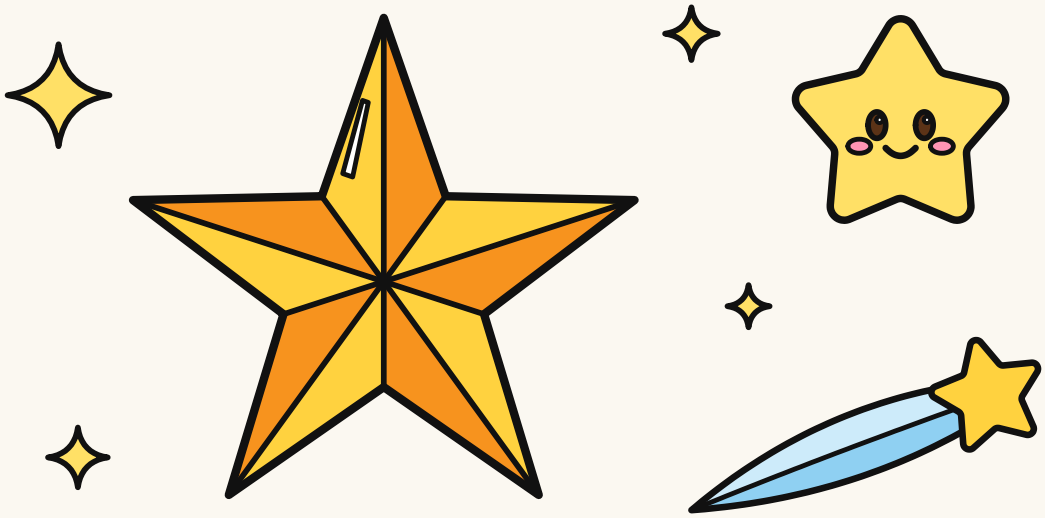
How to Draw a Star

11 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

- A pencil
- An eraser
- A compass or round lid
- A ruler
- A black fineliner
- 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 →

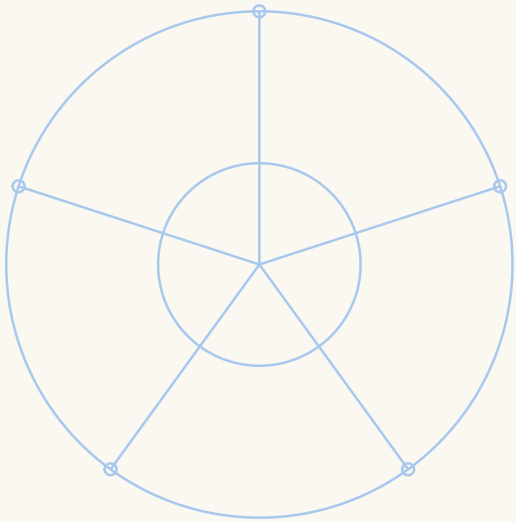
STEP 1 Draw two light guide circles



Put a small dot a little left of the middle of your page. Around it, draw a big circle, then a much smaller one around the same dot, about two fifths as wide. I place the star off center on purpose, because the right side will hold the smaller stars later.

💡 **Tip:** Press so softly that the circles almost disappear; they are only helpers.

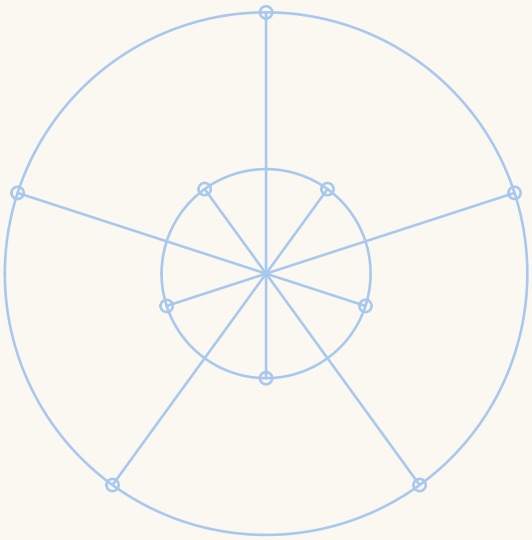
STEP 2 Draw five spokes 72 degrees apart



A full turn is 360 degrees, and 360 divided by 5 is 72. Draw the first spoke straight up from the center dot to the big circle. With a protractor, measure 72 degrees and draw the next one, and keep going until you have five. Put a small dot where each spoke touches the big circle. Those five dots are your star points.

💡 **Tip:** No protractor? Think of a clock: the spokes land near 12, a bit past 2, just before 5, just after 7 and a bit before 10.

STEP 3 Mark five inner points halfway between



Now split every gap in half. Draw a short spoke exactly between each pair of long spokes, 36 degrees from each, but stop it at the small circle. Mark a dot there too. You now have ten dots in all, five on the outside and five on the inside, and they alternate all the way around.

💡 **Tip:** Count your dots before moving on; ten means you're ready.

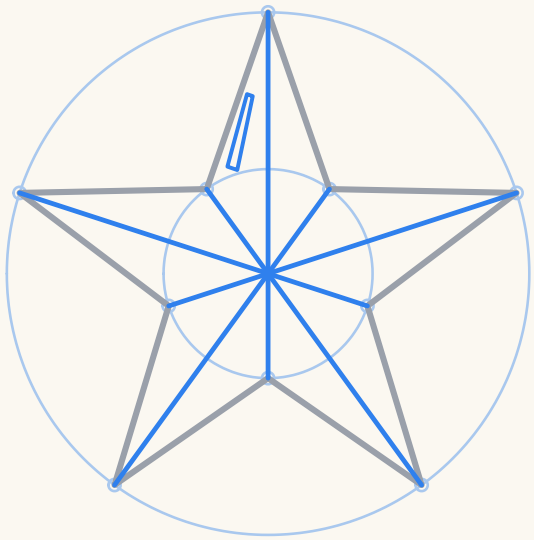
STEP 4 Zigzag the star outline



Start at the top dot and draw a straight line down to the nearest inner dot on the right, then back out to the next outer dot. Keep zigzagging out and in until you're back at the top. Because the dots were measured, every point comes out the same length. I use a ruler here, since wobbly edges spoil even a perfect layout.

💡 **Tip:** Turn the paper as you go so your hand always pulls the line toward you.

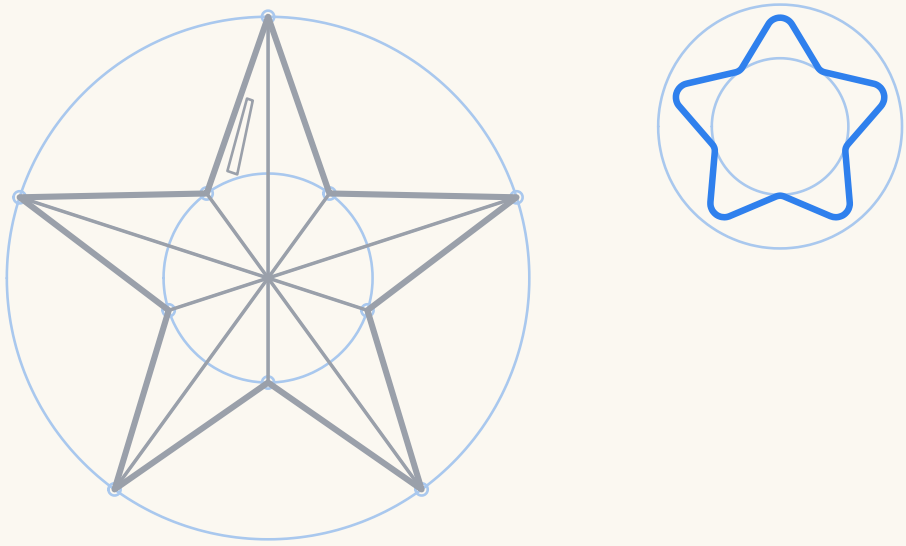
STEP 5 Split each point into two halves



This is the step that makes the star look 3D. Draw a line from the center dot out to the tip of every point, then another from the center to every inner corner. Each point is now cut down the middle into two thin triangles. Then add a slim sliver near the left edge of the top point; it becomes a white shine.

💡 **Tip:** Aim each line at the exact corner, or the facets will look bent.

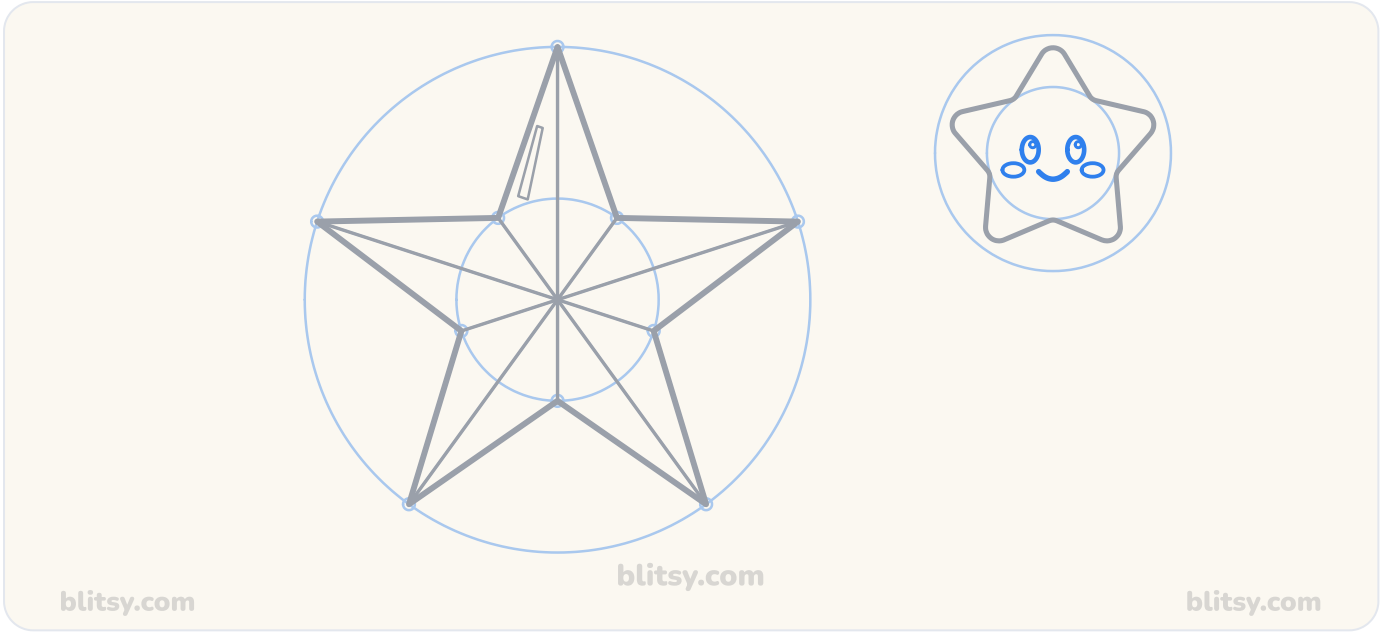
STEP 6 Draw a chubby rounded star



Move to the empty space on the top right. Draw a smaller pair of circles and build a star the same way, but put the inner dots further out, at about half the big radius, so the arms come out short and fat. Round off every tip and soften the inner corners. Chubby stars look friendly, which suits a face.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the rounded tips like the end of a thumb, not a pin.

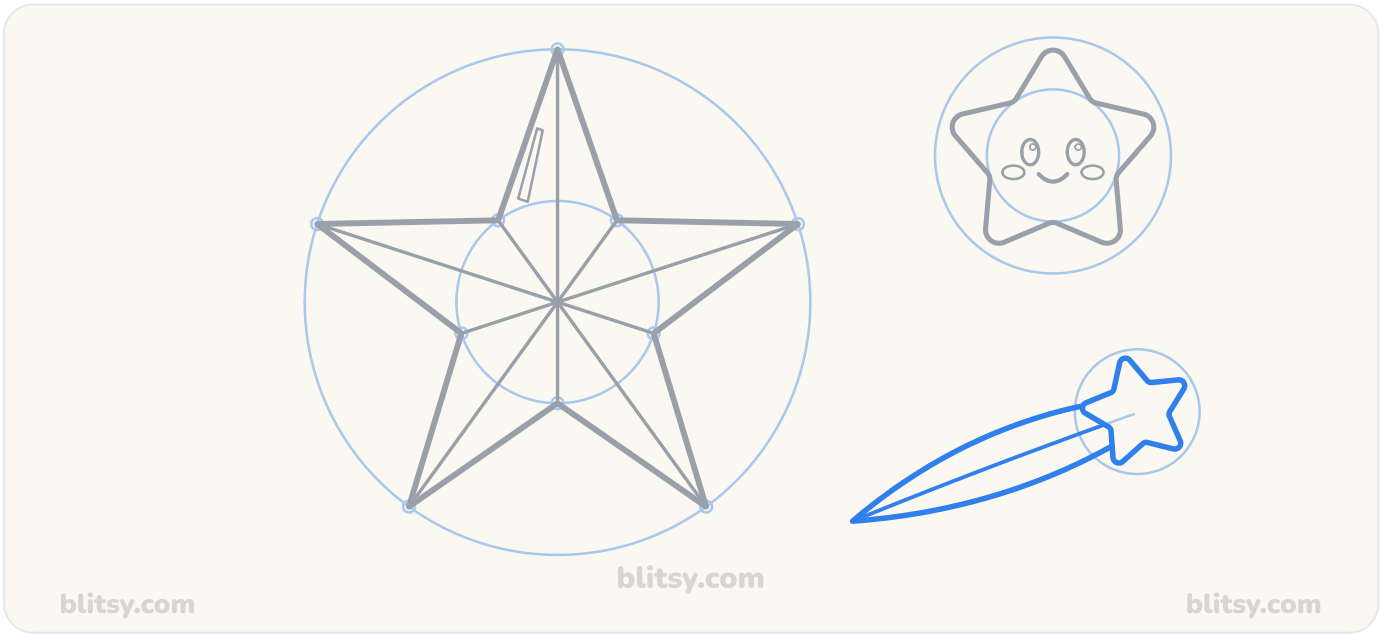
STEP 7 Give the little star a happy face



Keep the face low and close together in the middle of the star. Draw two tall oval eyes with a tiny shine circle in each, then a small curved smile between them. Add two flat ovals for cheeks just outside the eyes. When I teach this one, I point out that a face placed high and wide looks surprised instead of sweet.

💡 **Tip:** Leave the shine circles empty so the eyes sparkle after coloring.

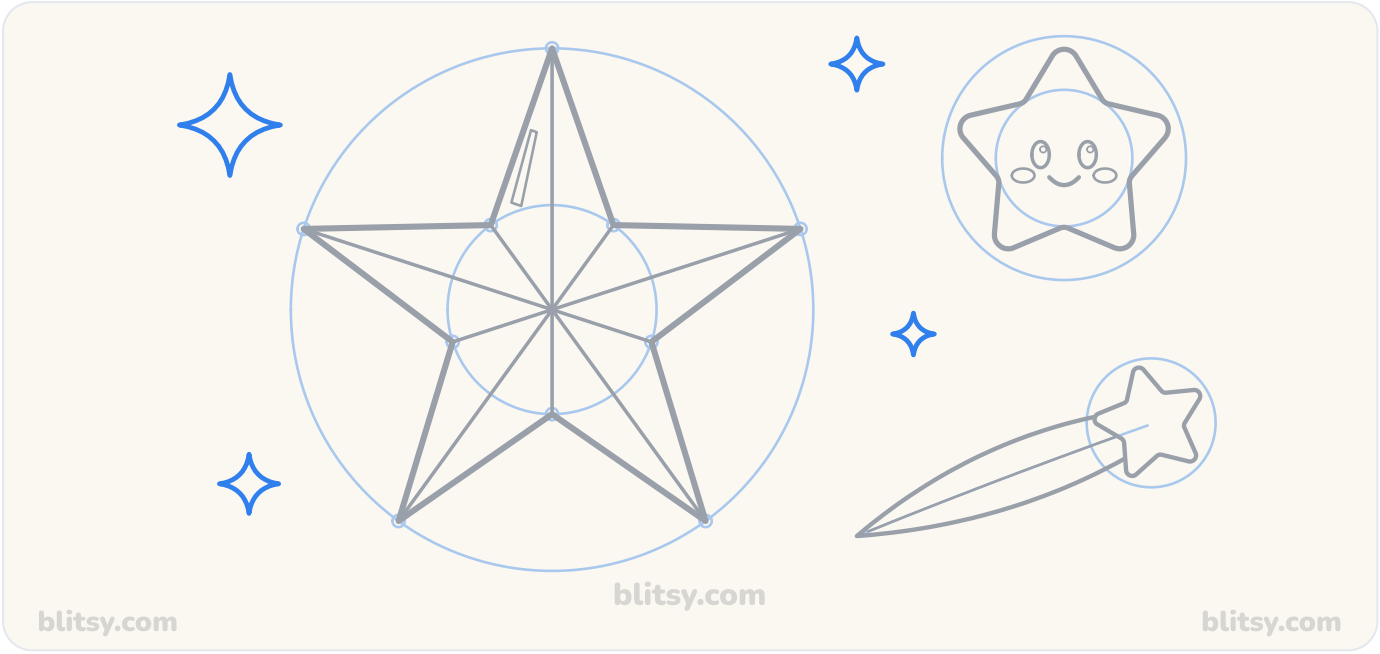
STEP 8 Add a shooting star with a curved trail



In the bottom right corner, draw a small circle and a slightly tilted star inside it. From behind its left side, sweep two long curves down to the left until they meet in a sharp point. Bow both curves downward a little so the trail looks like it's falling, not just sliding. Split the trail lengthwise with one thinner curve.

💡 **Tip:** Stop the trail lines where they touch the star, so the star sits in front.

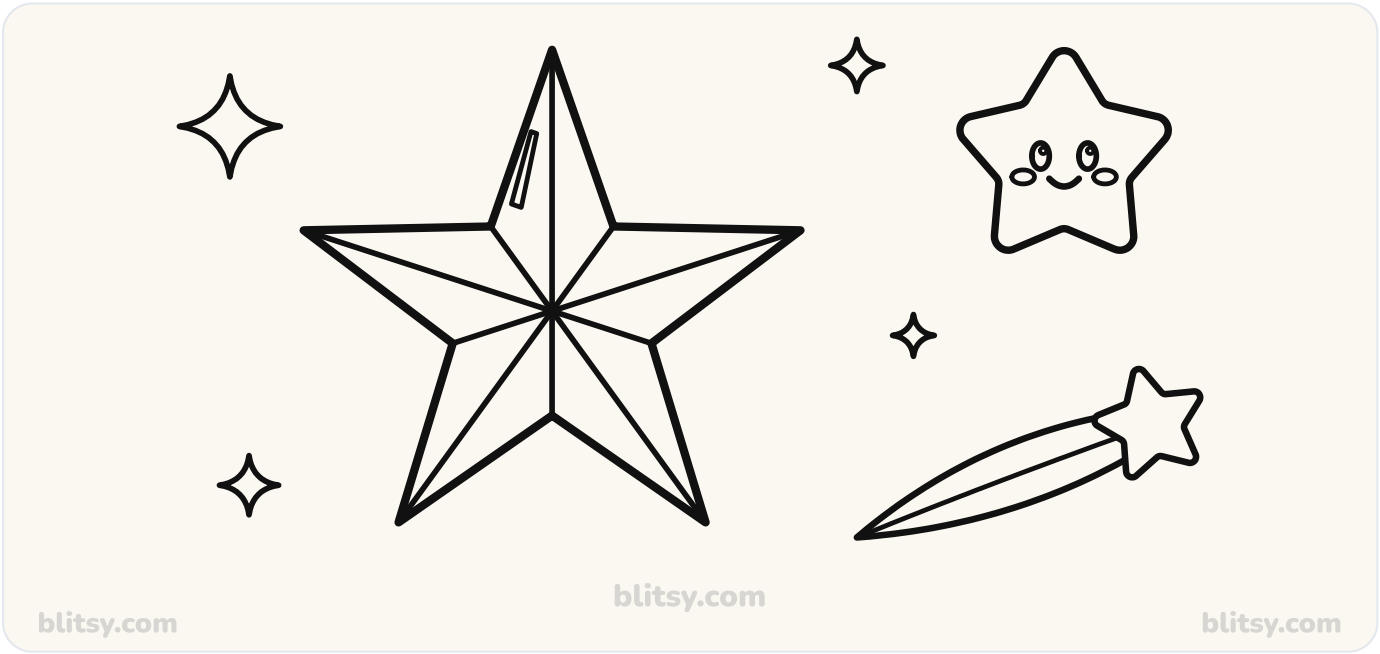
STEP 9 Scatter a few twinkle sparkles



Fill the empty corners with four-point twinkles. Each one is four points joined by curves that bend inward, a bit like a diamond that's been pinched. Make one large twinkle on the top left and three smaller ones around the page. Odd gaps feel balanced when the sizes differ, so I never make them all the same.

💡 **Tip:** Keep sparkles away from the outlines so each shape still reads on its own.

STEP 10 Ink the lines and erase the guides



Go over every keeper line in black: the big star outline, its ten facet lines and the shine, then the cute star with its face, the shooting star, the trail and the twinkles. Leave the circles, the spokes and the dots alone. Wait a minute for the ink to dry, then erase all the pencil guides with gentle strokes.

💡 **Tip:** Ink the big outline a touch thicker than the lines inside it.

STEP 11 Color the light and dark halves



On the big star, color one half of each point gold and the other half orange, always on the same side as you go around. That steady pattern is what tricks the eye into seeing raised edges. Leave the shine white. Then color the cute star yellow with pink cheeks and brown eyes, the shooting star gold, the trail in two blues and the twinkles yellow.

💡 **Tip:** Color the dark halves first; it's easier to stay inside a light edge afterward.