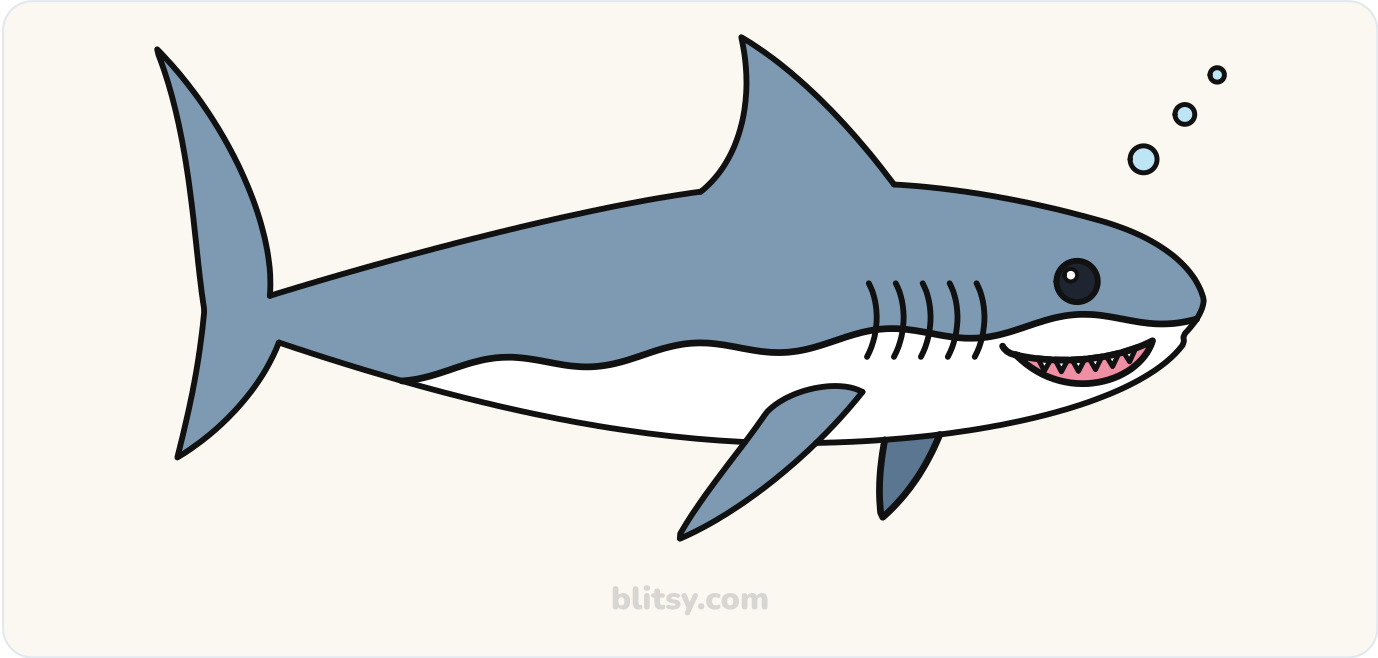
How to Draw a Shark

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

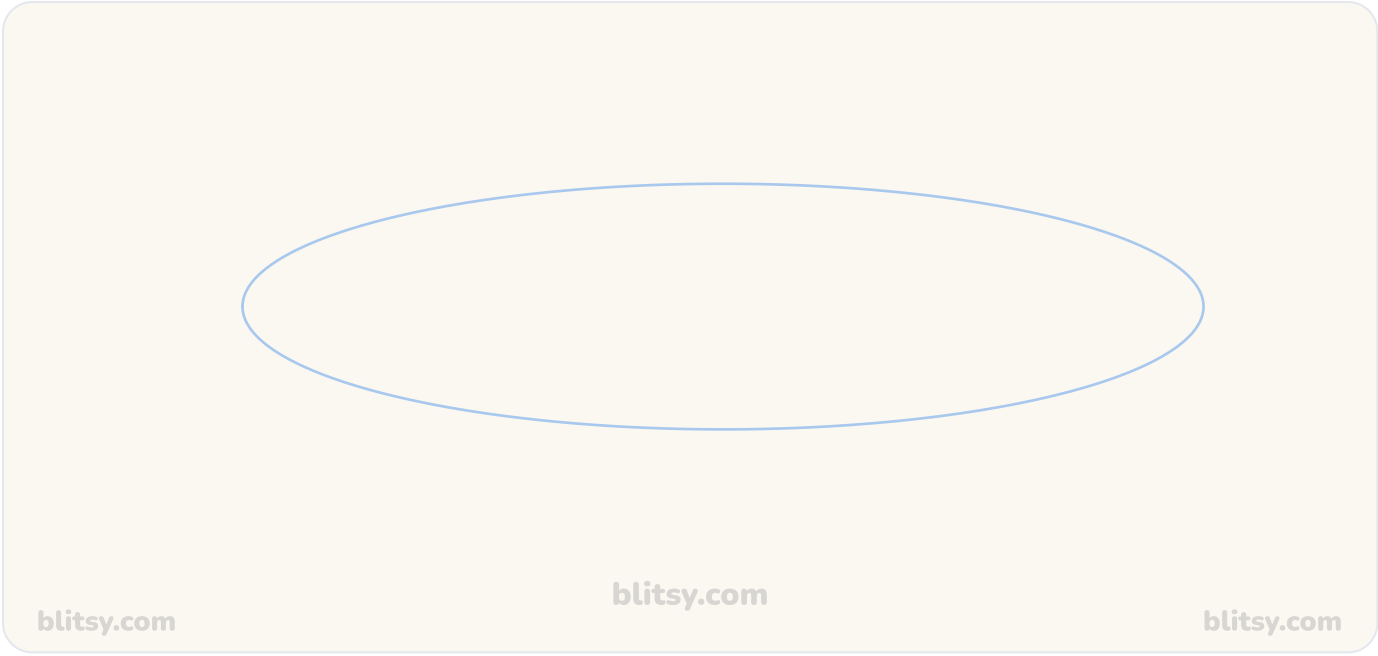
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black pen
- Colored pencils or markers
- Plain paper

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 →

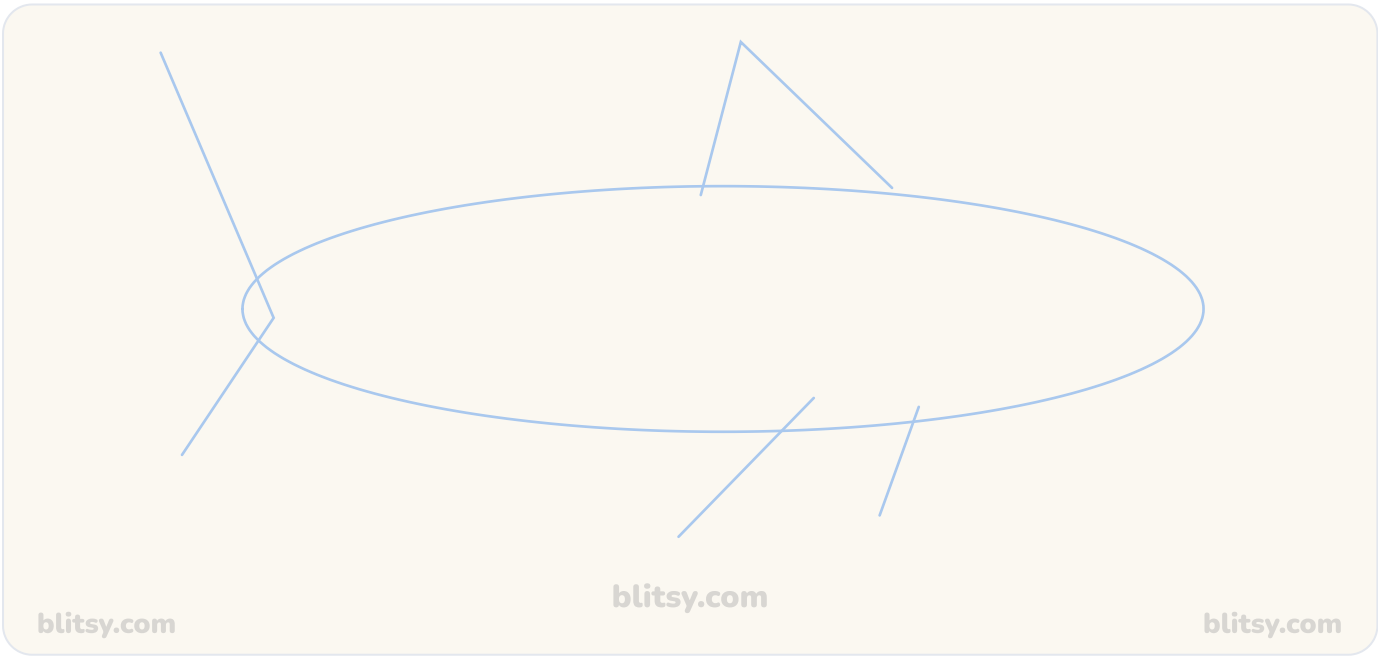
STEP 1 Sketch a long body oval



Start with a stretched oval across the middle of the page, roughly four times as wide as it is tall. Leave space on the left for the tail and above for the fin. This oval is only a guide, so draw it with very light pressure. You'll trace the real shark over it in a moment.

💡 **Tip:** Hold the pencil further back from the tip. You can't press hard that way, and guides stay faint.

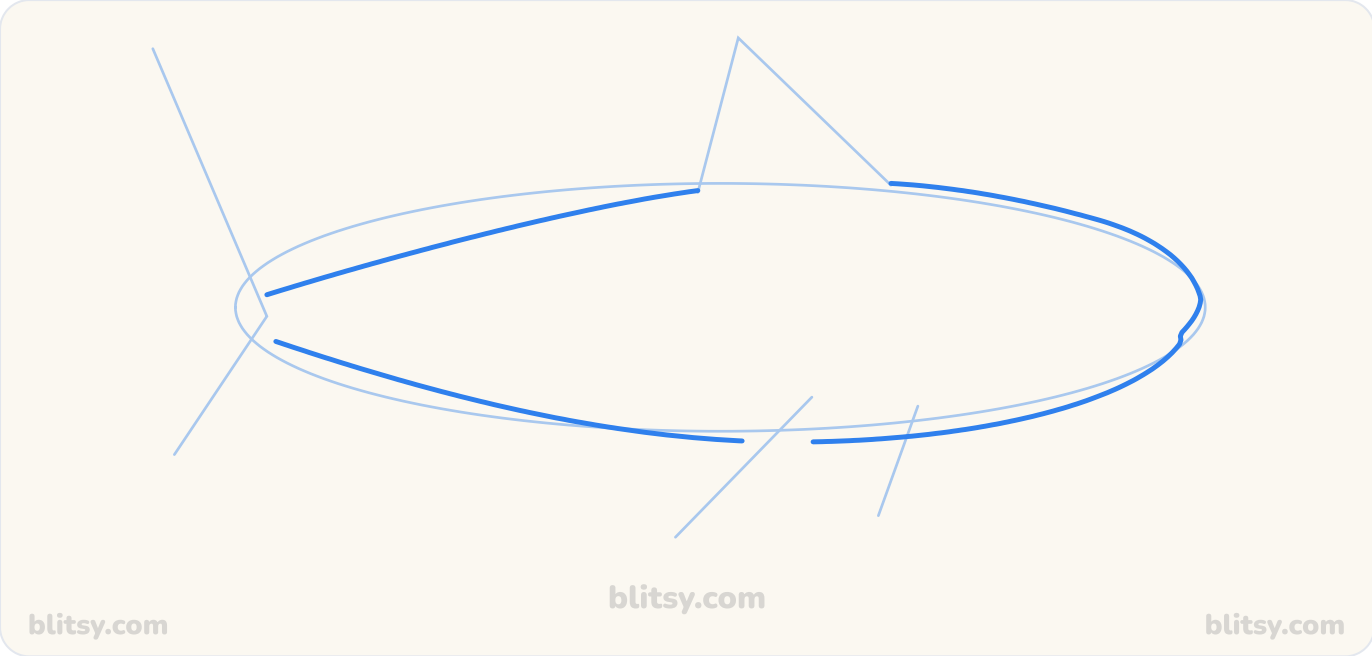
STEP 2 Add the fin and tail guides



On top of the oval, a little right of center, draw a tall triangle for the dorsal fin. Its tip should lean back toward the tail. At the left end, draw a sideways V that opens to the left, with the top arm longer than the bottom one. Under the body, add two slanted lines for the pectoral fins.

💡 **Tip:** Make the upper tail line clearly longer. That uneven tail is what says shark rather than fish.

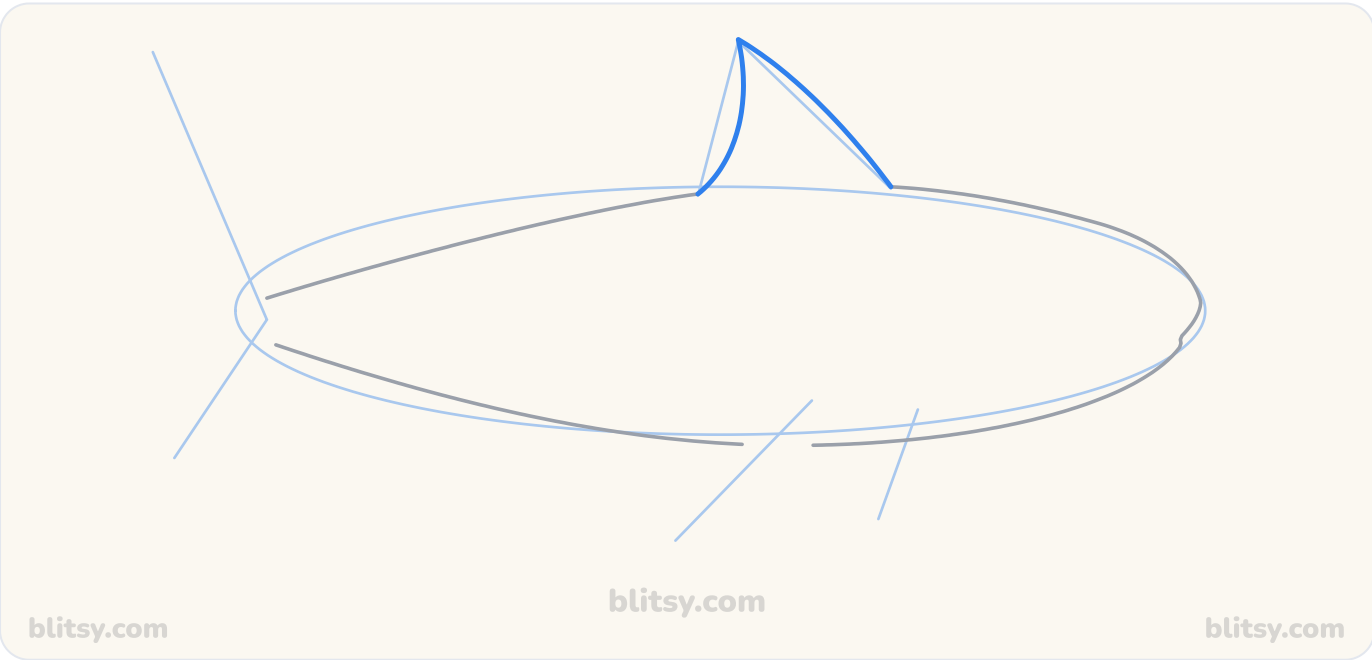
STEP 3 Draw the torpedo body outline



Now the real outline. I start at the snout on the right, which comes to a soft point, and curve up over the head. The back runs fairly flat to the fin, then slopes down to a thin tail stalk. Underneath, the belly bulges a bit lower than the oval before it narrows toward the tail too.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the snout pointy but rounded at the very tip. A blunt nose makes it look like a whale.

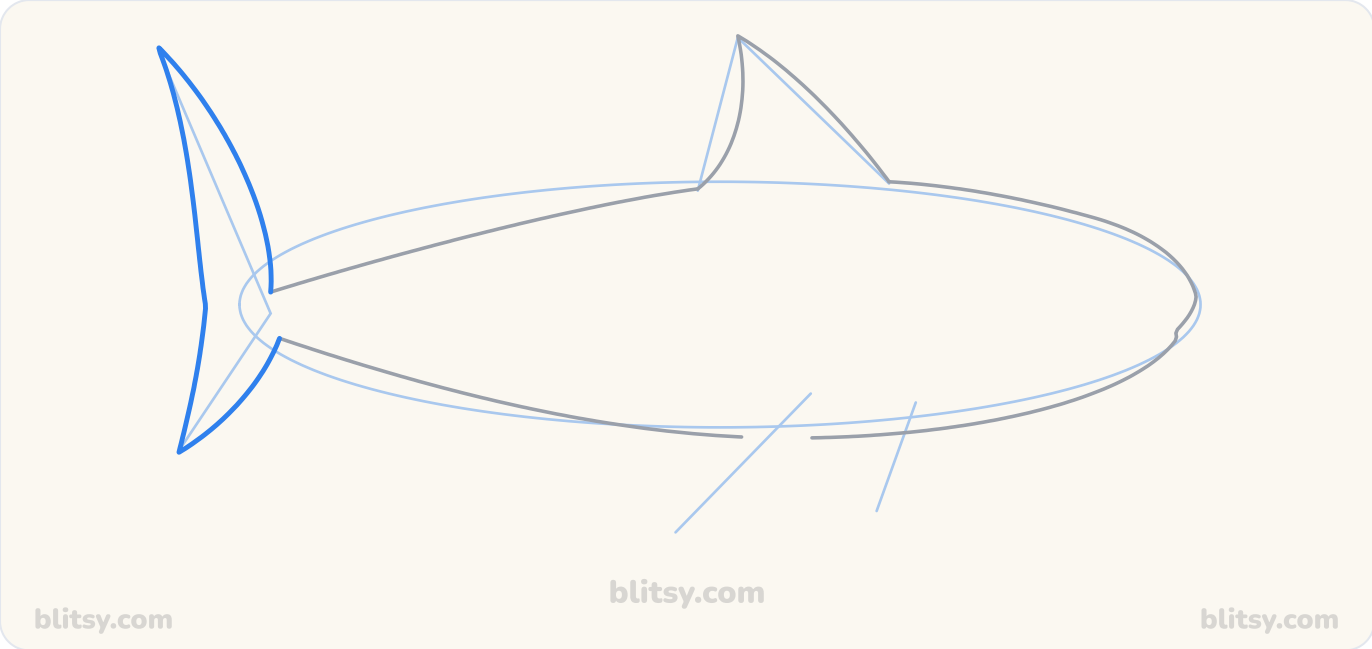
STEP 4 Shape the tall dorsal fin



Follow your triangle guide, but bend the front edge outward so it bulges like a sail. The back edge does the opposite: it curves inward as it drops to the body. That pair of curves gives the fin its famous hooked look, which is the first thing people recognize on a shark.

💡 **Tip:** Stop the fin lines right where they meet the back. Don't draw across the base.

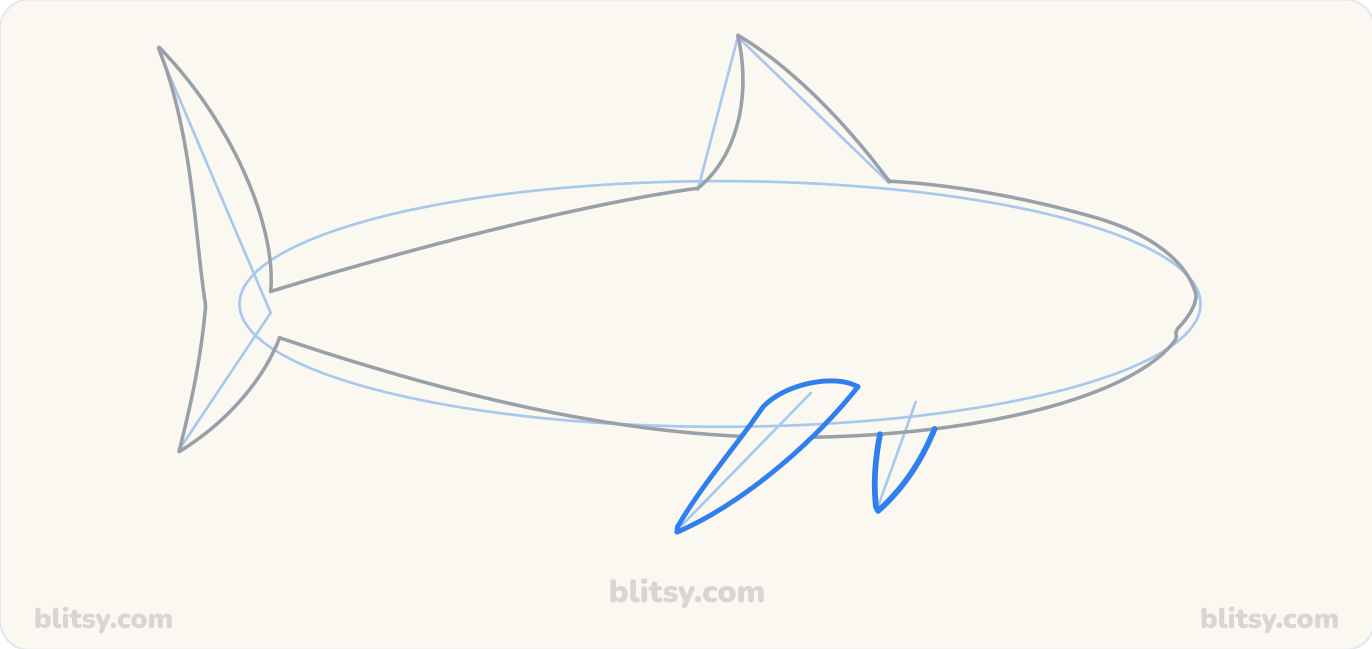
STEP 5 Draw the crescent tail



Use the V as your skeleton. From the top of the tail stalk, sweep a curved line up and back to a point at the end of the upper guide, then come down the inside to a small notch. The lower lobe is shorter: from the notch out to its tip, then back to the bottom of the stalk.

💡 **Tip:** Most beginners make both tail lobes the same size here. Give the top one about twice the length.

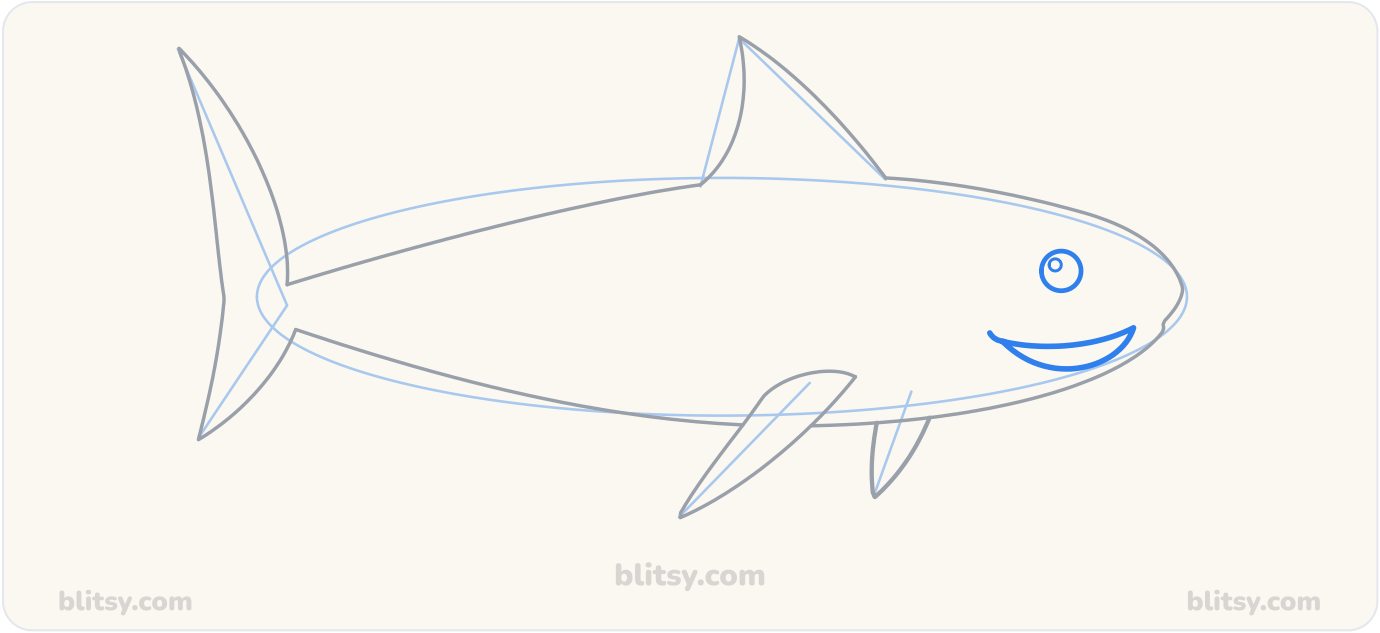
STEP 6 Add two pectoral fins



The near fin hangs below the belly like a long, slanted blade, pointing back toward the tail. Draw it fully, and let it overlap the belly line. The far fin sits on the other side of the body, so you only see a short piece of it peeking out a little further forward.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the far fin smaller and shorter than the near one. That small difference adds depth.

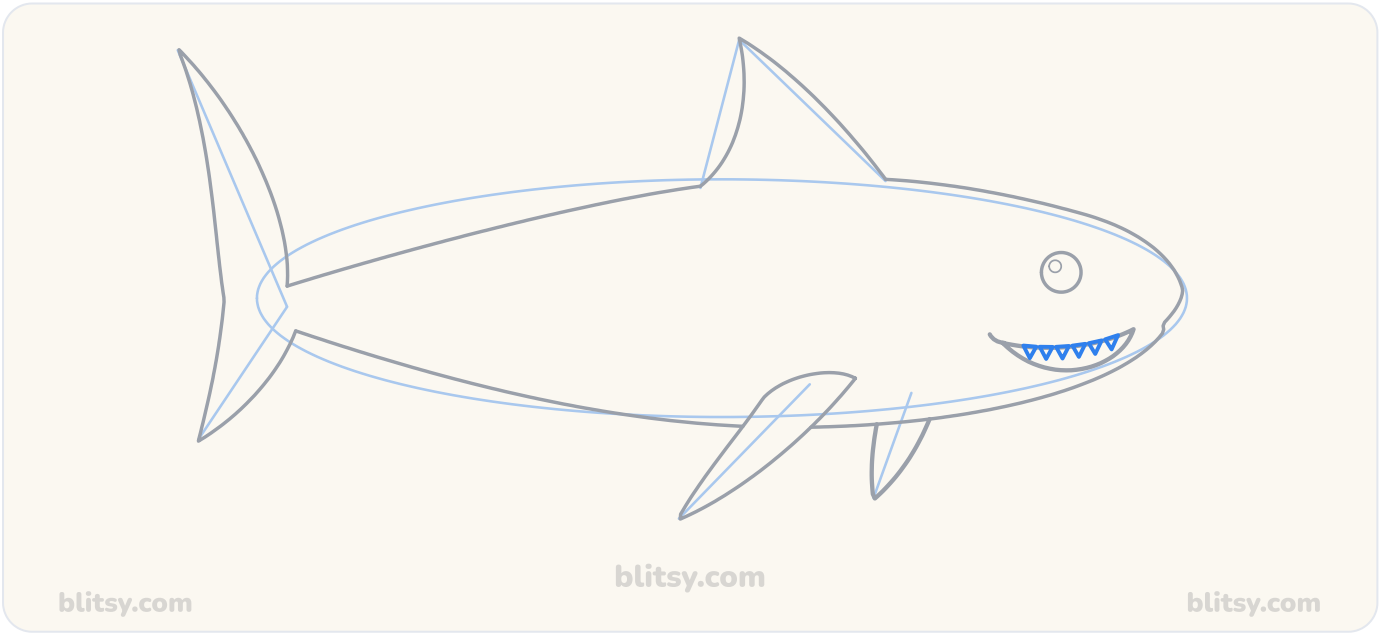
STEP 7 Draw the eye and a smiling mouth



Place a round eye on the head, about a third of the way back from the snout tip and well above the lower edge. Put a tiny circle inside for the shine. Below and slightly behind it, draw the mouth as a wide crescent that dips in the middle, then add a short upward flick at the back corner. That flick is the smile.

💡 **Tip:** A round eye with a shine reads friendly. Narrow or angled eyes would make the shark look mean.

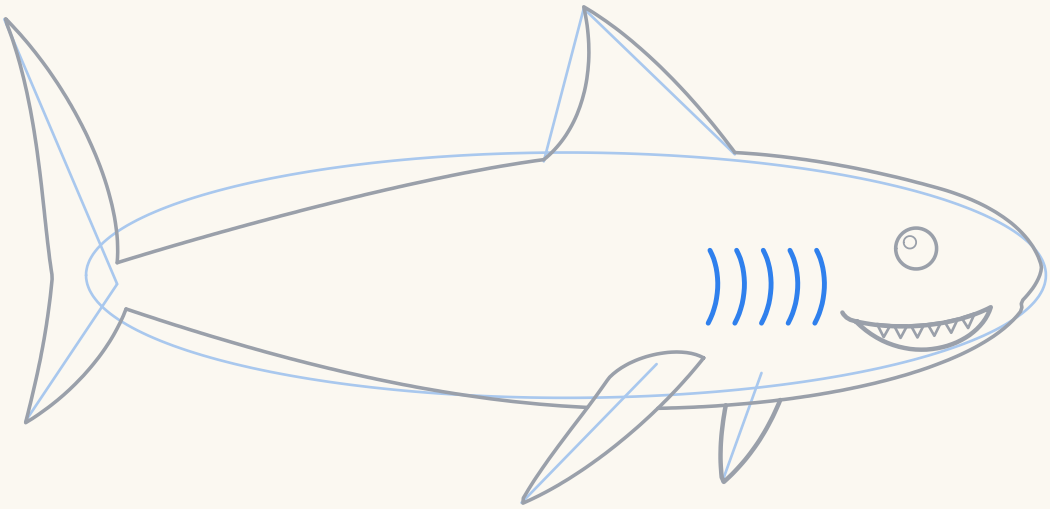
STEP 8 Add little friendly teeth



Along the top edge of the mouth, draw a row of six small triangles pointing down. Keep them tiny and evenly spaced, so they sit inside the pink area with room to spare. I skip the bottom row on purpose. One neat row says shark without turning the face into a horror movie poster.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the teeth with short, light zigzag strokes and slow down near the mouth corners.

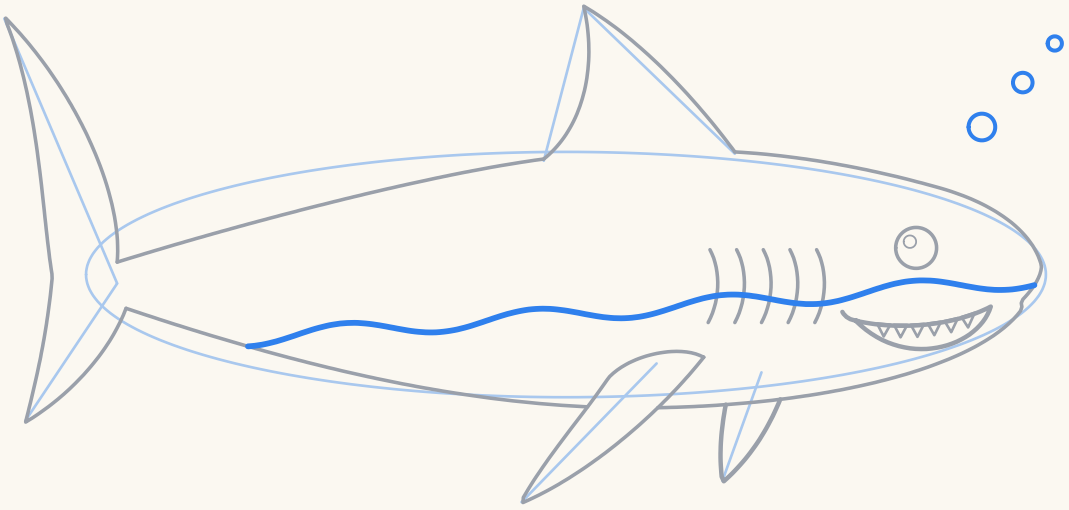
STEP 9 Draw five gill slits



Behind the mouth and in front of the fins, draw five slightly curved lines, each one bowing toward the tail. Space them evenly and keep them about the same height. Real great whites have five gill slits on each side, so counting them out loud is a nice detail to share with kids.

💡 **Tip:** Lightly mark the first and last slit before filling in the middle three.

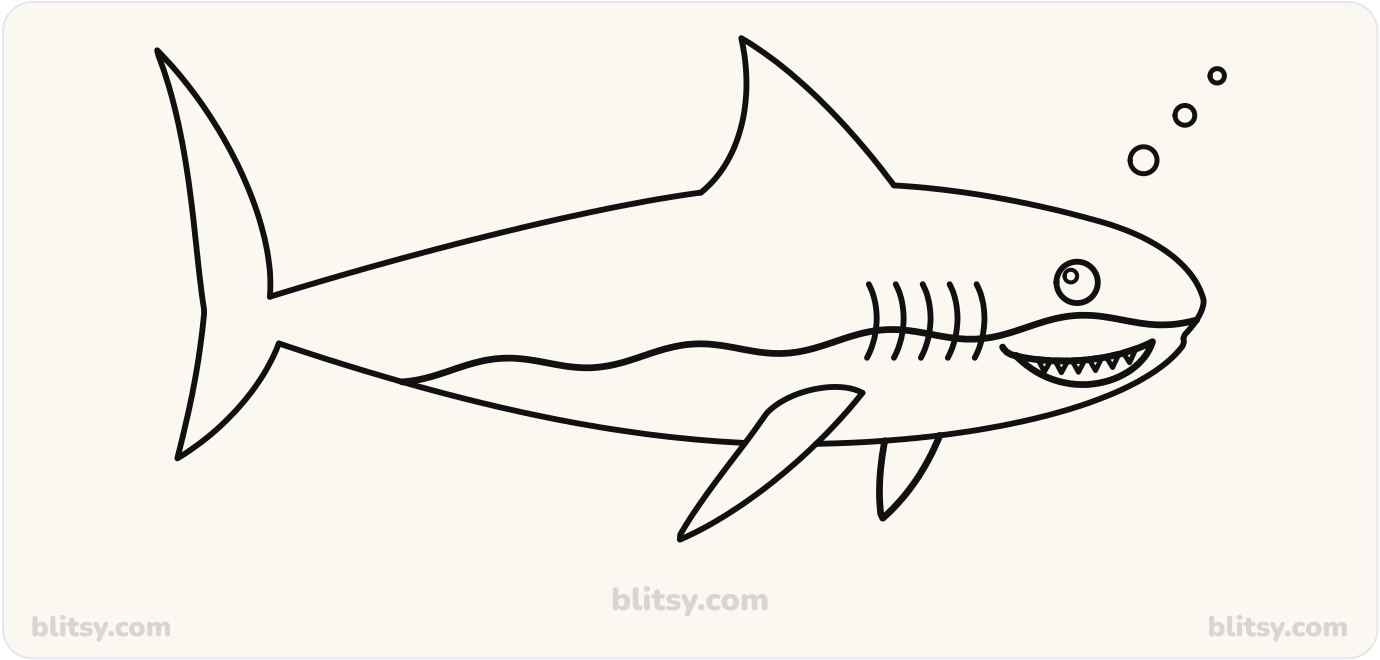
STEP 10 Add the wavy belly line and bubbles



Great whites have a white underside with a ragged edge where it meets the gray back. Draw a gently wavy line from the snout, between the eye and the mouth, back along the body until it meets the lower edge before the tail. Skip it where the near fin covers the body. Finish with three bubbles above the head, from big to small.

💡 **Tip:** Let the waves be soft and uneven. Perfect bumps look like a pattern on a sock.

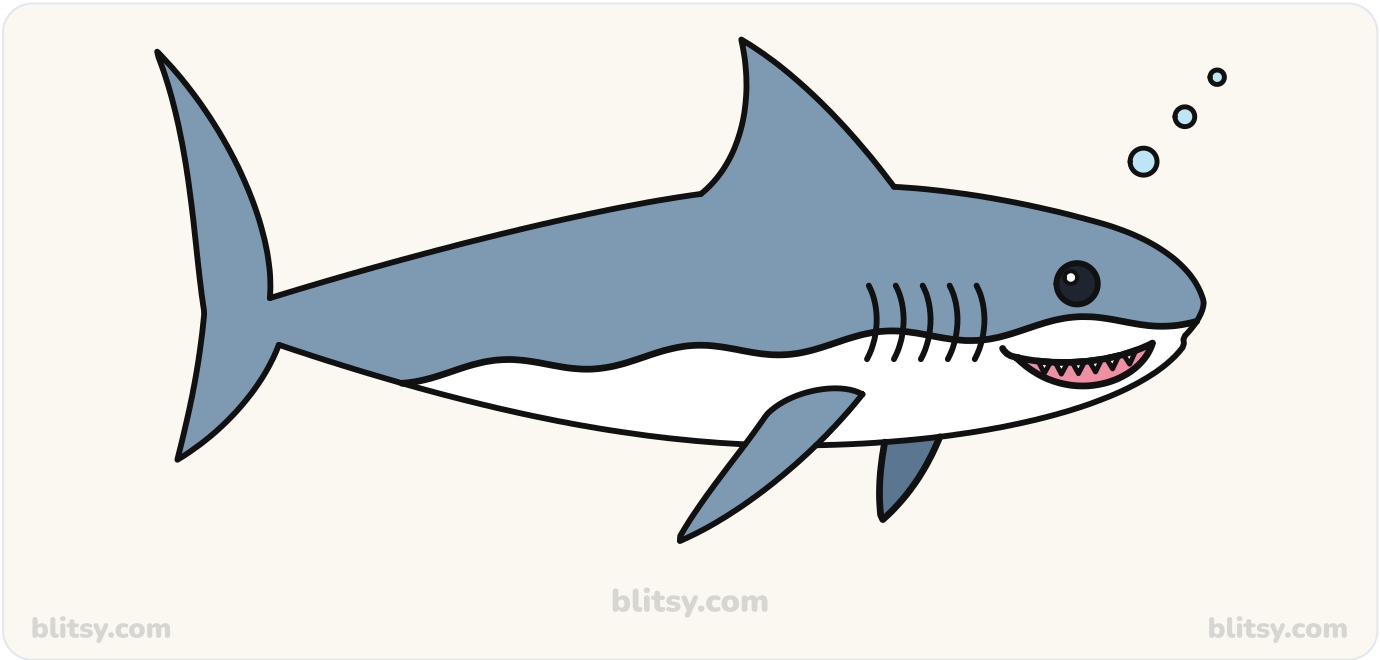
STEP 11 Ink the lines and erase the guides



Go over every line you want to keep with your black pen: outline, fins, tail, face, gills, belly line and bubbles. Leave the oval, the triangle, the V and the fin lines in pencil. Give the ink a minute to dry, then erase every bit of pencil until only the clean drawing is left.

💡 **Tip:** Turn the paper as you ink long curves, so your hand always pulls the pen toward you.

STEP 12 Color your shark



Fill the back, dorsal fin, tail and near fin with blue-gray. Use a darker gray-blue for the far fin so it falls back into the shadow. Leave the belly and teeth white, color the inside of the mouth pink, and make the eye black with the shine left white. The bubbles get a pale sky blue.

💡 **Tip:** Color the back in strokes that run from head to tail, the same way the shark swims.