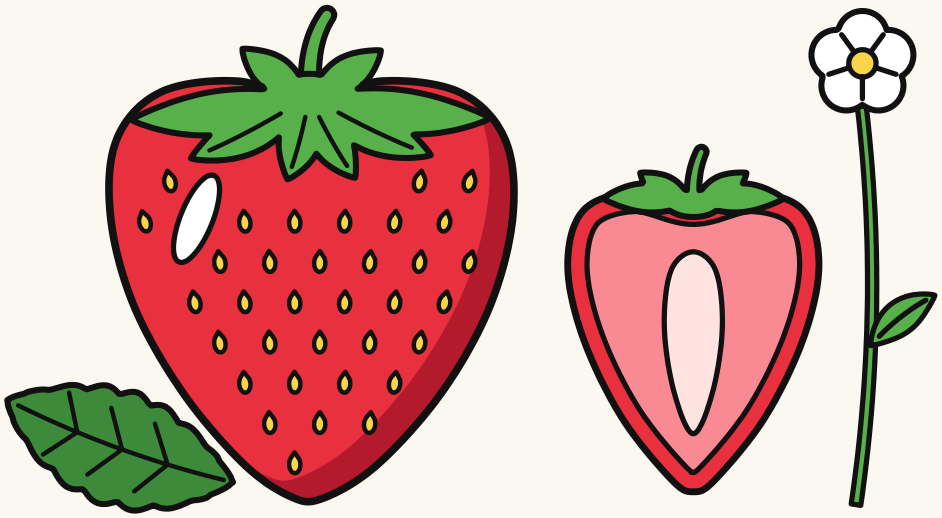
How to Draw a Strawberry

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

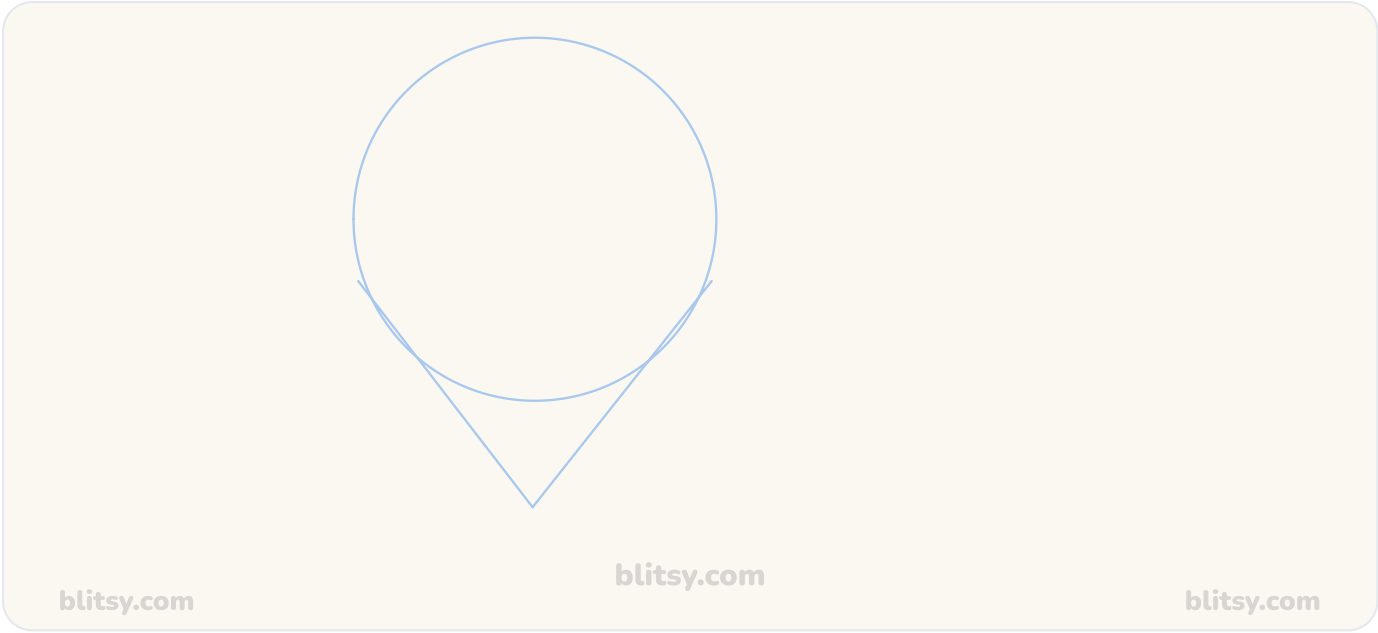
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black fineliner
- Colored pencils
- Plain paper

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 →

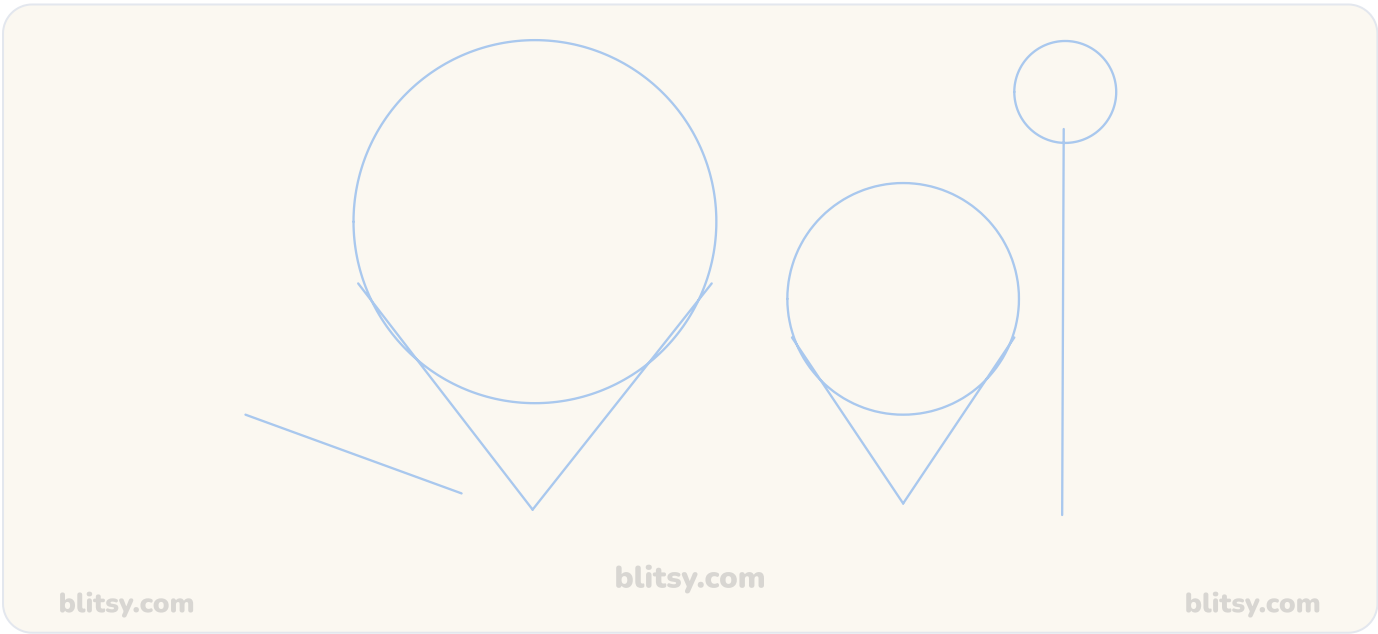
STEP 1 Sketch a circle with a soft V below it



On the left half of your paper, draw a large circle. From both lower sides of the circle, run two straight lines down until they meet in a point well below it. That funnel shape is the whole strawberry in disguise. I place the point about half a circle's height under the circle, because a shorter V gives you a round tomato and a longer one gives you a carrot.

💡 **Tip:** Press so lightly that you can barely see the lines. They are only scaffolding.

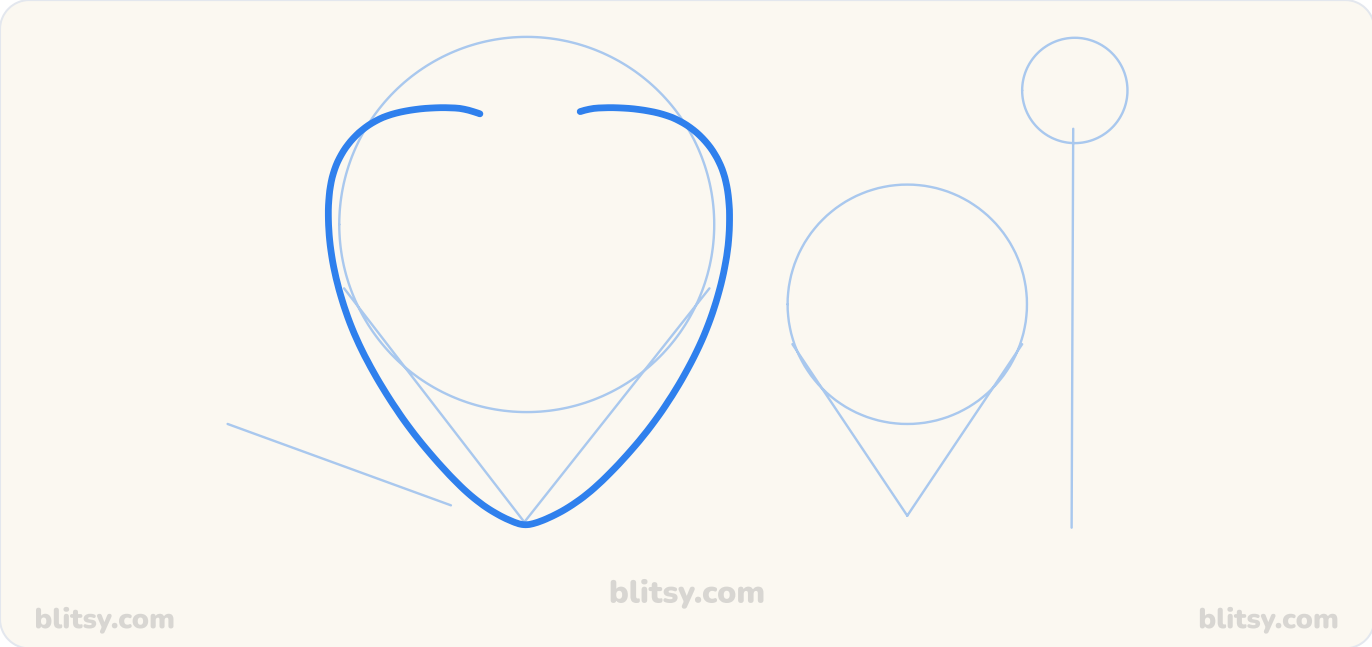
STEP 2 Add guides for the half, flower and leaf



To the right, draw a smaller circle with its own V for the cut strawberry. Further right, sketch a little circle near the top for the flower and a long upright line under it for the stem. Last, put one slanting line at the bottom left where the leaf will lie. I leave a clear gap between shapes so nothing gets crowded.

💡 **Tip:** Plan the whole page now. Moving a shape later means erasing half your work.

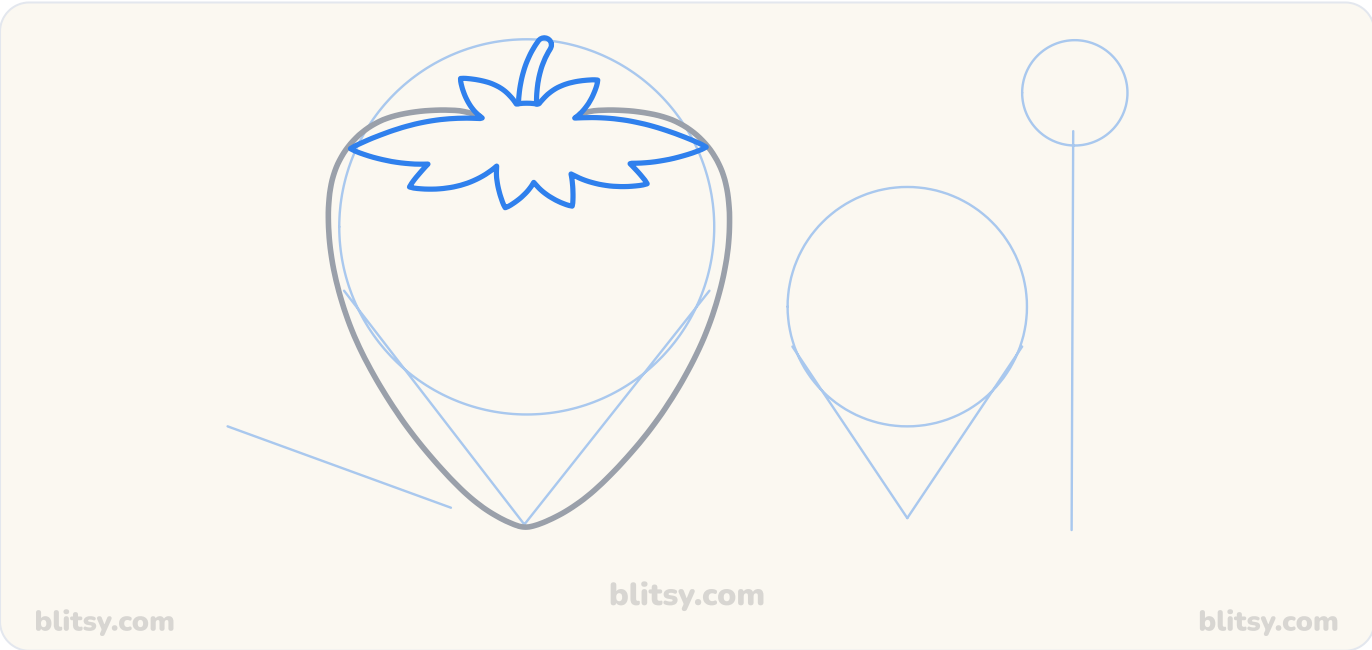
STEP 3 Draw the rounded berry outline



Now trace the real outline of the big berry. Start at the top, swing out a little past the circle for wide shoulders, and curve down into the point of the V. Round the very tip slightly so it isn't sharp like a pencil. Leave a gap at the top middle, since the leafy cap will cover it in the next step.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the left side, then the right, and compare them before you go on.

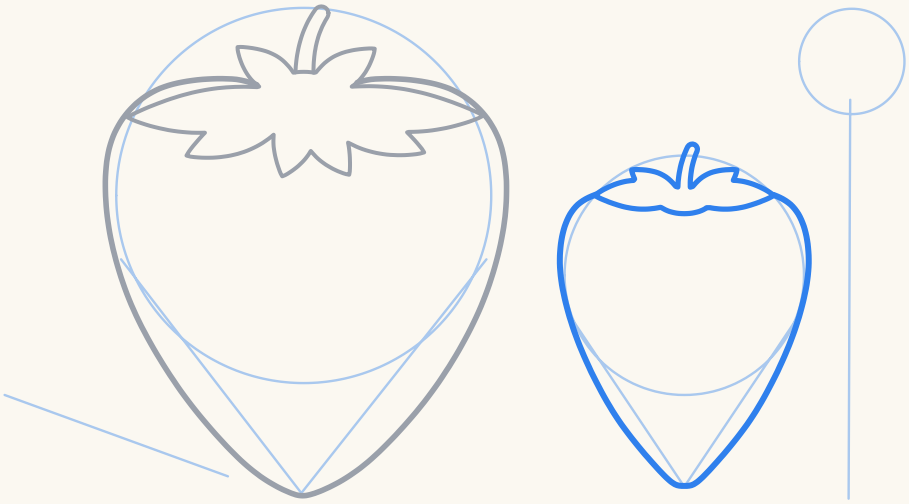
STEP 4 Give it a leafy cap and a stem



From the middle of the top edge, draw pointed leaves that fan outward like a star. Let the front leaves hang down over the berry and the side ones droop over the shoulders, with two shorter leaves poking up at the back. Above the middle, add a short stem that bends a little to one side. I keep the stem short, because a tall one makes the berry look like a lollipop.

💡 **Tip:** Vary the leaf lengths a bit. Identical points look like a paper crown.

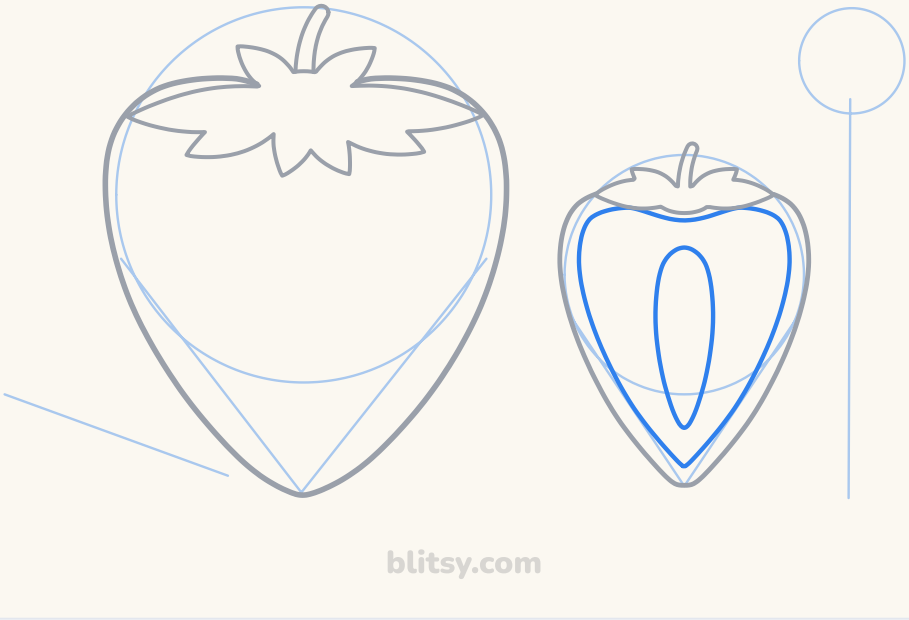
STEP 5 Outline the cut half



Use the second circle and V to draw a strawberry shape again, only this time make the top flatter, because it's a slice seen from the front. Add a small cap of four leaves that flare out sideways along the top edge, plus a tiny stem stub in the middle.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the top edge almost straight. That flat line is what says 'cut'.

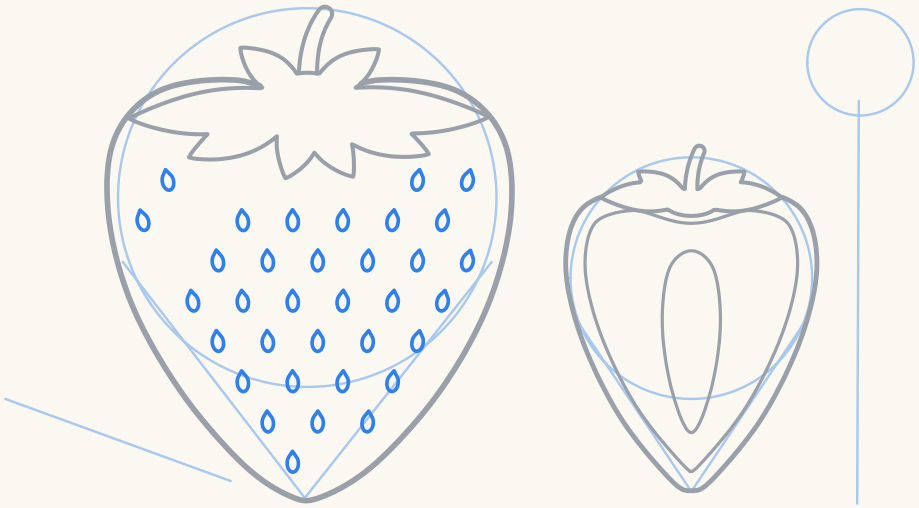
STEP 6 Draw the rim and the pale centre



Inside the half, draw a second outline that follows the first one about a finger's width in. The thin band between the two lines becomes the red skin. Then draw a long, narrow oval down the middle for the pale heart of the fruit. When I cut a real strawberry, that light centre always runs from near the top almost to the tip, so stretch yours the same way.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the band the same thickness all the way round, even at the point.

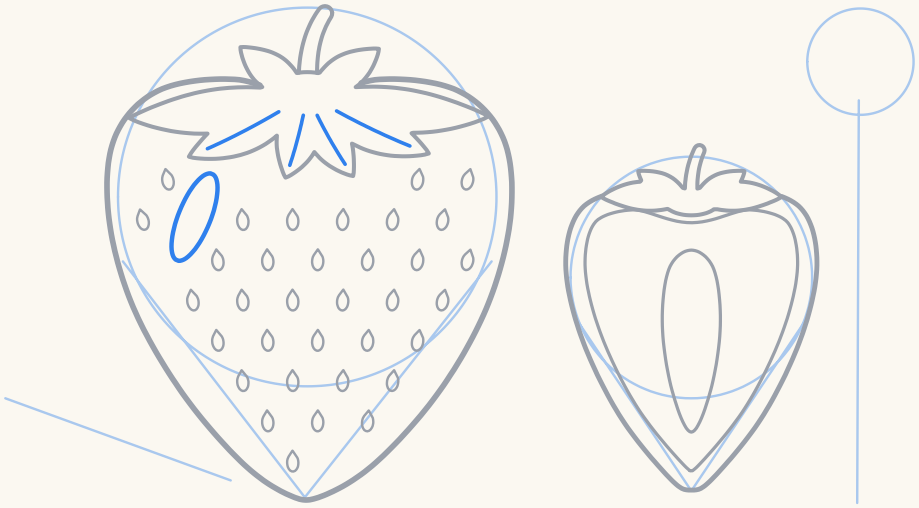
STEP 7 Place the seeds in staggered rows



Draw them as tiny teardrops, pointy end up, in rows across the berry. Shift every second row half a space sideways, like bricks in a wall. Near the edges, tilt the seeds so they lean with the curve; that small tilt makes the fruit look round. Skip a small patch on the upper left for the shine.

💡 **Tip:** Start the middle row first, then fill in above and below it.

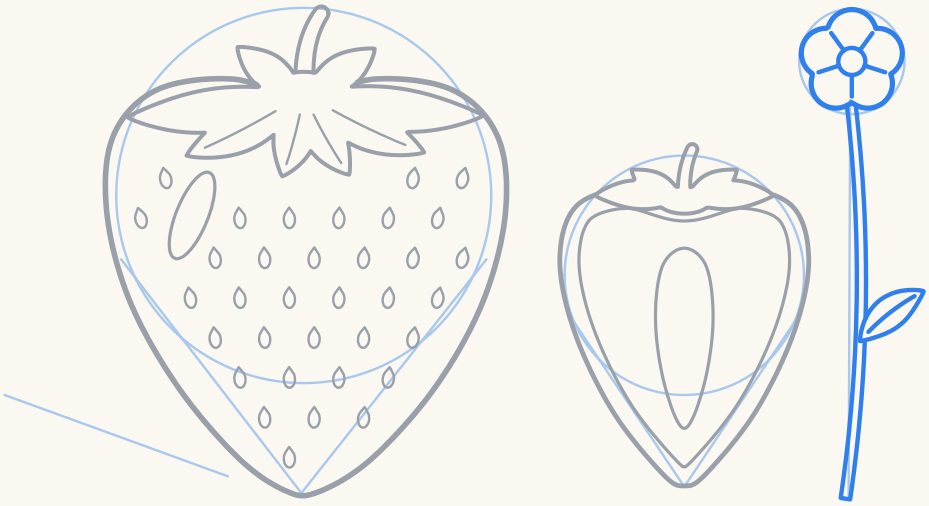
STEP 8 Add a shine and veins on the cap



In the empty patch on the upper left, draw a slim tilted oval. This is the shine, the spot where light hits the shiny skin, and it stays white forever. On the front cap leaves, draw one thin line down the middle of each as a vein. I keep the veins short, so they don't touch the leaf tips.

💡 **Tip:** Put the shine on the same side every time you draw fruit, so the light makes sense.

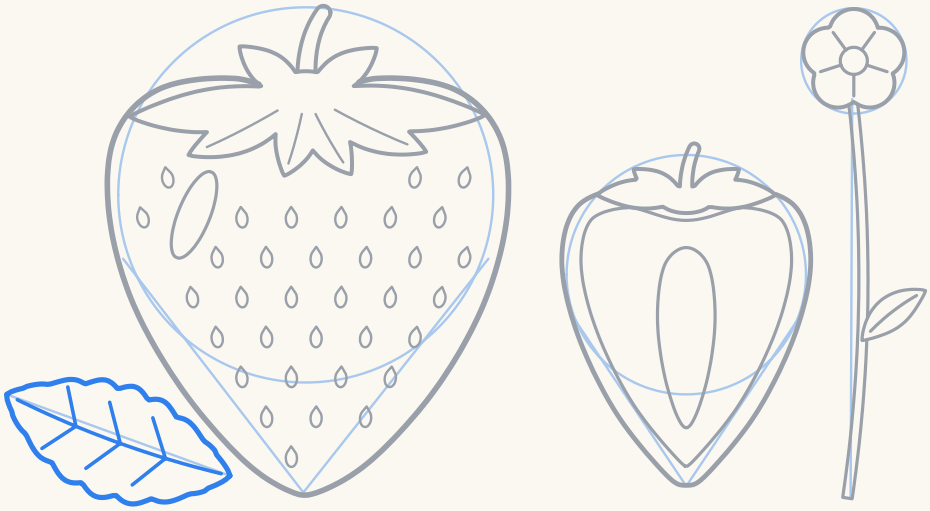
STEP 9 Draw a little white flower on a stem



Strawberry plants have small white flowers with five round petals. Inside the little guide circle, draw a small centre dot and five bumpy petals around it, then add short lines between the petals. Go over the stem guide with two close parallel lines and stick a small pointed leaf on one side. Most beginners make the stem too thick, so keep the two lines nearly touching.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the top petal first, then space the other four around it.

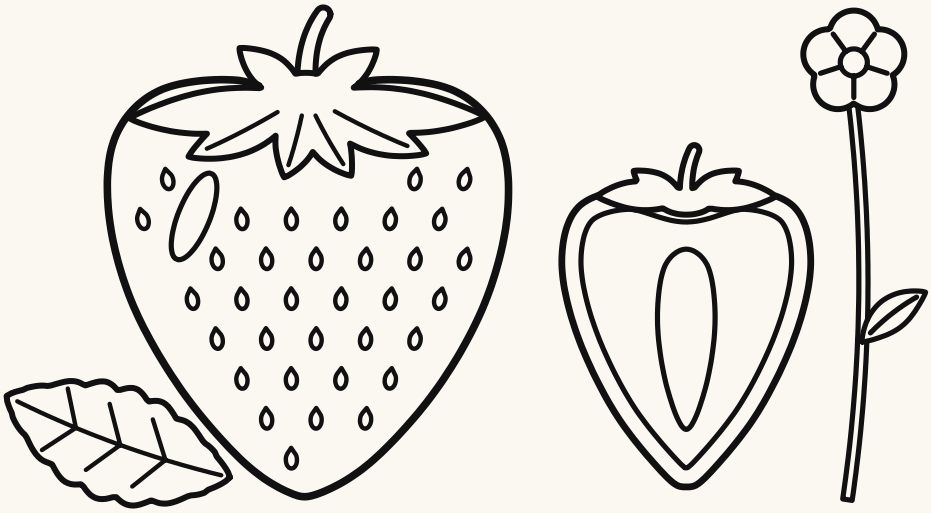
STEP 10 Lay a jagged leaf behind the berry



Along the slanted guide at the bottom left, draw a long leaf with a saw-tooth edge. Its right end tucks behind the big berry, so stop the outline where it meets the fruit. Add a centre line and a few side veins that point toward the tip. Real strawberry leaves have these little teeth.

💡 **Tip:** Make the teeth small and even. Big spikes turn the leaf into a holly leaf.

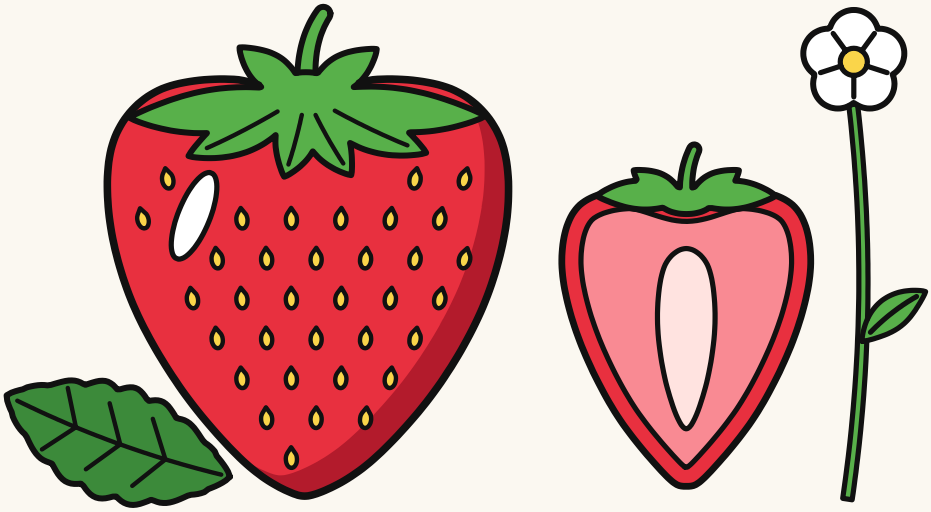
STEP 11 Ink the lines and erase the guides



Trace every keeper line with your black pen: both berries, the caps, every seed, the flower and the leaves. Wait a minute for the ink to dry completely. Then erase the circles, the V lines and the stem guide. My favorite moment: with the helpers gone, the berry already looks finished.

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

STEP 12 Color the strawberries



Fill the big berry and the rim of the half with red, leaving the shine white. Add dark red along the right side and the bottom of the big berry for shade. Color the inside of the half pink and its centre light pink. The seeds and the flower middle get yellow, the caps and stems green, and the big leaf dark green.

💡 **Tip:** Color the seeds before the red, so the red pencil doesn't smear over them.