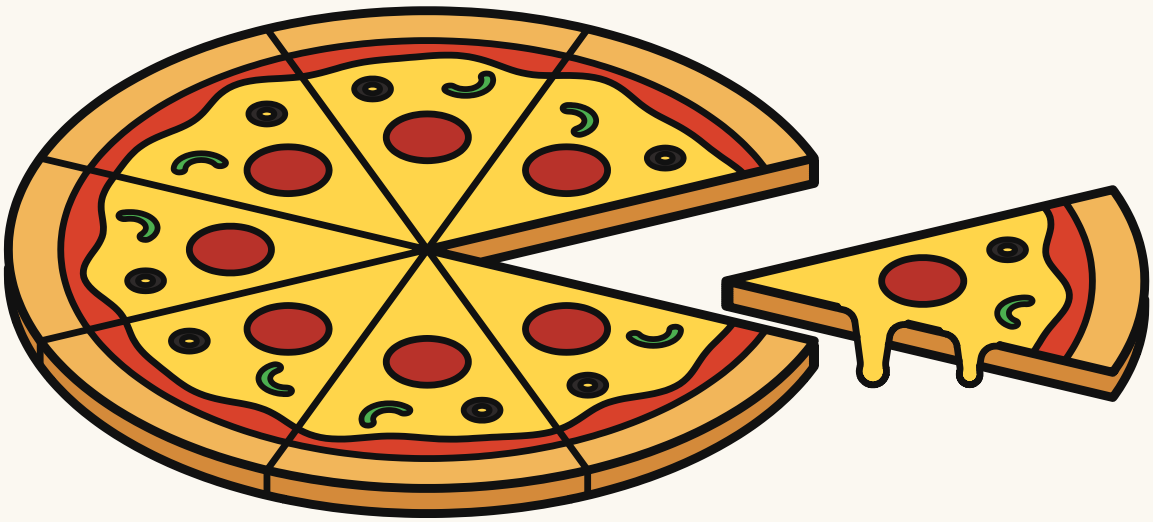
How to Draw a Pizza

11 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

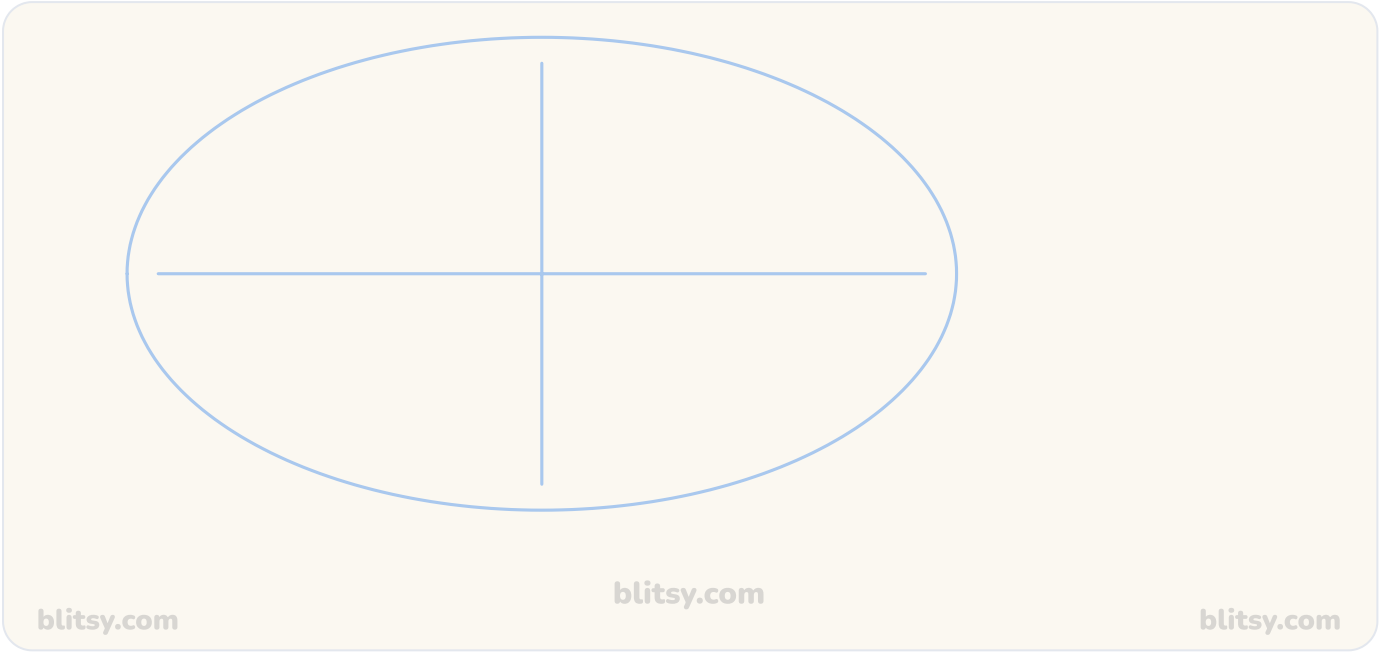
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black fineliner
- Colored pencils
- Plain paper

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 →

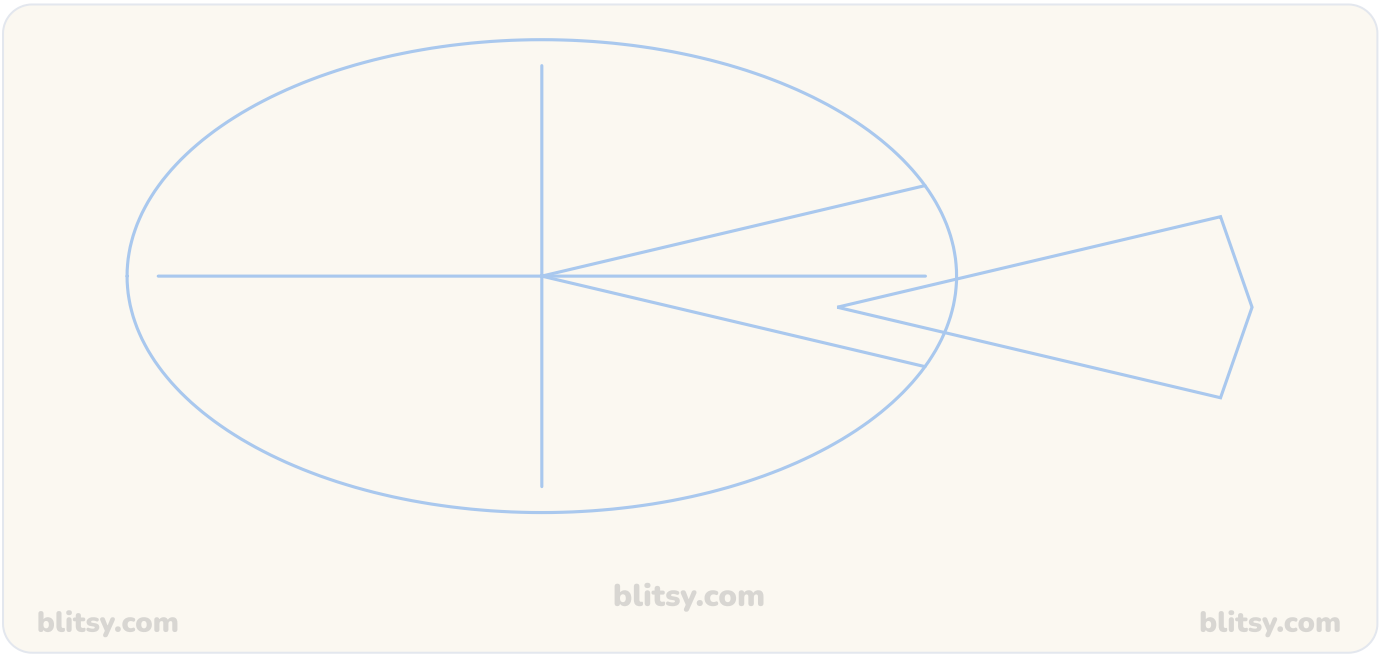
STEP 1 Draw a big flat oval



Sketch a wide oval on the left two thirds of your paper, about twice as wide as it is tall. A flat oval is how a round pizza looks from a little above. Add a light cross through the middle; where the lines meet is the center.

💡 **Tip:** Leave an empty strip on the right side of the paper. The loose slice will need that room.

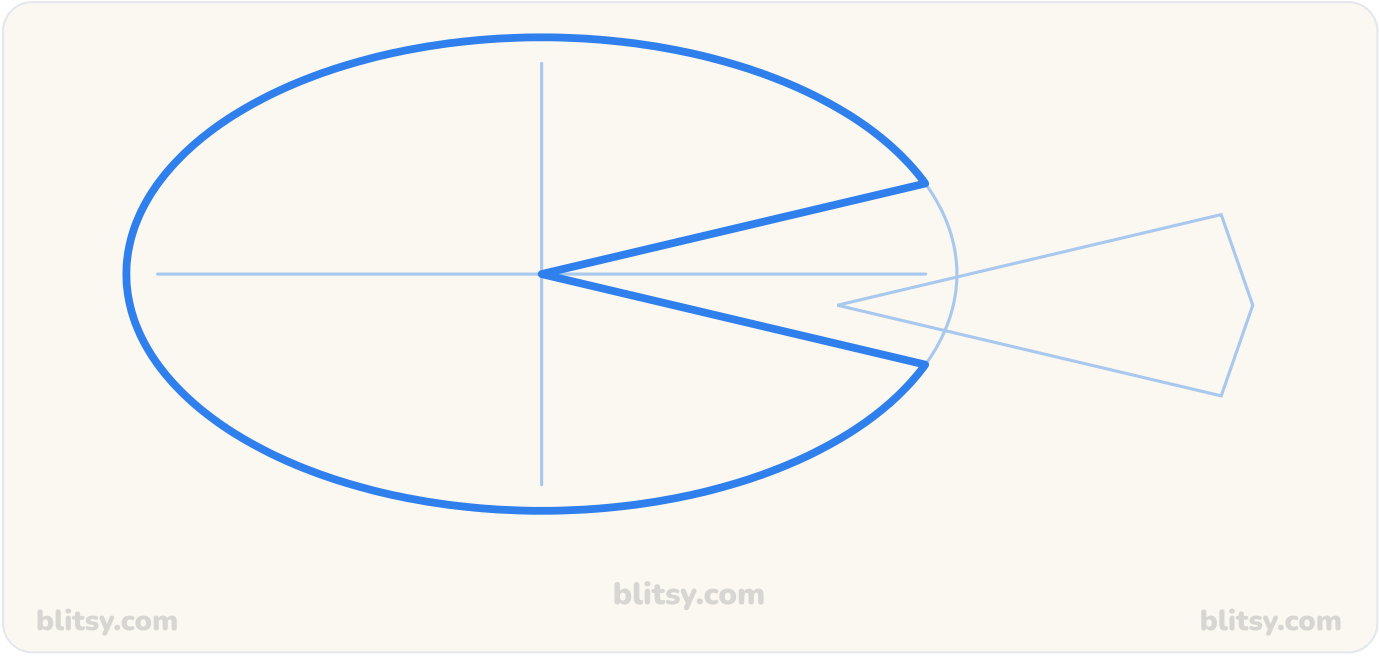
STEP 2 Mark where the missing slice goes



From the center, draw two lines out to the right edge of the oval, one tilting up and one tilting down, like a narrow open mouth. That gap is the slice somebody has already taken. Then, to the right of the oval, sketch a long triangle pointing back toward the pizza. I place its tip just inside the gap so the slice looks like it was only just pulled away.

💡 **Tip:** Make the gap about as wide at the edge as one eighth of the oval's outline.

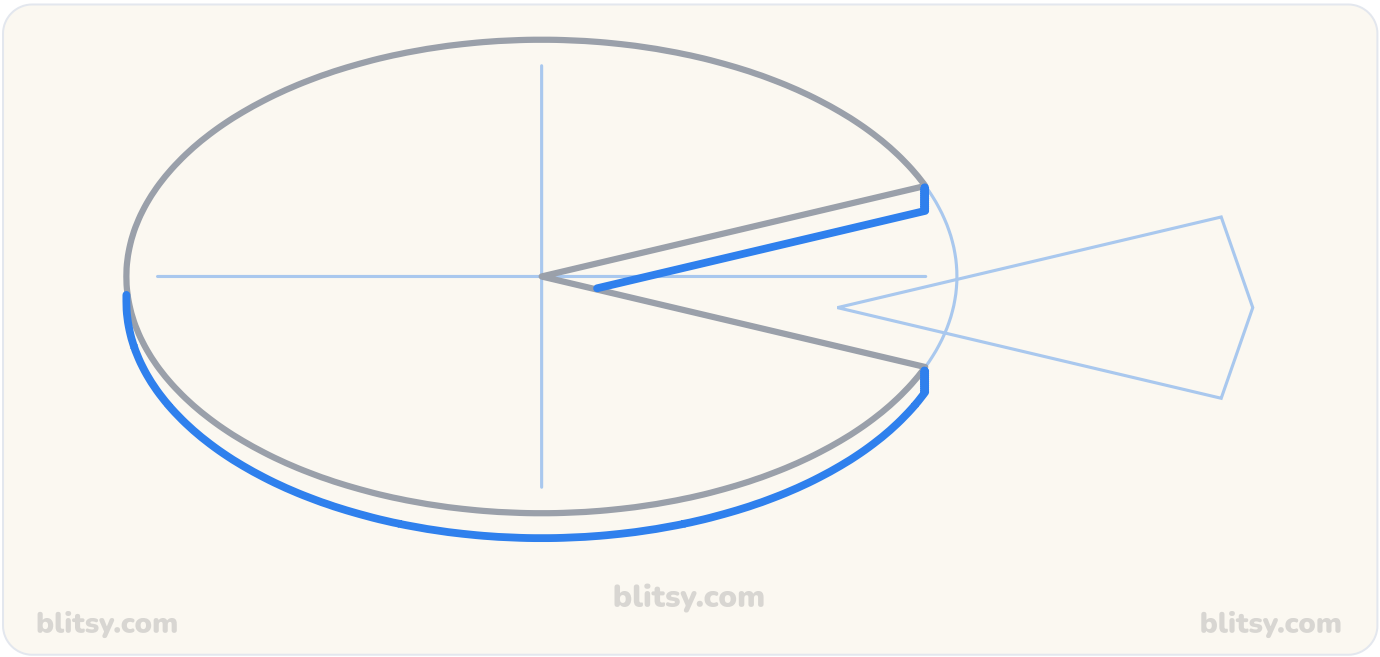
STEP 3 Outline the pizza with a gap



Go over the oval with a firmer line, but stop at the two gap lines and travel along them into the center and back out. Skip the part of the oval that runs across the gap. It isn't there anymore, and drawing it would make the pizza look whole again.

💡 **Tip:** Turn the paper as you go around the oval, so your hand always draws the curve from the inside.

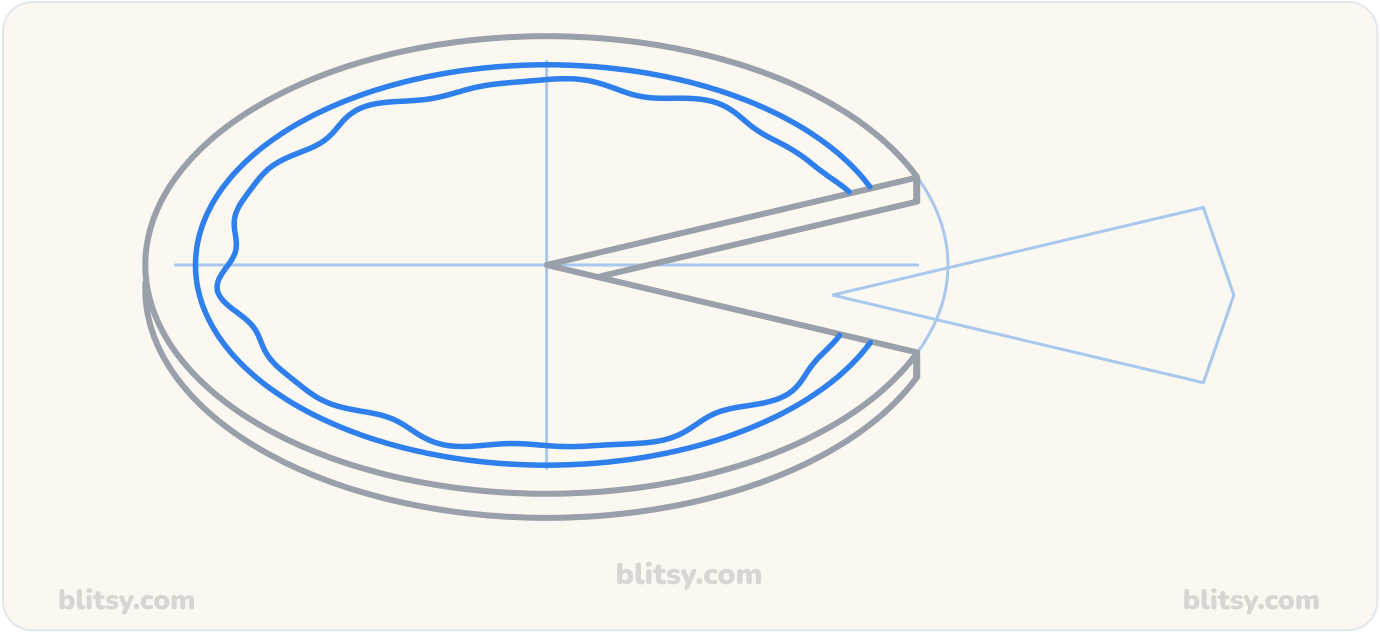
STEP 4 Give the pizza a thick crust edge



A pizza has some height, and this step shows it. Draw a second curve just under the front half of the outline, from the far left around to the gap. Inside the gap, add a thin strip of the same thickness under the upper cut line. That's the cut side of the next slice.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the edge thin, roughly a finger's width. A tall edge turns the pizza into a cake.

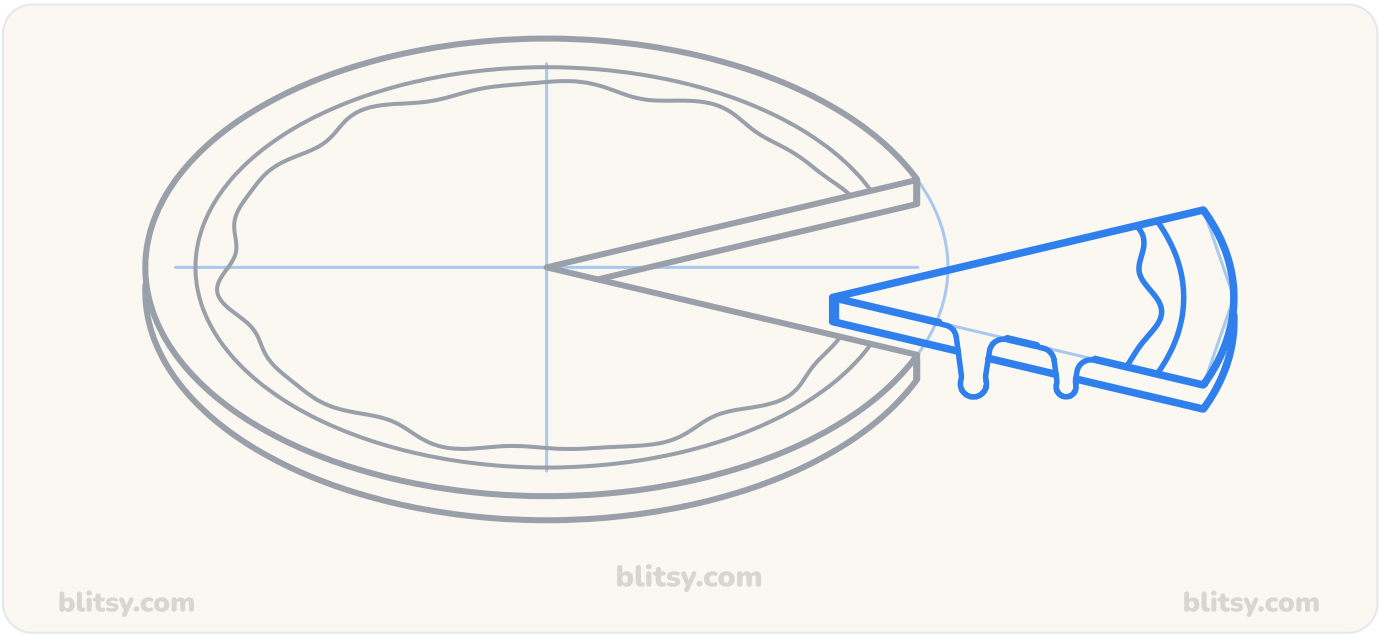
STEP 5 Add the crust ring and the cheese edge



Draw a smaller oval inside the outline for the inner side of the crust. I leave the crust a little wider on the left and right than at the top and bottom, because the tilt squashes the front and back. Inside that, draw a wobbly line for the edge of the melted cheese. The narrow space between becomes the sauce.

💡 **Tip:** Make the cheese wobble small and uneven. Big regular waves look like a flower.

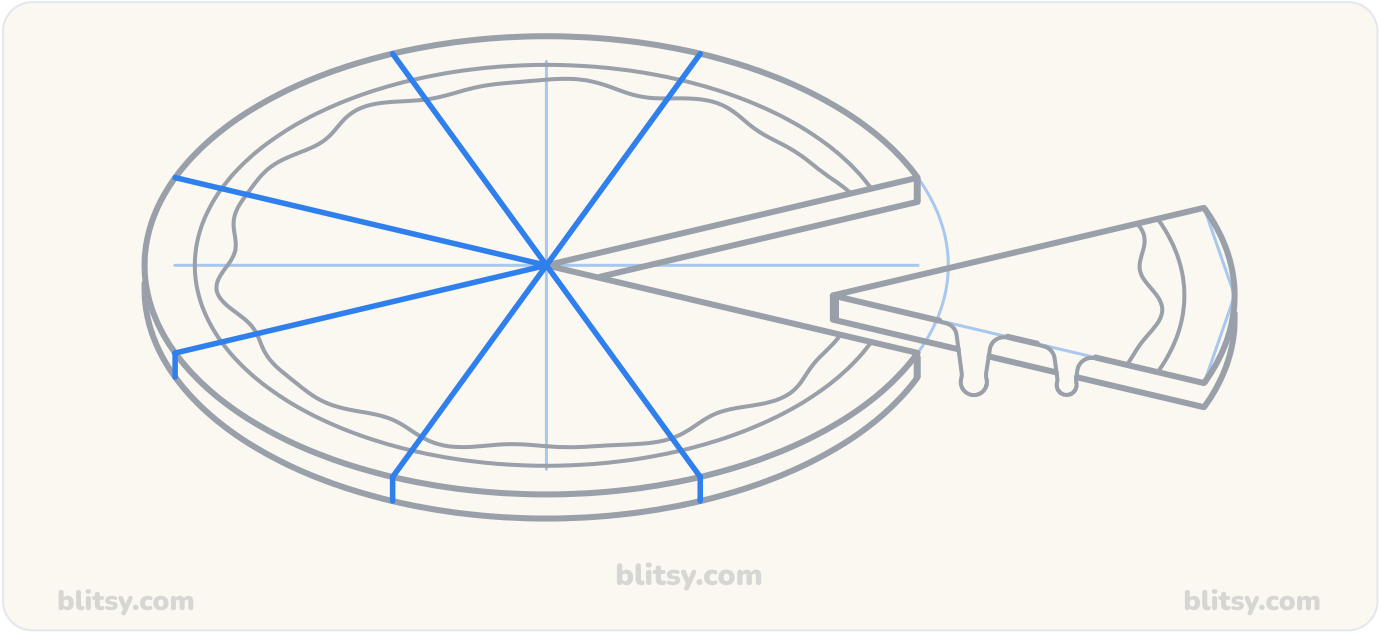
STEP 6 Draw the pulled-out slice and its drips



Turn the triangle guide into a real slice: a pointed tip, two straight sides and a curved crust end that matches the curve of the pizza. Give it the same thin edge underneath, then copy the crust line and cheese line onto the wide end. Along the front edge, let two cheese drips hang down over the side. I make one drip longer than the other, because matching drips look stuck on.

💡 **Tip:** Round off the bottom of each drip like a drop of honey. Pointy drips look like teeth.

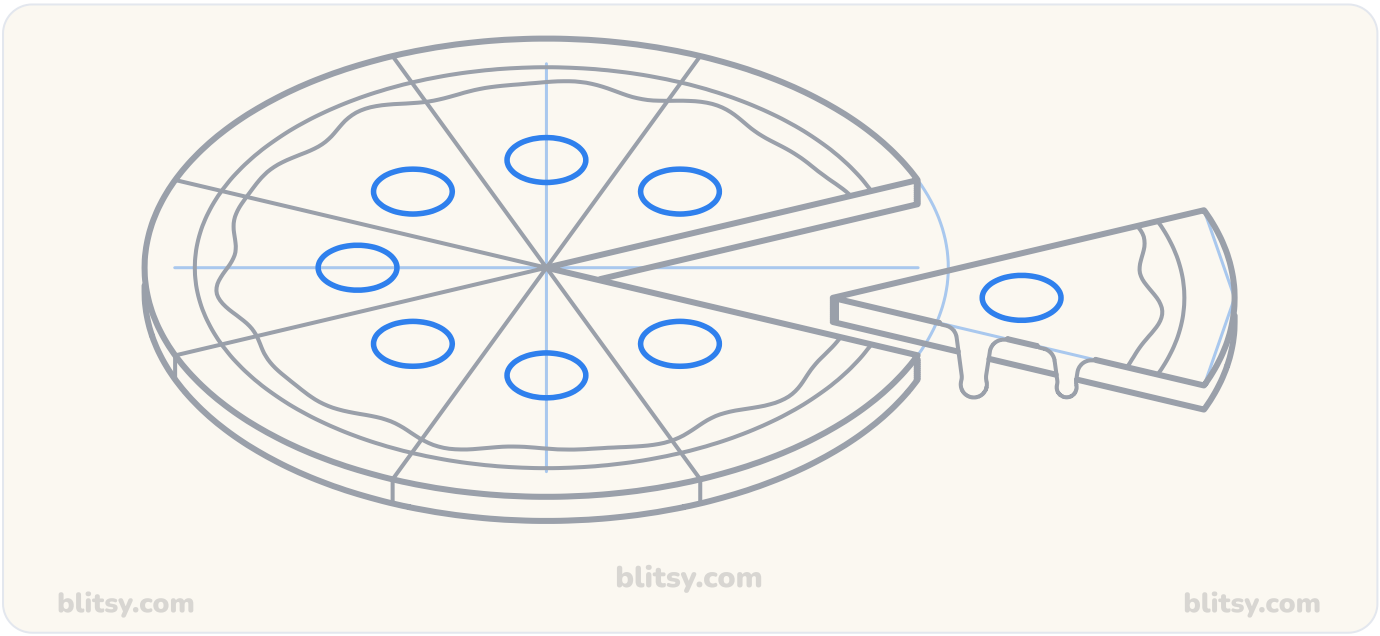
STEP 7 Cut the rest of the pizza into slices



Draw six straight lines from the center out to the edge, spaced evenly. Together with the gap, that makes eight slices. Where a cut reaches the front edge, add a tiny upright line through the thick crust so the cut goes all the way down.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the cuts that go straight up and down first, then split each half into thirds by eye.

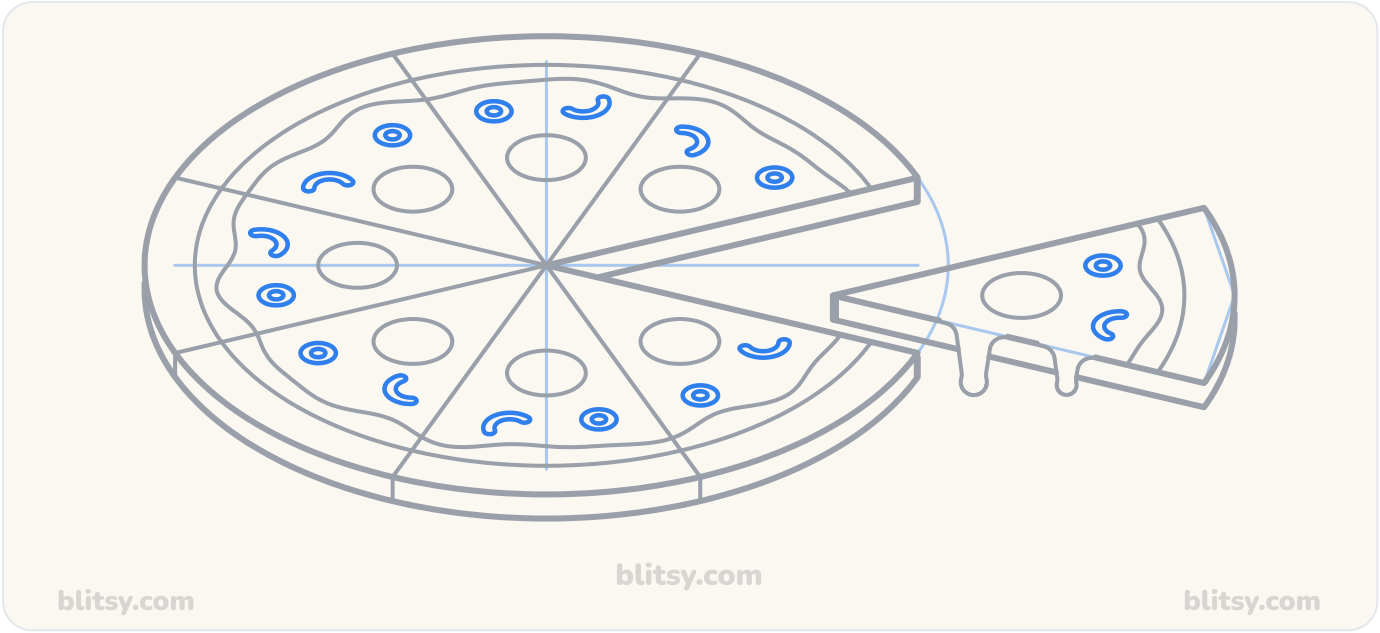
STEP 8 Add the pepperoni



Put one pepperoni in the middle of every slice, the loose one too. Draw them as flat ovals, not circles, since they lie on the tilted pizza just like the pizza itself. Keep each one well inside its slice so no cut line runs through it. Most beginners draw these too small; on this pizza each one fills about half the width of its slice.

💡 **Tip:** Match the pepperoni's tilt to the big oval. Round circles here make them look like they're standing up.

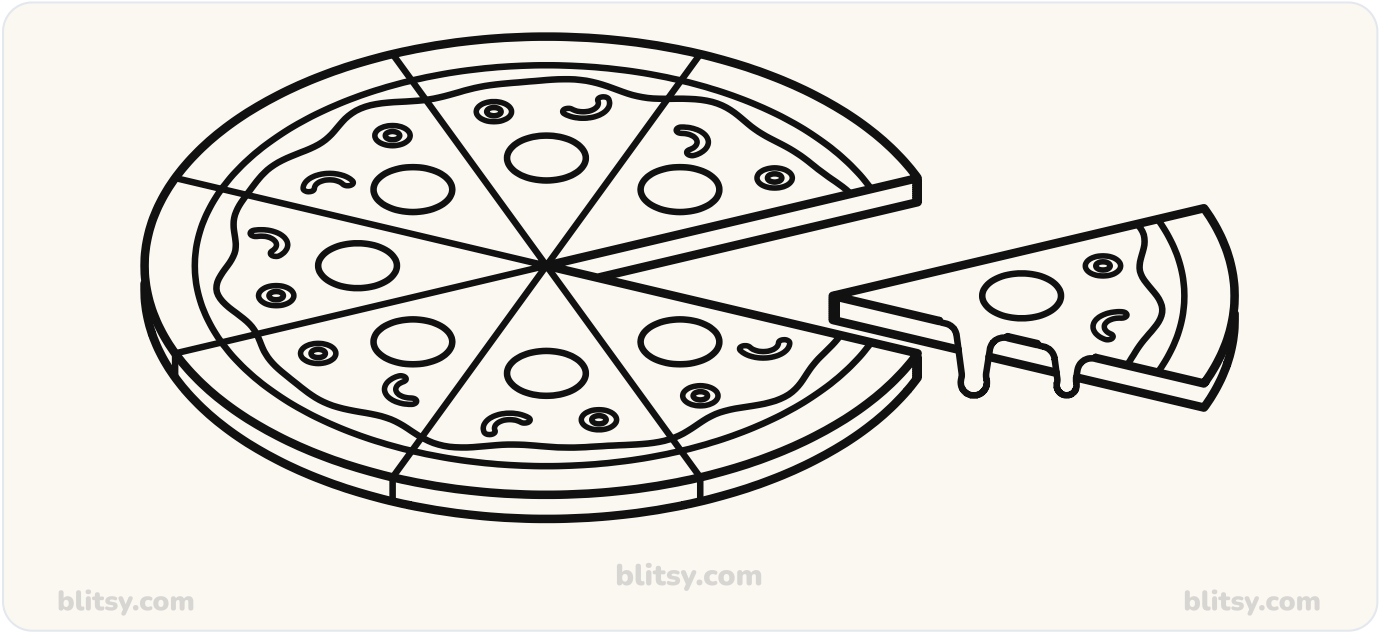
STEP 9 Scatter green peppers and olives



Near the outer part of each slice, add one small curved strip for a green pepper and one tiny ring for a sliced olive. A ring is just a little oval with a smaller oval inside. Swap their sides from slice to slice, which stops the pizza from looking like wallpaper.

💡 **Tip:** Bend the pepper strips in different directions, the way real ones fall onto a pizza.

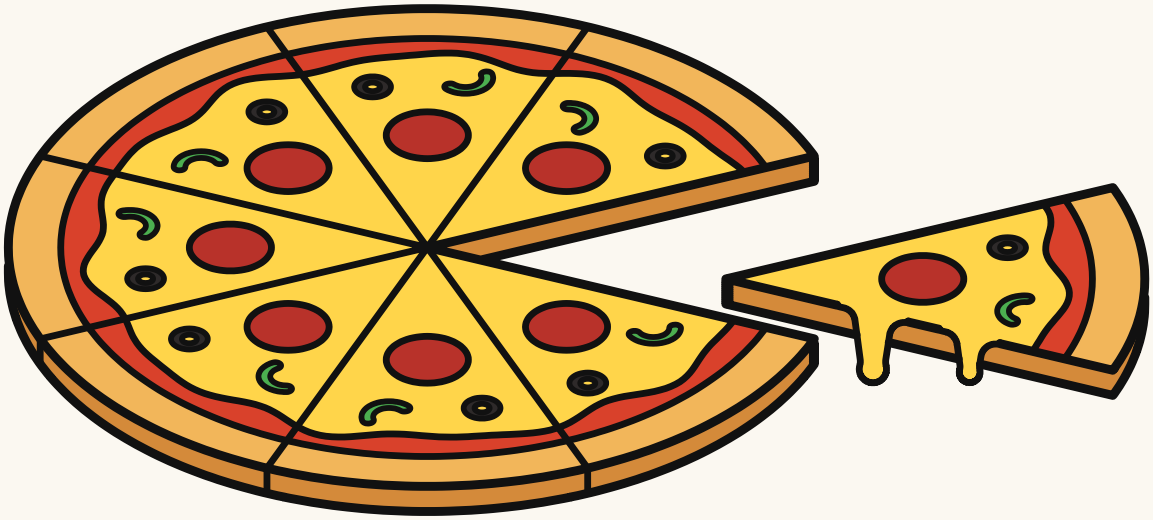
STEP 10 Ink the lines and erase the guides



Trace every line you want to keep with your black pen: the outline, the thick edge, the crust ring, the cheese, the slice, the drips, the cuts and all the toppings. Wait a moment for the ink to dry. Then erase the cross, the gap lines and the triangle guide. Honestly, this is the step where it starts to look like food.

💡 **Tip:** Use a slightly heavier stroke on the outside edges than on the toppings. It makes the shape pop.

STEP 11 Color the pizza



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Start with the crust: golden yellow on top and light brown on the thick edge and the cut sides. Fill the thin ring between crust and cheese with red for the sauce. Color all the cheese, drips included, a bright yellow. Finally, I go dark red on the pepperoni, green on the peppers and black on the olives, leaving their little holes yellow.

💡 **Tip:** Press harder near the crust's outer edge and lighter toward the cheese for a baked look.