How to Draw a Princess

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

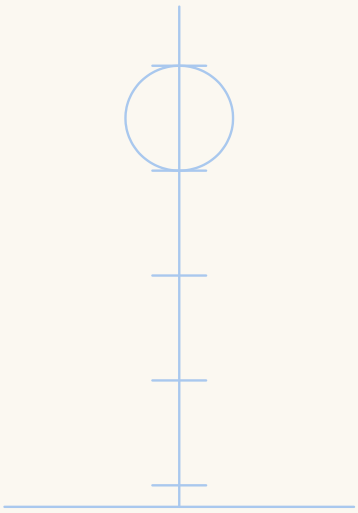
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black fineliner
- Colored pencils or markers
- Paper

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 →

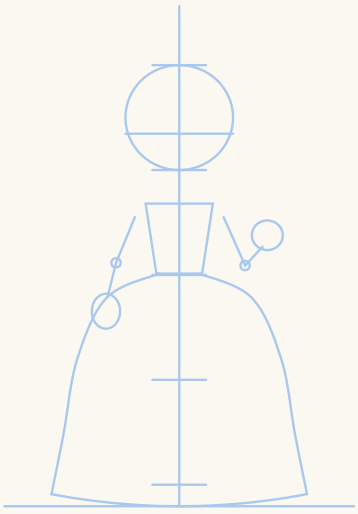
STEP 1 Draw a center line and head marks



Draw a long, light line down the middle of the paper and a flat ground line across the bottom. Add a circle for the head at the top. Then mark the head's height again and again down the center line, so she ends up about four and a half heads tall.

💡 **Tip:** Press so lightly that you can barely see the marks; all of them get erased later.

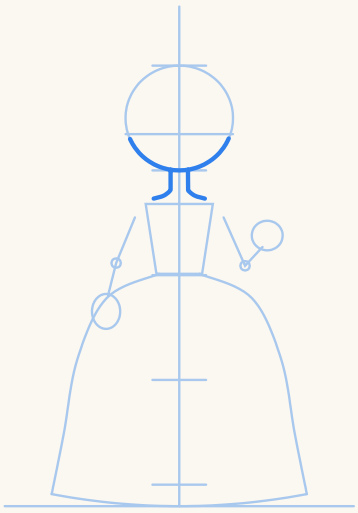
STEP 2 Sketch the bodice box, the bell and the arm lines



Under the head, draw a narrow box, slightly wider at the top, for the bodice. From its bottom corners, swing two curves out and down to the ground like the sides of a bell. I use stick lines for the arms: one hangs down, the other bends up so the hand sits beside her shoulder.

💡 **Tip:** Let the bell curves bulge outward near the top; straight lines give you a triangle dress instead of a ball gown.

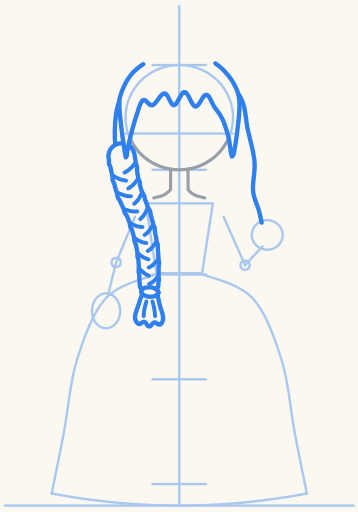
STEP 3 Outline the face and the neck



Go over the lower half of the head circle for a round face with a soft chin; the top will be hidden by hair anyway. Two short lines make the neck, flaring out a little at the bottom. Keep the neck thin, because a wide neck makes a cartoon girl look much older.

💡 **Tip:** Leave the sides of the face slightly fuller than a perfect circle for chubby, friendly cheeks.

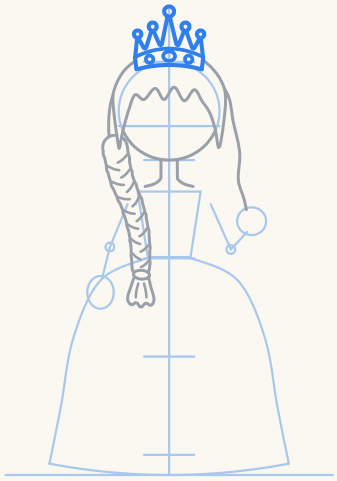
STEP 4 Add the bangs, the back hair and a side braid



Draw the hair as a cap sitting slightly outside the head circle, with a row of pointed clumps across the forehead. Leave a gap on top where the crown will sit. On one side, let the back hair fall in a long wave past the shoulder. On the other, draw a thick tube from the temple over the shoulder, add slanted lines inside it, and finish with a hair tie and a small tuft.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the braid lines like a fishbone, each one slanting from the edge in toward the middle.

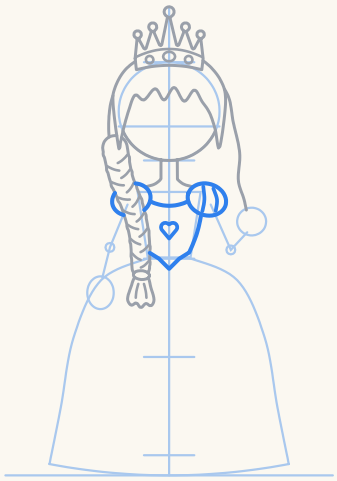
STEP 5 Place a crown with round gems



Sit the crown on top of the hair, not on the forehead. Draw a curved band first, then five points rising from it, with the middle one tallest. A small ball on each tip keeps it friendly instead of spiky. Add an oval gem in the middle of the band and a round one on each side.

💡 **Tip:** A crown that's narrower than the head looks dainty; one as wide as the head starts to look like a helmet.

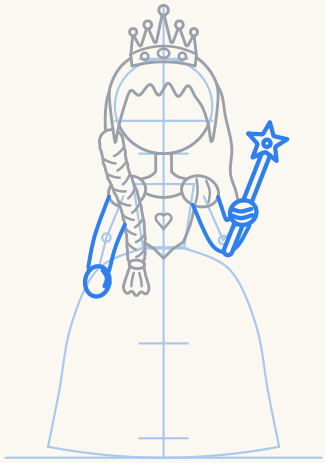
STEP 6 Draw the bodice and the puffed sleeves



Trace the bodice from your guide box. The neckline is a gentle scoop, the sides come in a little at the waist, and the bottom ends in a shallow V pointing into the skirt. Draw a round puff on each shoulder with two curved lines inside so the sleeves look gathered. A small heart in the middle is a sweet extra.

💡 **Tip:** Tilt the sleeve puffs slightly outward, so they look like they rest on the shoulders instead of floating.

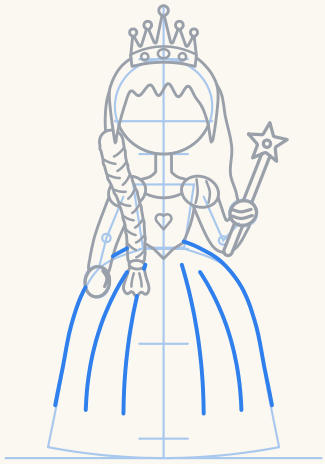
STEP 7 Shape soft arms, hands and a star wand



Around each stick line, draw two lines that are wider at the top and narrower at the wrist. I keep cartoon arms soft and fairly thick, because thin arms next to a big gown look like twigs. The hanging hand is a mitten oval resting on the skirt. The raised hand is a round fist wrapped around a thin stick with a star on top.

💡 **Tip:** Leave a small gap of paper between the hanging arm and her waist, so the arm doesn't melt into the body.

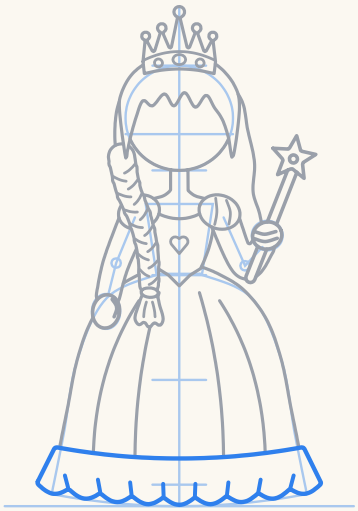
STEP 8 Draw the ball gown and its soft folds



Starting under the point of the bodice, draw the skirt along your bell guides. The sides puff out quickly at the hips, then fall almost straight down. Stop a little above the ground, since the ruffle comes next. Inside, draw four long curves from the hips toward the hem, each bowing outward slightly; they make the fabric look heavy and soft.

💡 **Tip:** Space the folds wider apart at the bottom than at the top, like the ribs of an open umbrella.

STEP 9 Add the scalloped ruffle hem



Across the bottom of the skirt, draw a band slightly wider than the gown that dips in the middle. Give its lower edge a row of rounded scallops touching the ground line. Then add a short line up from each dip. Those tiny lines tell the eye the fabric is gathered.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the middle scallop first and work outward to both sides, so they stay evenly sized.

STEP 10 Give her a sweet face and some sparkles



Most of her charm comes from this step. Place two tall ovals on the eye line, about one eye width apart, and leave a round white shine near the top of each. Add a lash flick at each outer corner, soft brows, a small hook for the nose, a small curved smile well above the chin and pink cheeks. Scatter a few four-point sparkles around her.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the eyes low on the face, roughly halfway down the head, for a younger, cuter look.

STEP 11 Ink the outline and erase the guides



Trace every line you want to keep with a black pen. I go slowly around the crown and the braid, since they have the most small turns. Skip the center line, the head marks and the bell guides. Let the ink dry for a minute, then erase the pencil underneath.

💡 **Tip:** Turn the paper as you ink curves; your hand draws smoother lines pulling toward you than pushing away.

STEP 12 Color your princess



Color the gown and bodice light purple, then add a darker purple along the right side of the skirt and beside each fold. The sleeves and ruffle get pale lilac. Use brown for the hair, peach for the skin and yellow for the crown and wand. Finish with a blue center gem, red side gems and pink for the heart and cheeks.

💡 **Tip:** Color the big gown in long strokes that follow the folds, never in scribbly circles.