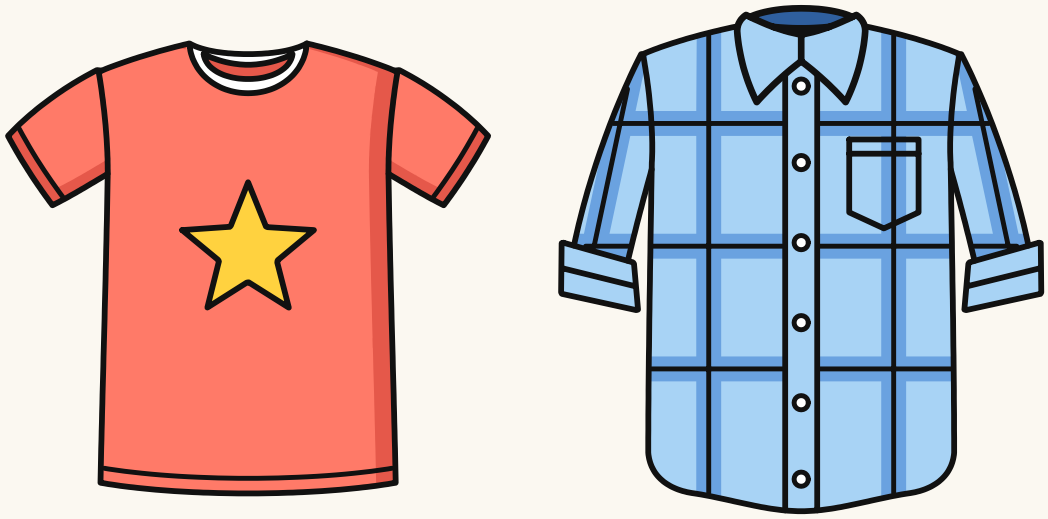
How to Draw a Shirt

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

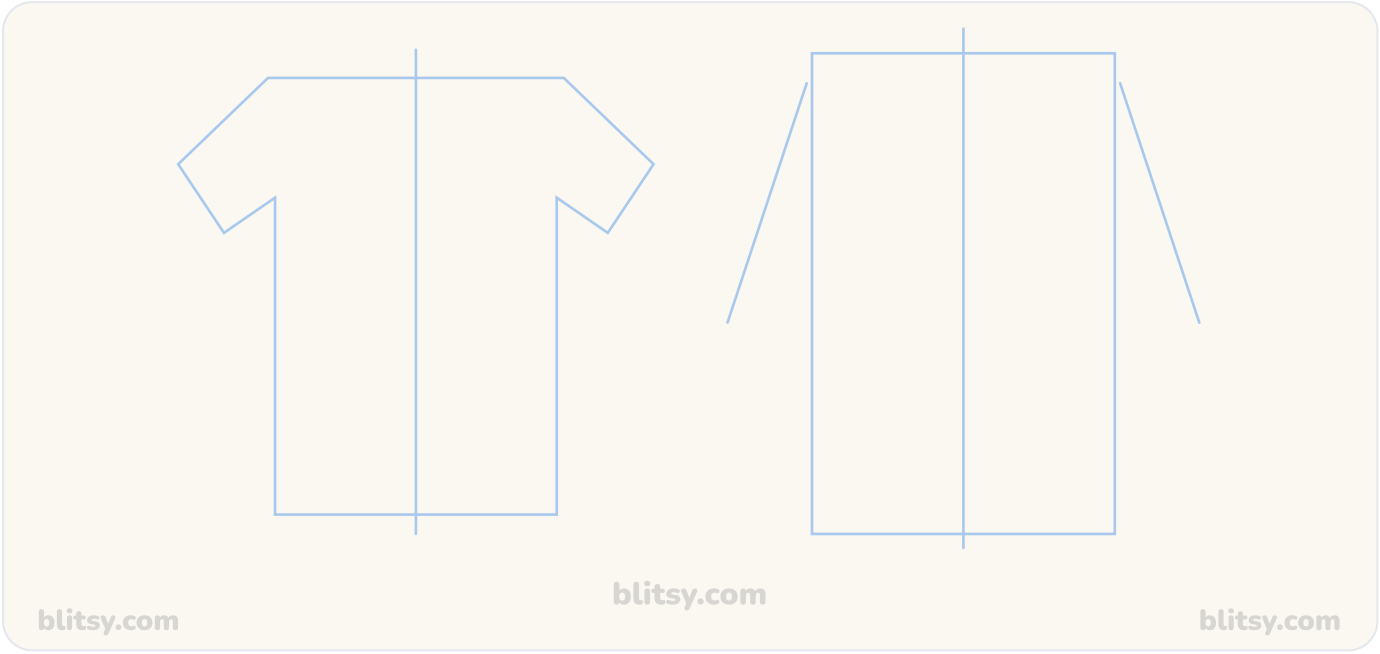
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A ruler
- A black pen
- Colored pencils

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 →

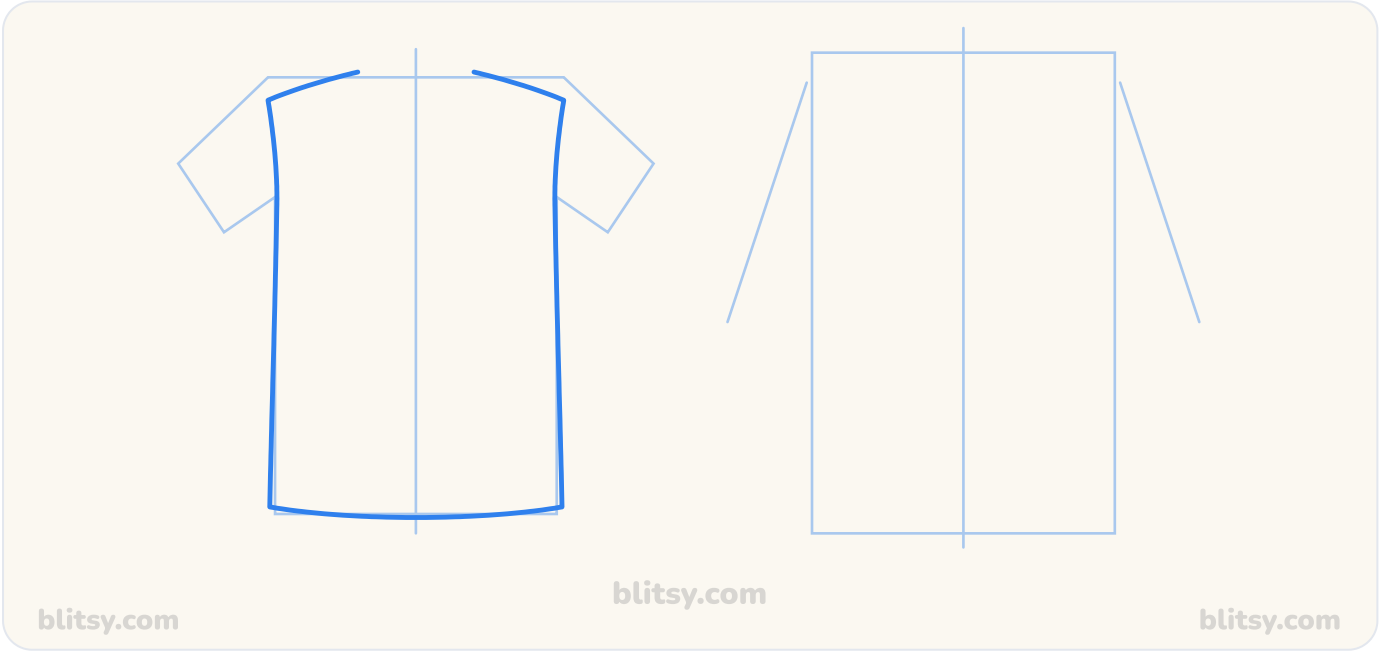
STEP 1 Sketch the center lines and two T-shapes



Turn your paper sideways and draw two upright lines, one on the left half and one on the right. Around the left line, sketch a blocky letter T with short arms that slant down: that's the T-shirt. Around the right line, draw a tall rectangle with two long slanted lines falling from its top corners for the button-up's sleeves.

💡 **Tip:** Press so lightly that you can barely see the guides; they're only scaffolding.

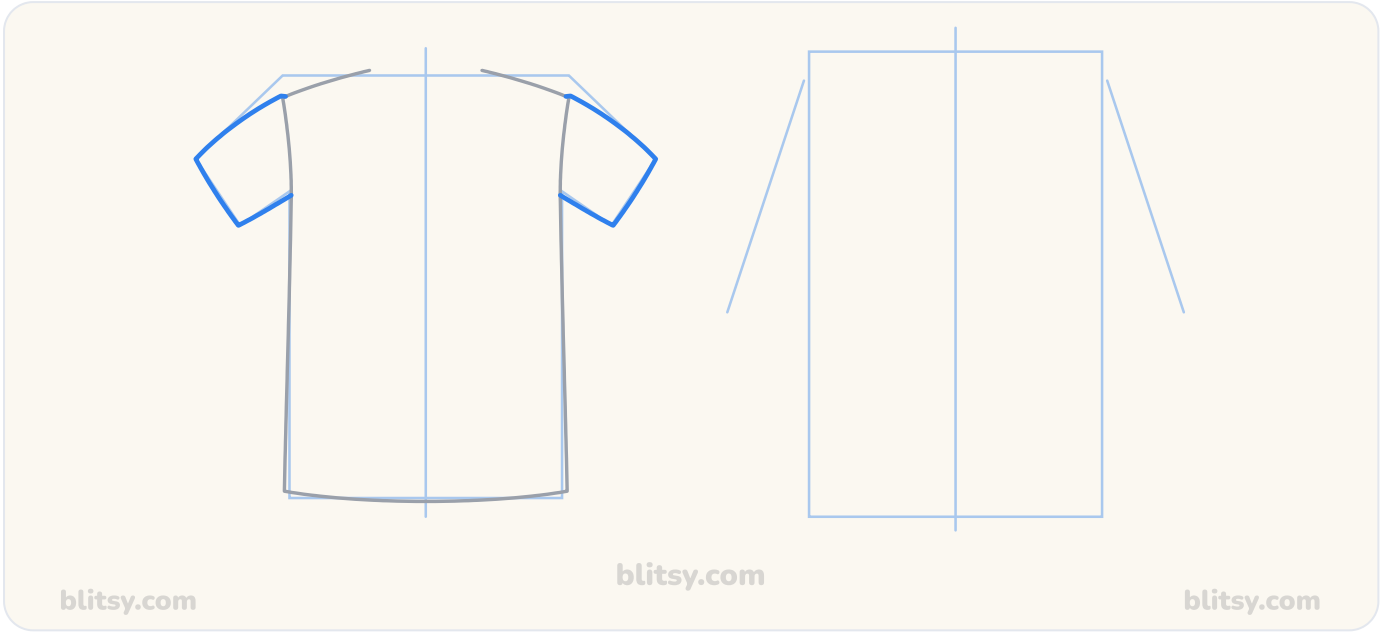
STEP 2 Draw the T-shirt body and neckline



Starting near the top of the center line, draw the shoulders sloping gently down to the corners of the T. From each corner, let the side seam curve in a tiny bit at the armpit, then run almost straight down. I give the hem a slight smile shape, because fabric never hangs perfectly flat.

💡 **Tip:** Leave a gap at the top of the neck; the collar fills it in step 4.

STEP 3 Add the short T-shirt sleeves



Each sleeve leaves the shoulder at an angle and ends in a slanted opening, like a short wide tube. Follow the arms of your T guide, then bring the underside of the sleeve back to the armpit. Measure where the left sleeve ends and match it on the right, since a tee only looks right when both sides mirror each other.

💡 **Tip:** Make the sleeve opening wider than the sleeve's join at the body.

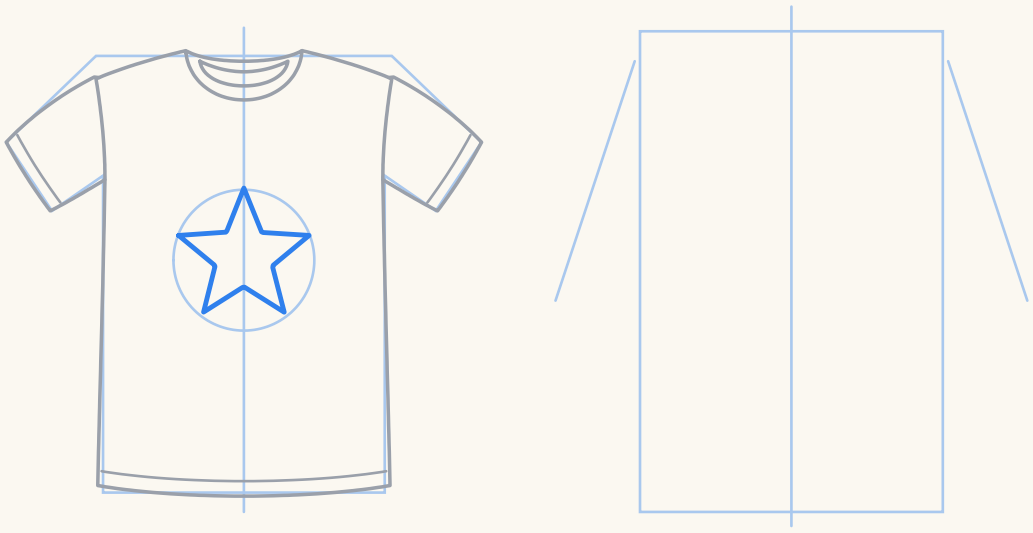
STEP 4 Draw the crew neck and the hem stitches



A crew neck is a round scoop with a band around it. Draw a U from one shoulder point to the other, then a second, smaller curve inside it for the band. Across the top, a shallow curve shows the back of the neck. For the stitches, copy the bottom hem a little higher, and repeat the trick just inside each sleeve opening.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the neck band an even width all the way around, about a fingertip thick.

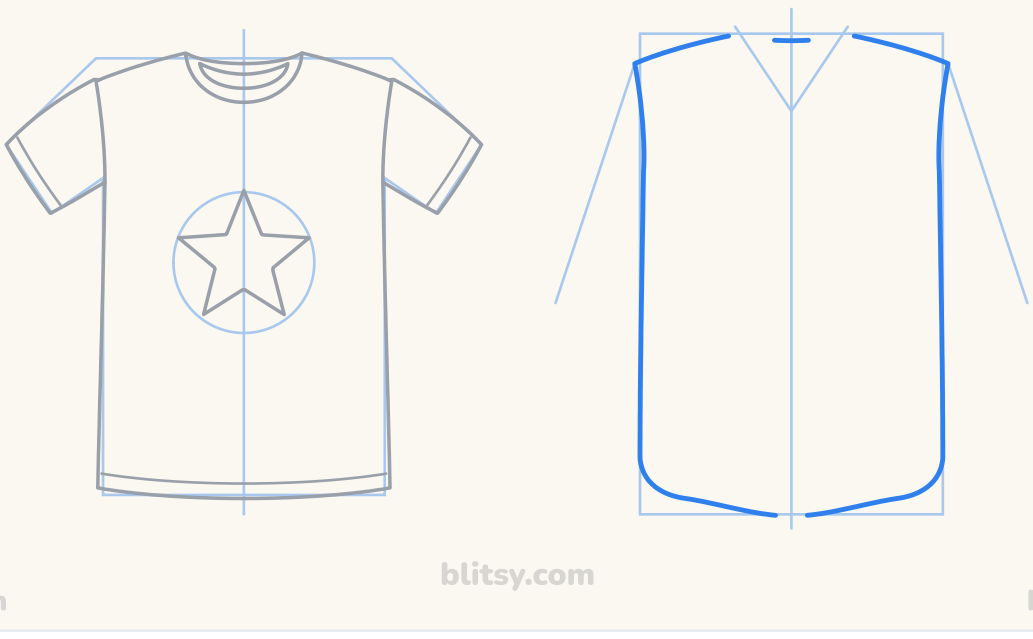
STEP 5 Put a star on the chest



Sketch a circle in the middle of the chest, a little closer to the neck than to the hem. Then place five points evenly around it, starting with one at the very top, and join them by zigzagging inward. The circle keeps the star balanced. A heart or your initial would work in the same spot too.

💡 **Tip:** Put the top point on the center line, then the rest fall into place.

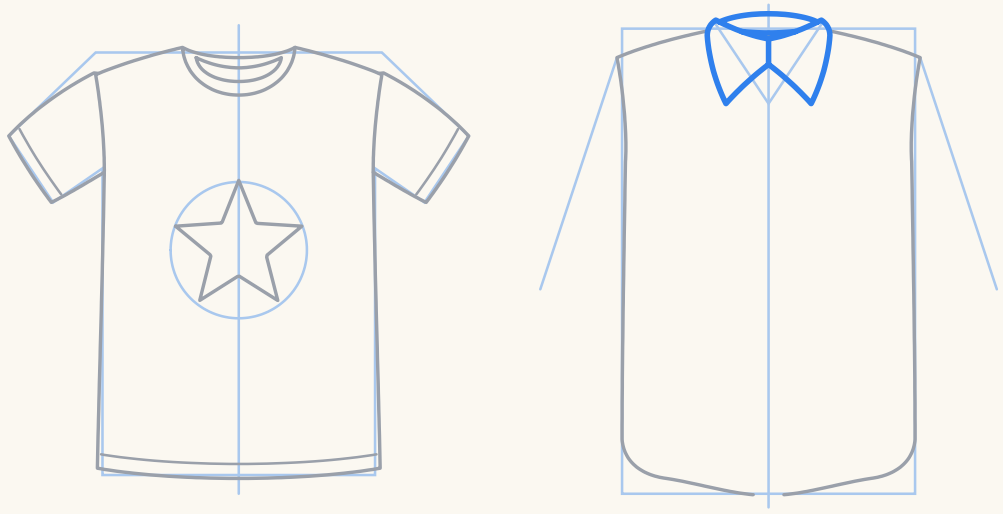
STEP 6 Outline the button-up body with a curved hem



Move to the rectangle on the right and sketch a light V from both sides of the neck down to the center line, to mark where the collar points end. Draw the shoulders, then the sides straight down. The bottom is the fun part: round off both lower corners and let the hem dip lower in the middle. That curved shirttail tells everyone this is a dress shirt.

💡 **Tip:** Make the button-up's shoulders a touch wider than the tee's, so it looks more tailored.

STEP 7 Add the pointed collar



Each half of the collar is a flap with a sharp point that ends on your V guide. Begin at the side of the neck, go down to the point, and come back up to meet the other flap on the center line. Above the flaps, draw a thin curved band for the back of the collar. Small kids can make the flaps simple triangles.

💡 **Tip:** Check that both collar points finish at exactly the same height.

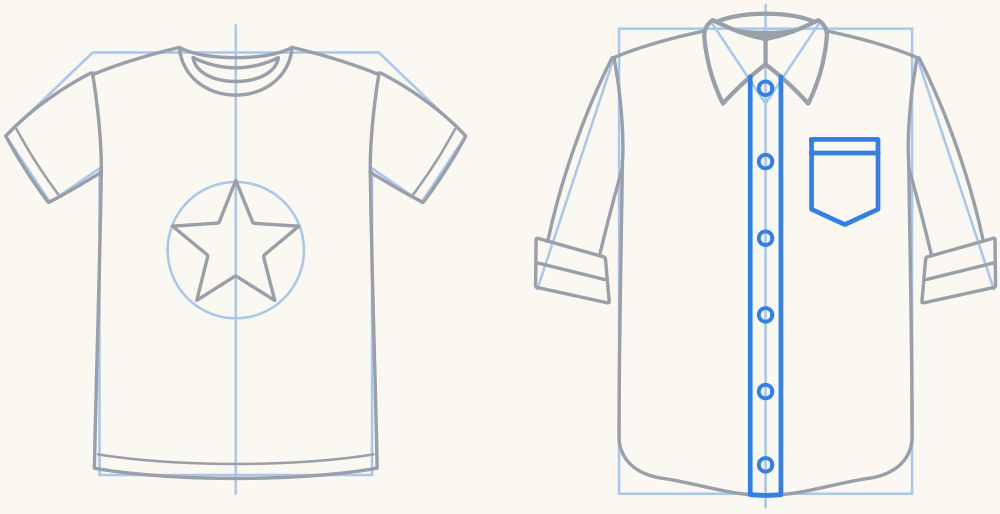
STEP 8 Draw the rolled-up sleeves



Long sleeves hang down from the shoulders along the slanted guides, but these ones stop around elbow height. At the bottom of each, draw a wide band that's a little thicker than the sleeve, with one line across its middle. That band reads as fabric folded up twice. Most beginners make the roll too thin, so it looks like a cuff.

💡 **Tip:** Tilt each roll to follow the sleeve, not the edge of the paper.

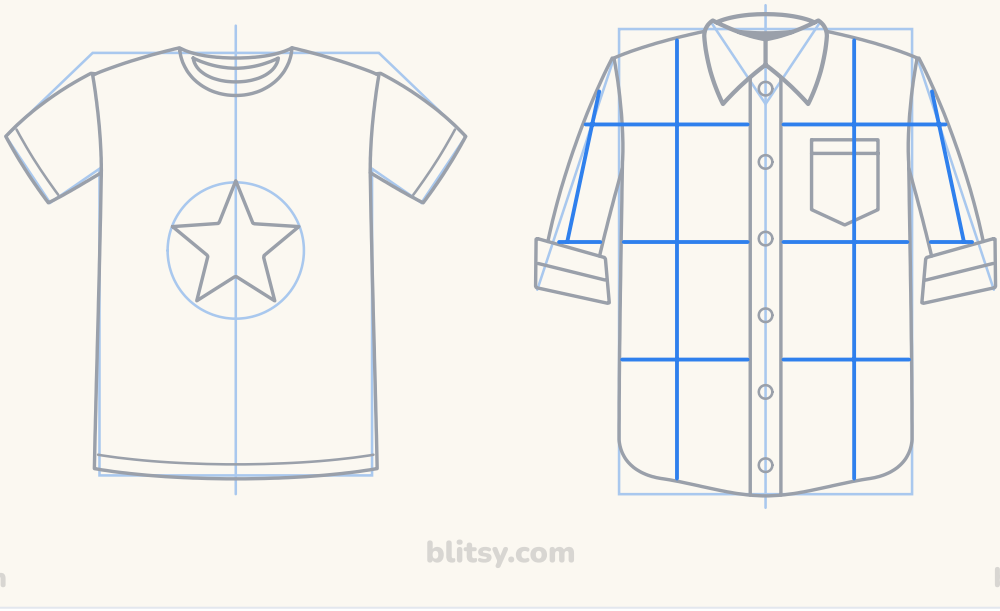
STEP 9 Add the placket, the buttons and the pocket



The placket is the narrow strip down the front where the buttons live. Draw two lines close together, from under the collar to the hem. Space six small circles down the strip; I mark the top and bottom button first and then split the gaps evenly. On the wearer's left chest, add a pocket with a pointed bottom and a line across its top.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the buttons a bit smaller than the placket is wide, so they don't touch its edges.

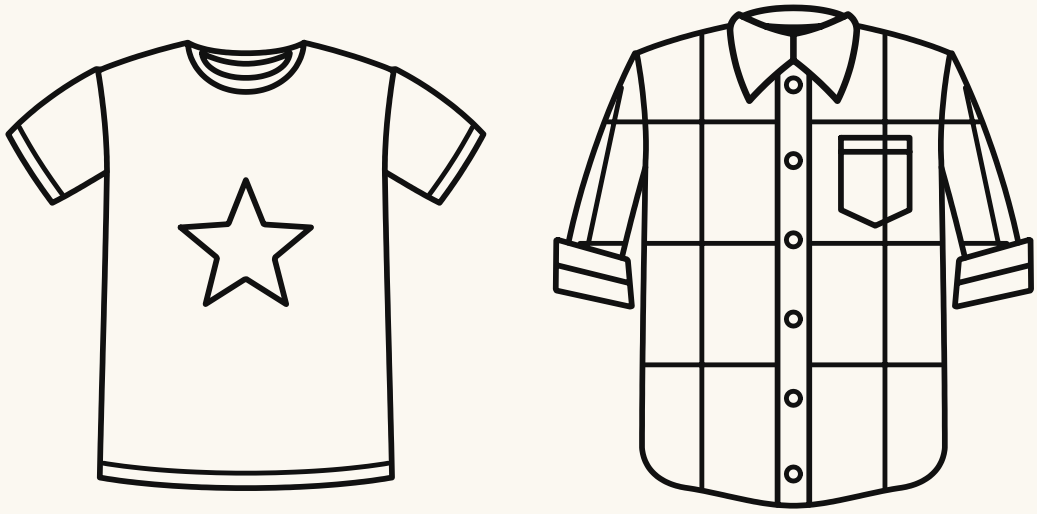
STEP 10 Draw simple plaid stripes



Plaid is just stripes going two ways. Draw two lines down the shirt front, one on each side of the placket, then three lines across the body and both sleeves. Add one slanted stripe down each sleeve. Let the lines stop at the placket and the collar, and run them straight through the pocket so the pattern matches.

💡 **Tip:** Space your stripes evenly with the ruler, or freehand them for a cozy flannel feel.

STEP 11 Ink your lines and erase the guides

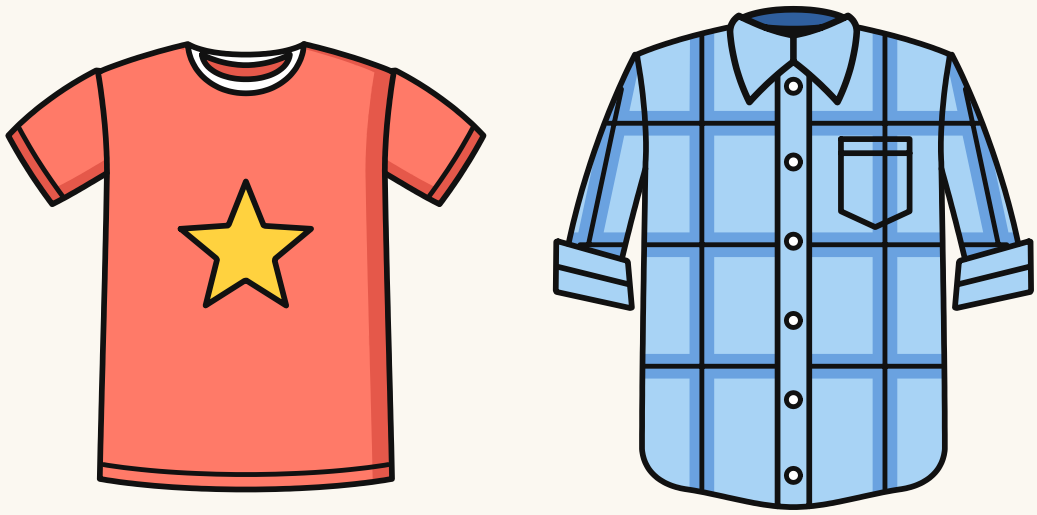


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Go over every keeper line with your black pen, outlines first and small things like buttons last. Skip the T guides, the circle around the star and the V. When the ink is completely dry, erase all the pencil. I ink the plaid with a lighter hand, so the shirt shape stays strongest.

💡 **Tip:** Turn the paper as you ink curves; your hand moves more smoothly that way.

STEP 12 Color both shirts



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Fill the T-shirt with coral, then add a darker coral along its right side, under the sleeves and inside the neck. Leave the neck band white and make the star sunny yellow. For the button-up, use light blue everywhere, then color a blue band along each plaid line. Dark blue goes inside the collar, and the buttons stay white.

💡 **Tip:** Color the plaid bands after the light blue, otherwise the blue smears into it.