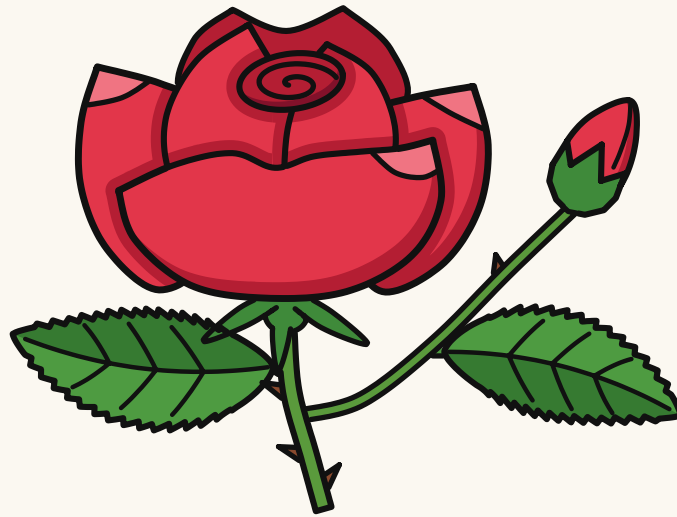


How to Draw a Rose

12 easy steps for beginners



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What you'll need

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

How to use this guide

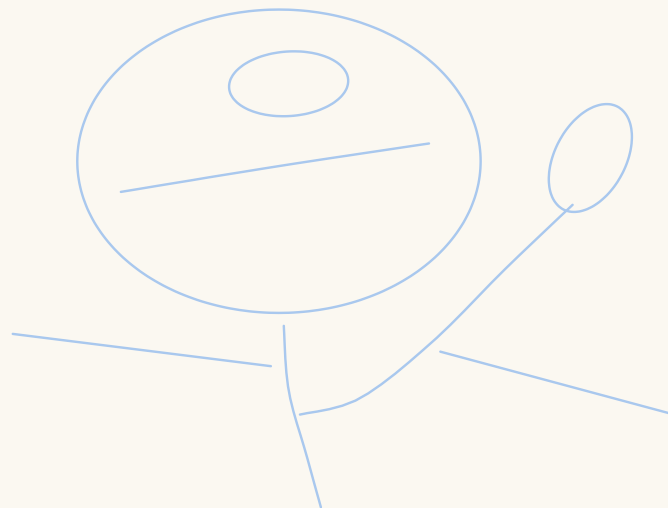
New lines for each step are shown in **blue**; lines you already drew are gray. Draw lightly first, then ink and erase near the end.

[Read the full tutorial online →](#)

STEP 1 Draw two ovals and a cup line

Start with a wide oval a little left of centre; this holds the whole bloom. Near the top of it, draw a much smaller oval, about a quarter as wide. Then add one gently slanted line across the middle of the big oval. That line marks the top edge of the front petal later on.

 **Tip:** Hold the pencil far back from the tip so your guide lines stay faint and easy to erase.

STEP 2 Add guides for the stem, bud and leaves

From under the big oval, draw a long stem line that leans slightly to the right as it goes down. About two thirds of the way down, branch a second line up to the right and end it with a small tilted oval for the bud. Two straight lines, one on each side of the stem, mark where the leaves will sit.

 **Tip:** Keep the bud oval no bigger than the small oval in the bloom, or it will compete with the main flower.

STEP 3 Draw a spiral at the top

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Here's the heart of the spiral method. Trace the small oval as a real line, then draw a loose spiral inside it, starting in the middle and turning outward about one and a half times. I keep the spiral flatter than a circle, because we're looking down at the rose from an angle.

 **Tip:** Leave a little space between the spiral's turns; tight loops blur into a dark blob once inked.

STEP 4 Wrap two petals around the spiral

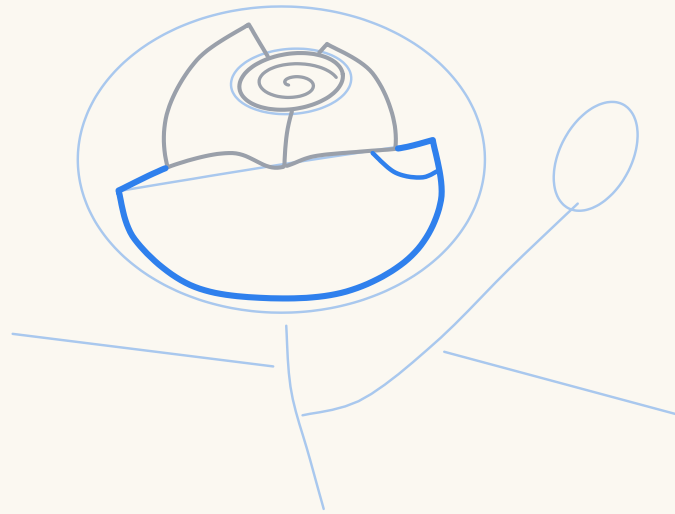
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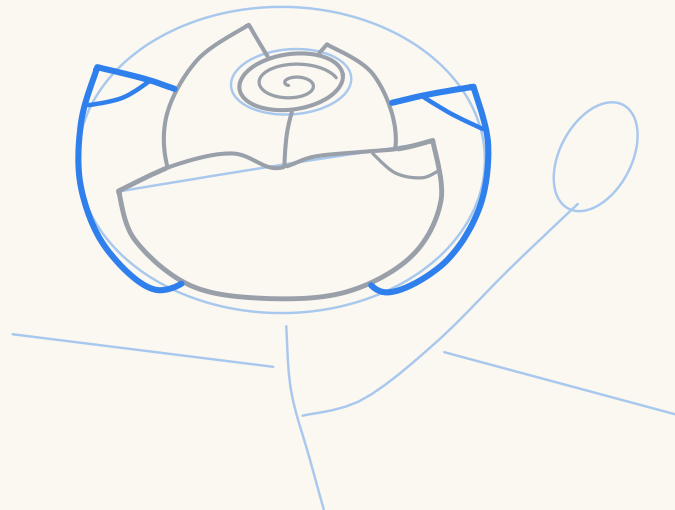
On the left, draw a tall petal that hugs the side of the spiral and rises to a small point above it. On the right, draw a shorter one that overlaps the first in the middle. Close both petals at the bottom with a wavy line that follows the cup guide. This wrapping is what makes a spiral look like a rose.

 **Tip:** Give each petal tip a slight point, since real rose petals fold back at the edge.

STEP 5 Draw the big front cup petal

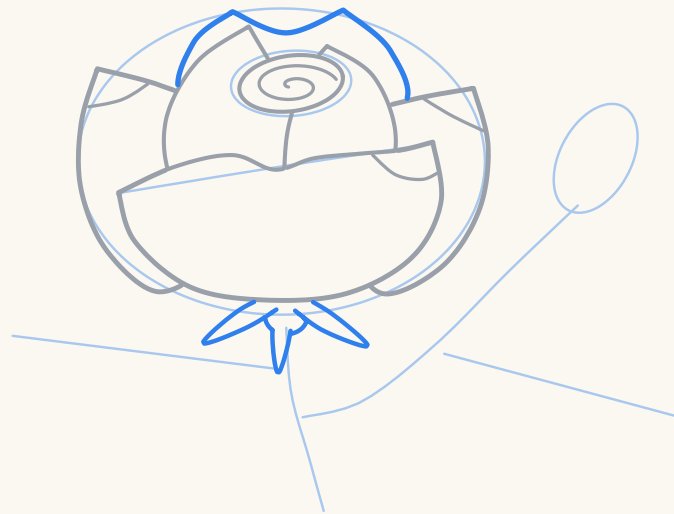
Hang a large rounded bowl shape from the wavy line you just made, filling the lower part of the big oval. Let its left corner stick out a little. At the right end, add a short curved fold so that corner looks rolled back. This petal is the closest one to you, which is why it's the biggest.

 **Tip:** Draw the bottom curve in one slow sweep instead of short scratchy strokes.

STEP 6 Curl the outer petals outward

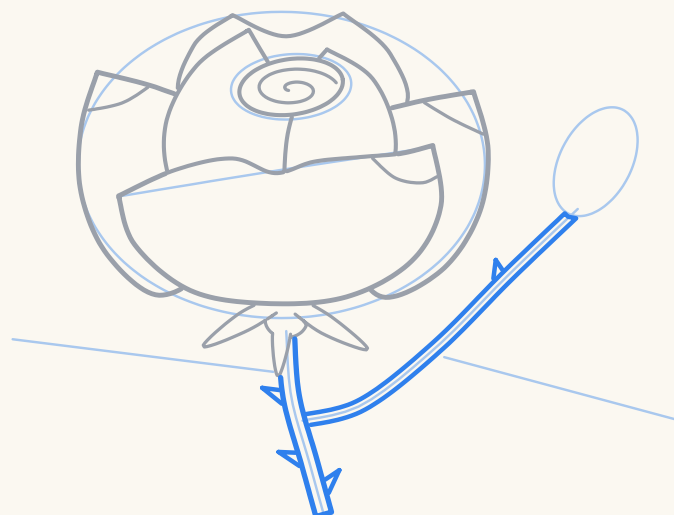
Behind the cup, draw one tall petal on each side of the bloom. They start at the wrap petals, swing out to the edge of the big oval, and come back in at the bottom. Each has a pointed top corner with a small fold line across it. Those folds show the petals opening away from the centre.

 **Tip:** Make the left and right petals slightly different heights; perfect symmetry looks stiff.

STEP 7 Add the back petals and sepals

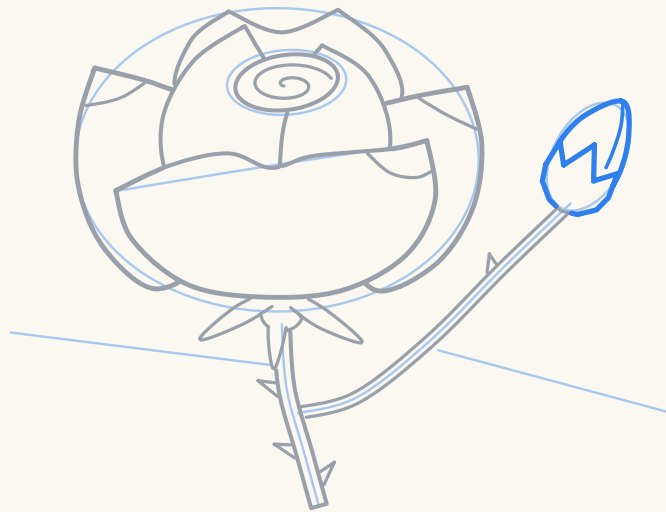
Above the wrap petals, draw a wavy edge with two soft points, peeking up behind the spiral. These are the back petals. Under the cup, draw three thin pointed leaflets called sepals, with a small round knob between them where the stem joins. Only bits of them show, which is exactly right.

 **Tip:** Stop every back-petal line where it meets a front petal and never cross over it.

STEP 8 Draw a stem with thorns

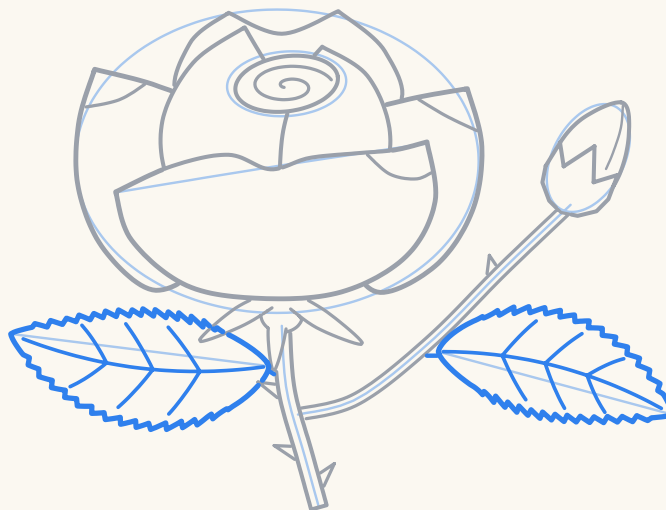
Follow the stem guide with two parallel lines, then do the same, a little thinner, along the branch. Add a few small triangle thorns on the outer edges, spaced unevenly. My rule is that thorns point up toward the flower, because that's how they grow on a real rose bush.

 **Tip:** Three or four thorns are enough; a dozen makes the stem look like barbed wire.

STEP 9 Draw a small closed rosebud

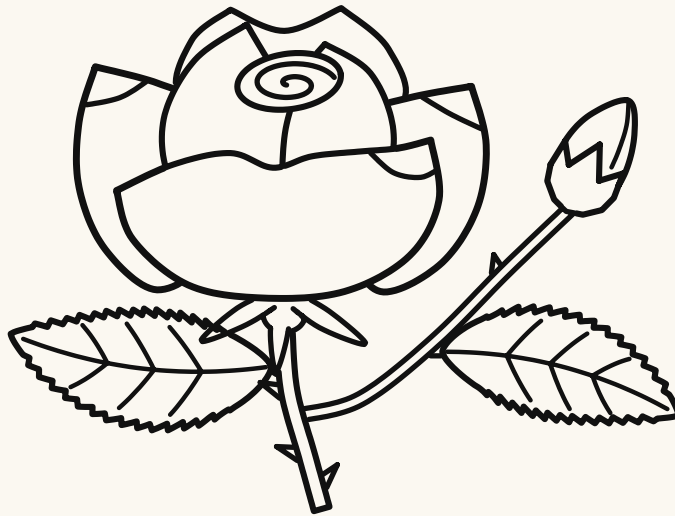
Inside the bud oval, draw a teardrop with its point at the top. Over the bottom half, draw a green cup with three sharp tips reaching up the sides. Finish with one curved line from the tip down the right side, which shows a petal still wrapped tightly around the bud.

 **Tip:** Kids who want a quicker drawing can skip the bud and the branch completely.

STEP 10 Draw two saw-edged leaves

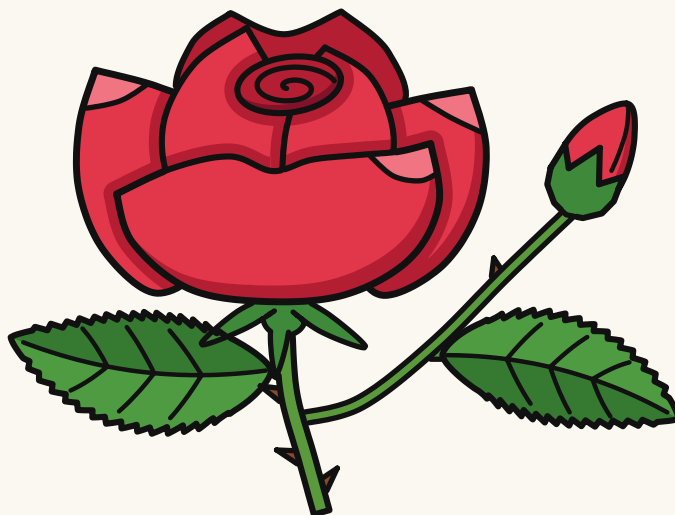
Along each leaf guide, draw an oval leaf with a sharp tip. Rose leaves have fine teeth, so make the edge a row of tiny zigzags instead of a smooth curve. Connect each leaf to the stem with a short stalk. Then draw a centre vein and a few side veins that slant toward the tip.

 **Tip:** Turn your paper so you're always pulling the zigzag toward yourself; it keeps the teeth even.

STEP 11 Ink the lines and erase the guides

Go over every keeper line with the fineliner. I ink the spiral and the petals first, then the stem and leaves, working from top to bottom so my hand never rests on wet ink. Once it's fully dry, erase all the guide ovals and lines.

 **Tip:** Press the eraser gently in one direction; scrubbing can lift fresh ink and wrinkle thin paper.

STEP 12 Color your rose

Color all the petals red. Then go back with dark red along every edge where one petal tucks behind another, and along the bottom right of the cup. Use maroon on the rim around the spiral, pink inside the folded tips, and green on the stem, sepals and leaves, with dark green on one half of each leaf.

 **Tip:** Color in small circles rather than straight strokes so the red looks smooth and velvety.