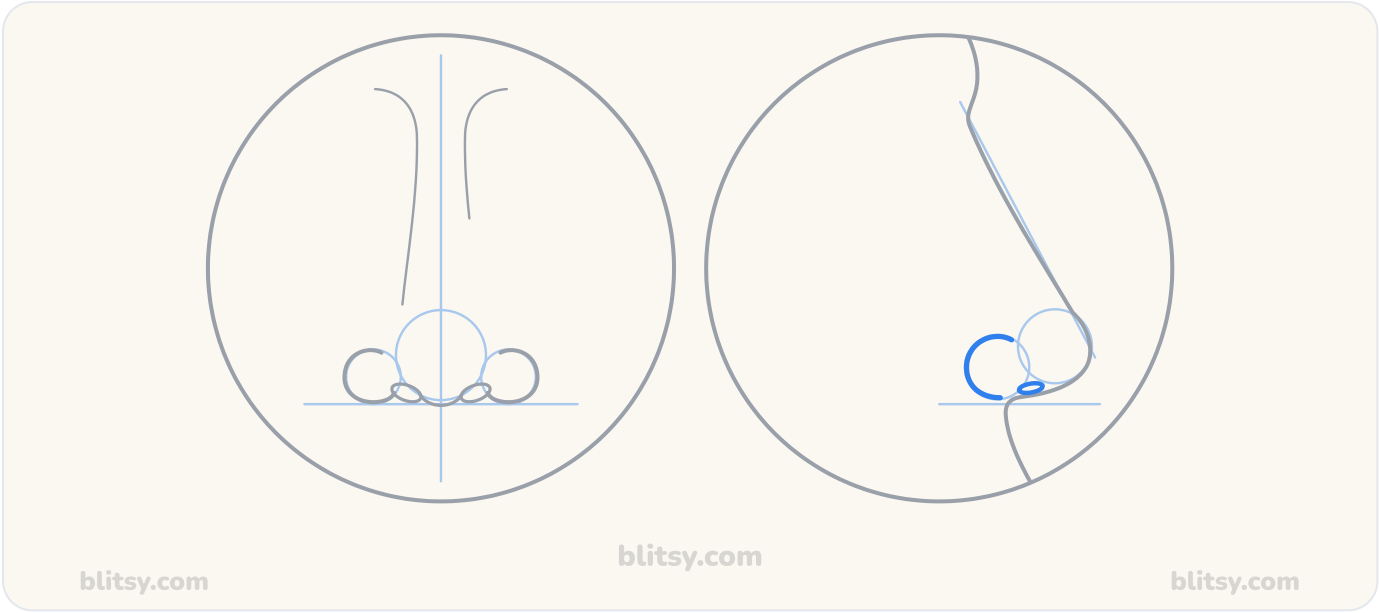
STEP 8 Draw the side profile line



This is one long line, so take it slowly. Start at the top of the right frame, bulge out a little for the brow, then dip in where the eyes are. Follow the slanted guide down to the tip ball and curve around its front. Under the tip, run the line back toward the face, then turn down for the upper lip.

💡 **Tip:** Stop at each bend, lift your pencil and check the guide before carrying on.

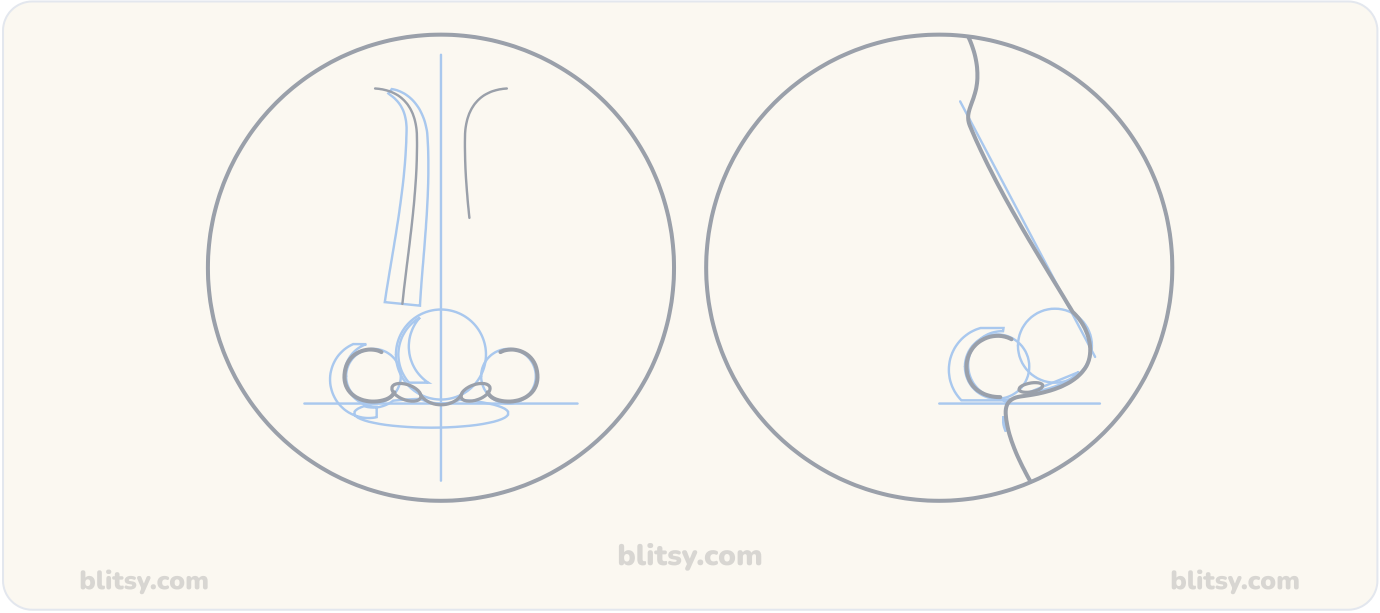
STEP 9 Add the side wing and nostril



Wrap a C-shaped curve around the back of the wing circle, open toward the tip. It starts near the top of the circle and finishes low, close to the line under the tip. Just in front of the curve, under the wing, draw a thin, flat nostril. From the side, the nostril is only a narrow slit, much smaller than in the front view.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the side nostril flat and narrow. A tall oval here looks like a hole punched in the cheek.

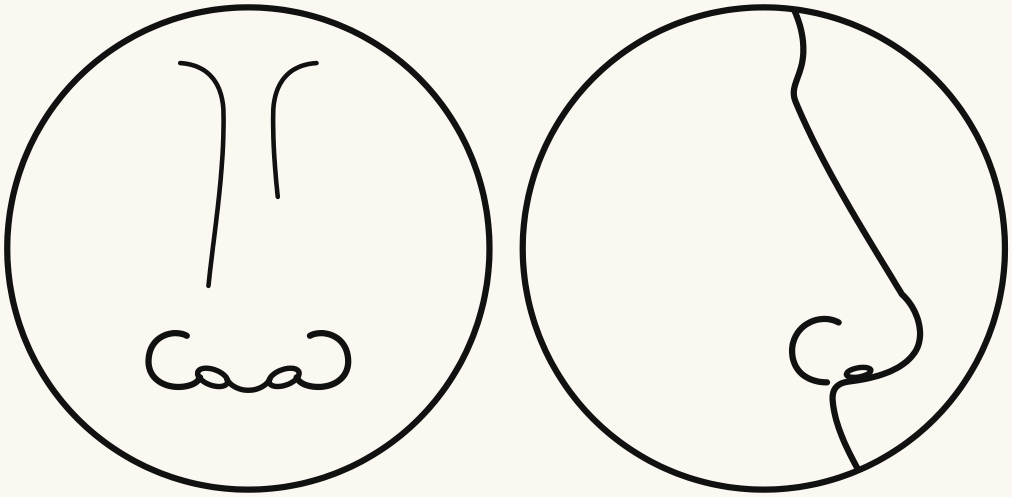
STEP 10 Map the shadow shapes lightly



Before you shade, decide where the light comes from. I put it at the upper right, so the left side of the nose is in shadow. Lightly outline a strip down the left of the bridge, a crescent on the ball, a curve hugging the left wing and a band under the nose. In profile, mark the cheek behind the wing and the area under the tip.

💡 **Tip:** Shadows are shapes, not smudges. Outlining them first keeps your shading clean.

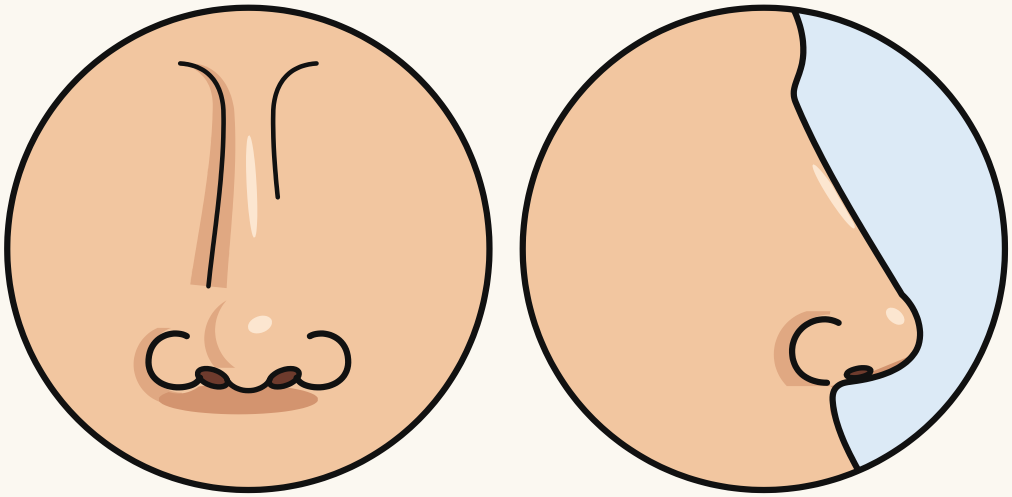
STEP 11 Ink the nose and erase the guides



Go over the frames, the bridge, the wings, the tip curve, the nostrils and the profile with a black fineliner. Leave the circles and the shadow map in pencil. Give the ink a minute, then erase every helper line. What's left looks simple, and that's honest: real noses have very few hard lines.

💡 **Tip:** Ink the long profile line in two or three smooth strokes rather than many short ones.

STEP 12 Color and shade the nose



Fill both frames with a light peach skin tone, and the space in front of the profile with light blue. Layer tan over the shadow shapes on the bridge, the ball and the wings, then a slightly deeper brown for the band under the nose. Color the nostrils dark brown and add cream highlights on the tip and bridge.

💡 **Tip:** Shade in small circles with light pressure. It blends skin tones far better than back-and-forth strokes.