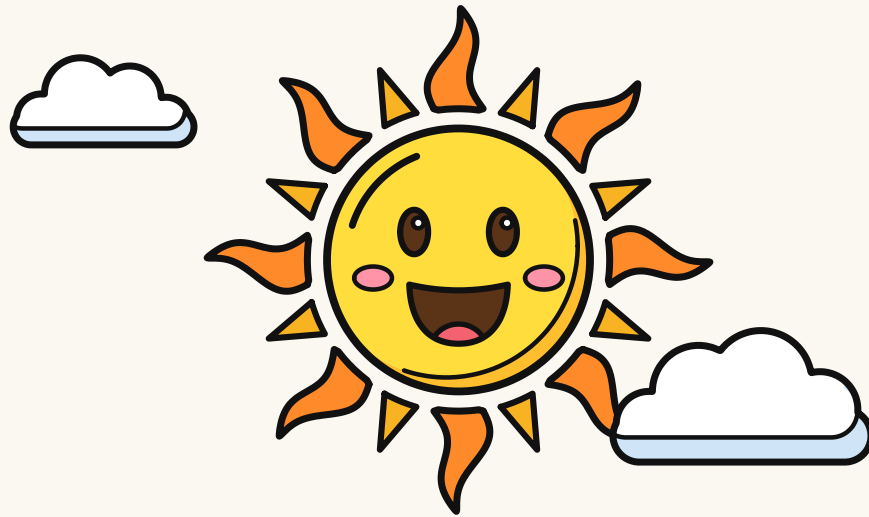


How to Draw a Sun

11 easy steps for beginners



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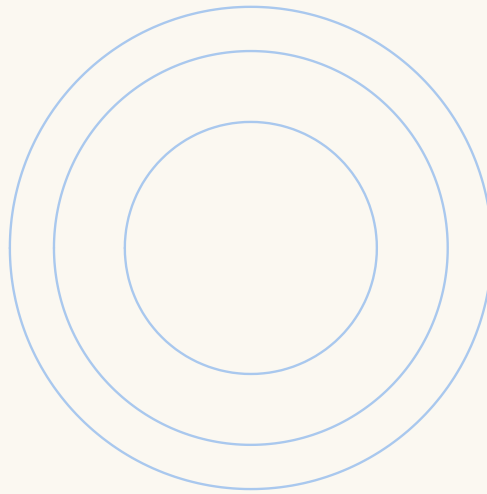
What you'll need

- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black marker
- Coloring pencils
- Plain paper

How to use this guide

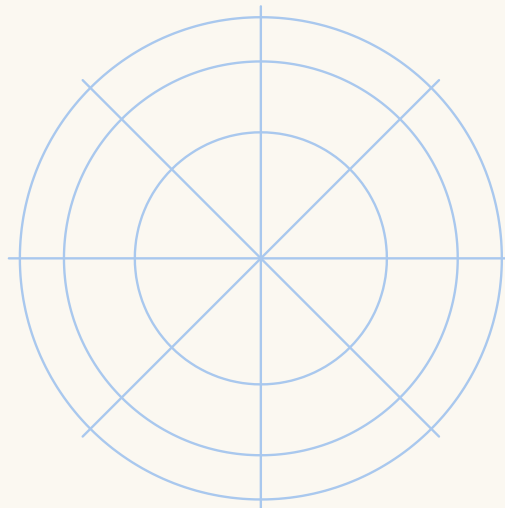
New lines for each step are shown in **blue**; lines you already drew are gray. Draw lightly first, then ink and erase near the end.

[Read the full tutorial online →](#)

STEP 1 Draw three light circles

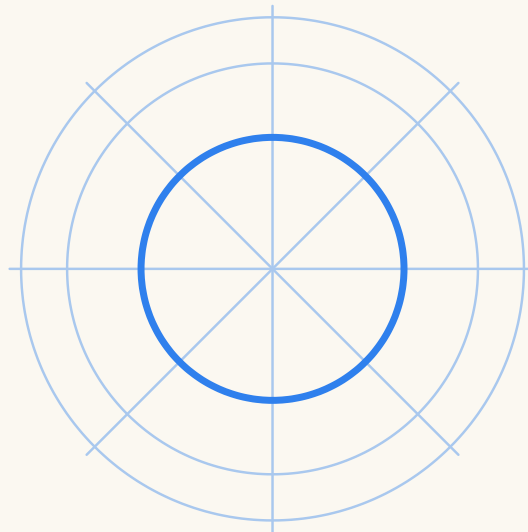
Place a dot in the middle of your paper, then draw three circles around it, one inside the other. The small one is the face. The middle circle marks where the short rays end, and the big outer one marks the tips of the long rays. Keep the gaps between them roughly even, and press so softly you can barely see the lines.

 **Tip:** Keep the big circle small enough to leave space on both sides for the clouds.

STEP 2 Add spokes like the hours on a clock

Think of the circles as a clock. Draw a straight line from 12 down to 6, then one across from 9 to 3, both passing through your center dot. Now split each quarter in half with two slanted lines. You end up with eight spokes, and every long ray will sit on one of them. This is the step that keeps the rays even, so I never skip it.

 **Tip:** Turn the paper a quarter turn to check the cross looks square from every side.

STEP 3 Trace the round face

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Go over the smallest circle with a firmer pencil line. Smooth out any bumps as you go. A clean face circle matters more than anything else in this drawing, since every ray is measured from it.

 **Tip:** Draw the circle in four short arcs rather than one long sweep; joins are easier to hide.

STEP 4 Sketch two puffy clouds

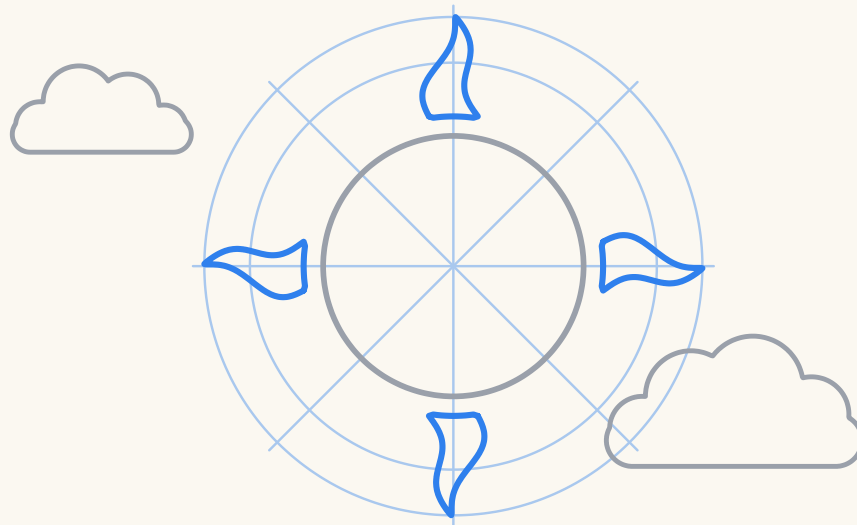
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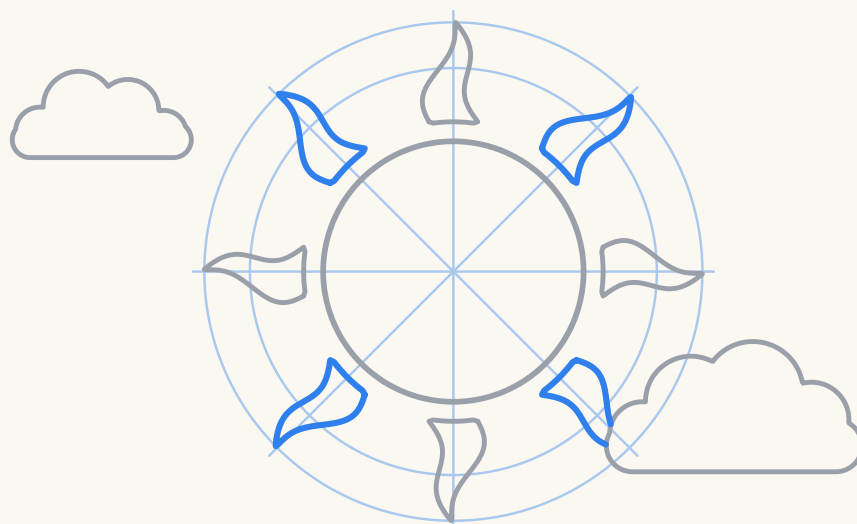
Before any rays, draw the clouds. The big one goes at the lower right, overlapping the outer circles a little. Make a flat, rounded bottom and stack three or four bumps on top, the middle bump tallest. Add a smaller cloud high on the left. I draw the clouds first because they sit in front of the sun, and the rays can simply stop where a cloud begins.

 **Tip:** Vary the bump sizes; four identical bumps look like a caterpillar.

STEP 5 Draw wavy rays at 12, 3, 6, 9

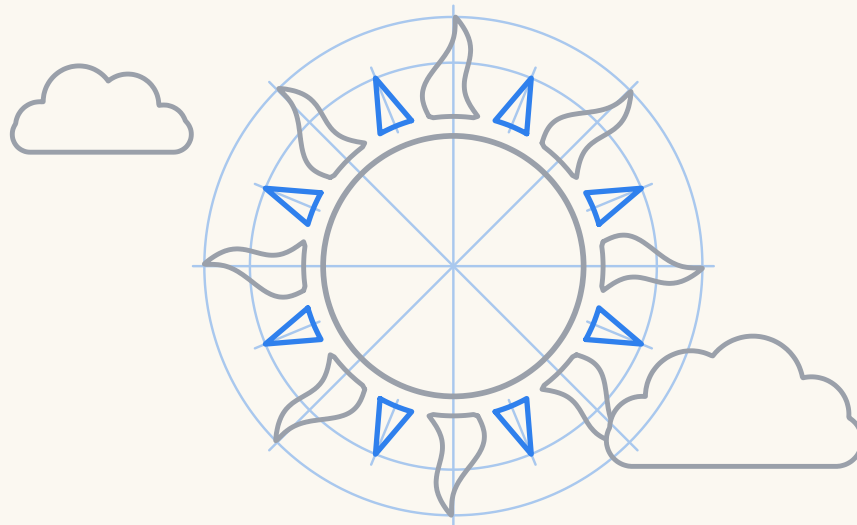
Start at the 12 o'clock spoke. Leave a small gap above the face, then draw a ray shaped like a candle flame: wide at the bottom, swaying once to one side, and ending in a point on the big circle. Repeat at 3 o'clock, then 6, then 9. Give every ray the same sway direction, like a pinwheel, and the sun will look like it's spinning gently.

 **Tip:** Draw one side of the flame, then the other, meeting at the tip.

STEP 6 Fill in the diagonal wavy rays

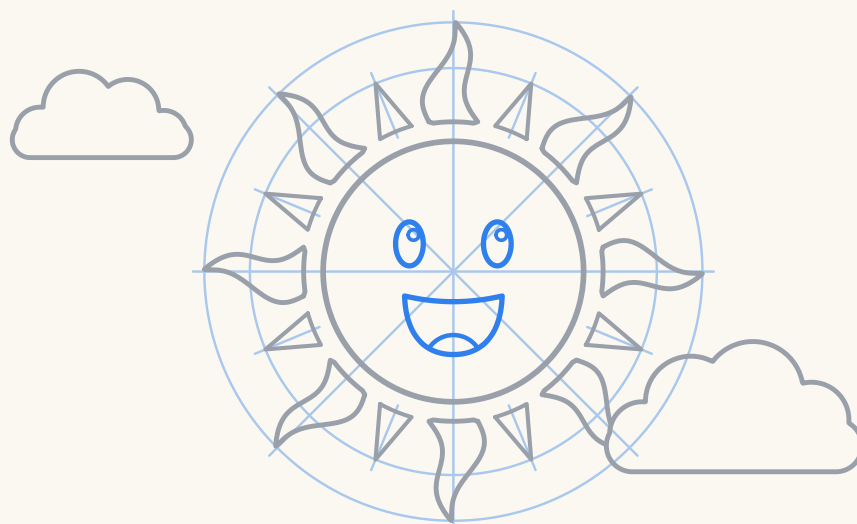
Now add four more flame rays on the slanted spokes, the same size and sway as the first four. The ray at the bottom right runs into the big cloud, so just stop your line where it meets the cloud's edge. That tiny detail makes the cloud look like it really floats in front.

 **Tip:** Compare each new ray with its neighbor before moving on, not at the end.

STEP 7 Add short triangle rays in between

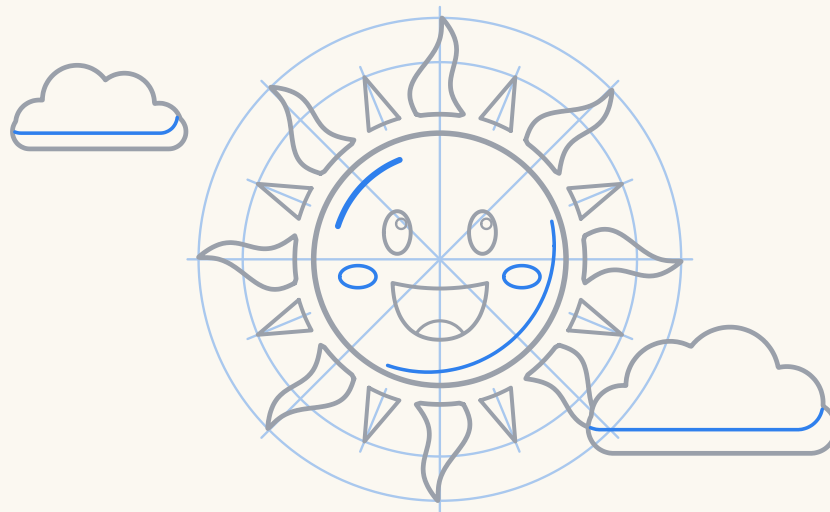
Halfway between each pair of long rays, make a light mark. On each mark, draw a short, pointed triangle whose tip touches the middle circle. Keep the base the same small gap away from the face as the long rays. These short rays give the sun two rhythms, long against short, which is what makes it sparkle.

 **Tip:** Make the triangles slimmer than you think; fat ones crowd the wavy rays.

STEP 8 Give the sun eyes and a big smile

Use the 3 to 9 spoke as your eye line, and place two tall ovals just above it, an equal distance either side of the center. Add a small circle in each one for a shine. Below the middle, draw a wide open mouth shaped like a bowl with a nearly flat top, then a round hill at the bottom for the tongue.

 **Tip:** Put both eye shines on the same side, or the sun looks cross-eyed.

STEP 9 Draw cheeks, a shine and shade lines

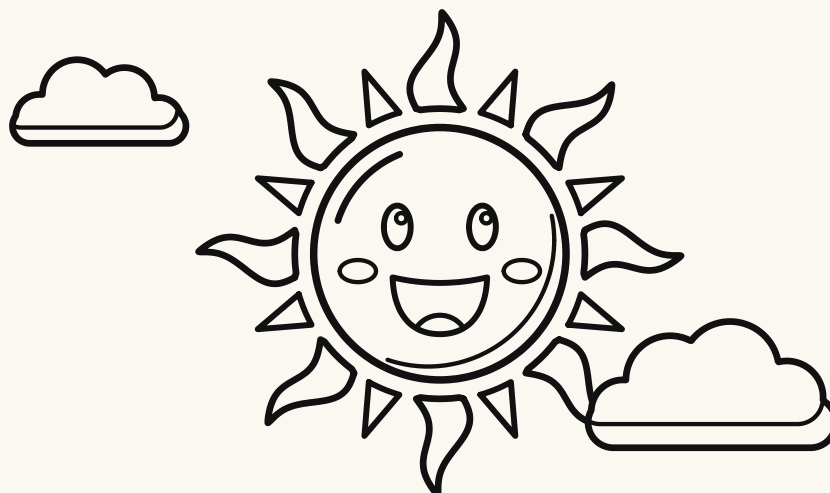
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Add a flat oval cheek beside each corner of the mouth. Next, draw a short curved stroke inside the upper left edge of the face; that's the shine. Then draw a long curve inside the lower right edge, close to the outline at both ends. Finish with a gentle line across the bottom of each cloud for its shadow.

 **Tip:** Keep the shine and the shade on opposite sides so the light feels like it comes from one place.

STEP 10 Ink the lines and erase the guides

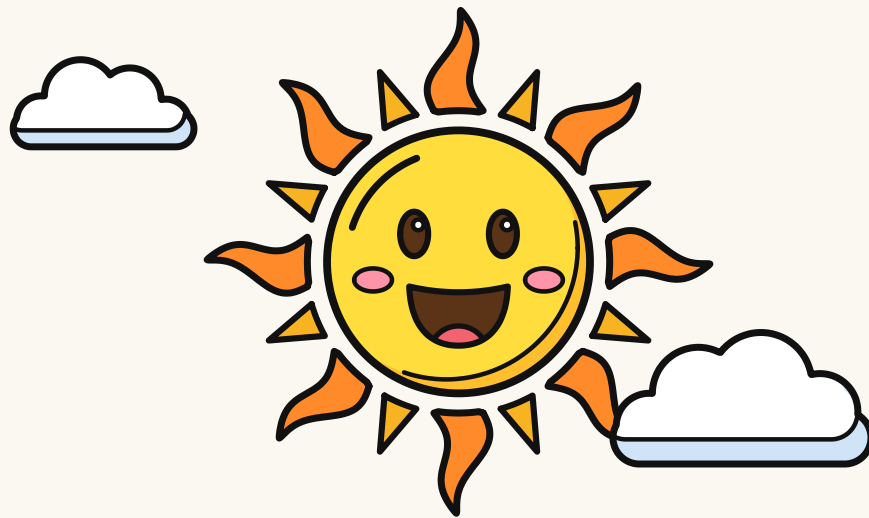
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Trace every line you want to keep with a black marker: face, features, all 16 rays, the clouds and the little shading curves. Give the ink a minute to dry. Then erase all the circles, spokes and marks. This is my favorite moment, because the sun suddenly looks finished.

 **Tip:** Ink the rays from the base toward the tip so the points come out sharp.

STEP 11 Color the sun and clouds

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Fill the face with bright yellow and the shade crescent with a darker yellow. Color the long wavy rays orange and the short ones gold, so the two rings stay easy to tell apart. Cheeks go pink, the eyes and mouth brown, and the tongue red. Leave the clouds white and color their bottom strips light blue.



Tip: Color the big yellow face first while your pencil is sharp, then the small parts.