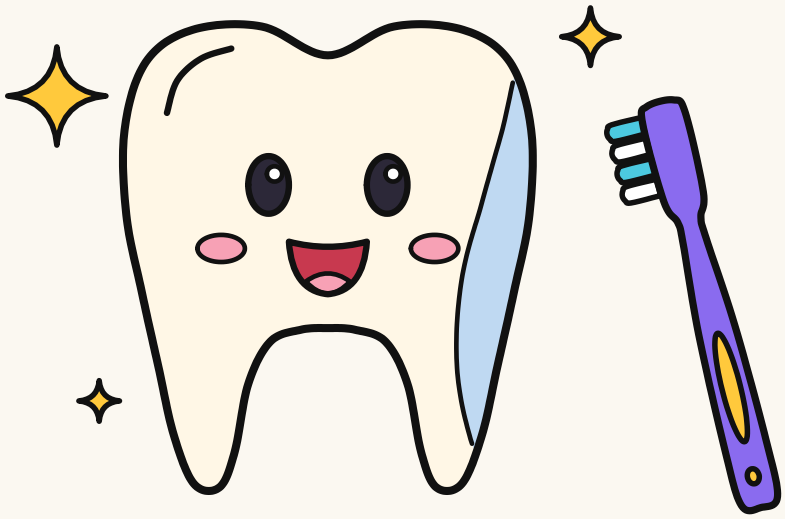
How to Draw a Tooth

10 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

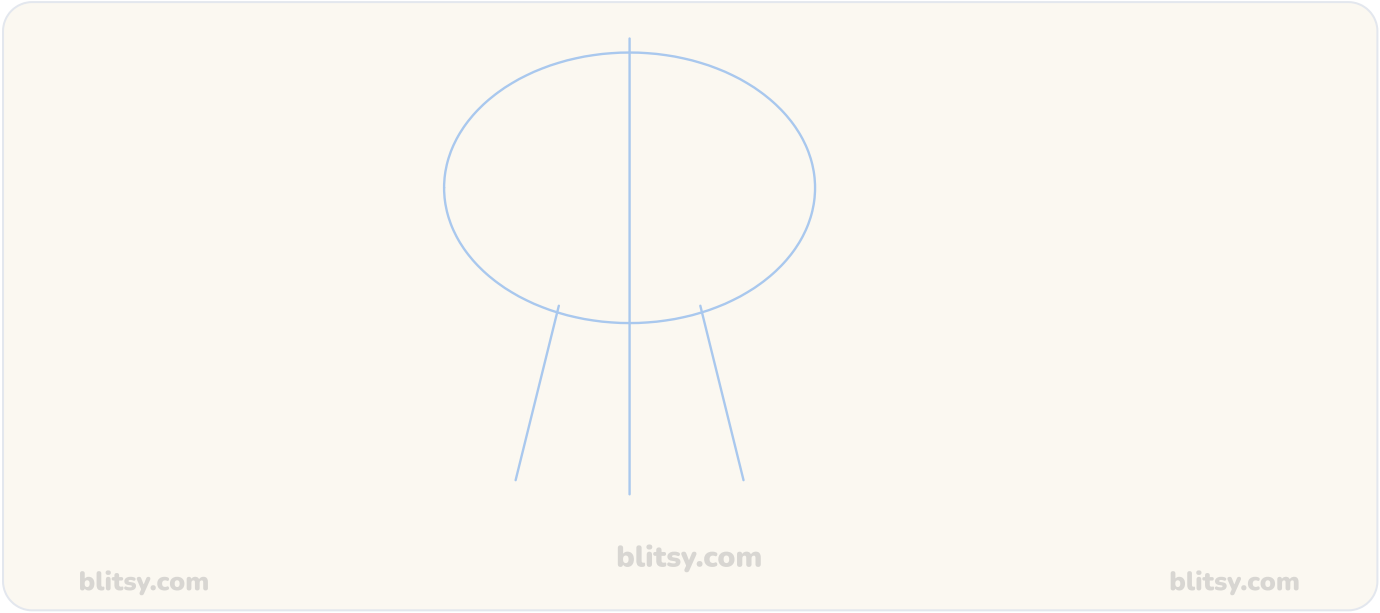
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black fineliner
- Colored pencils
- Plain paper

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 →

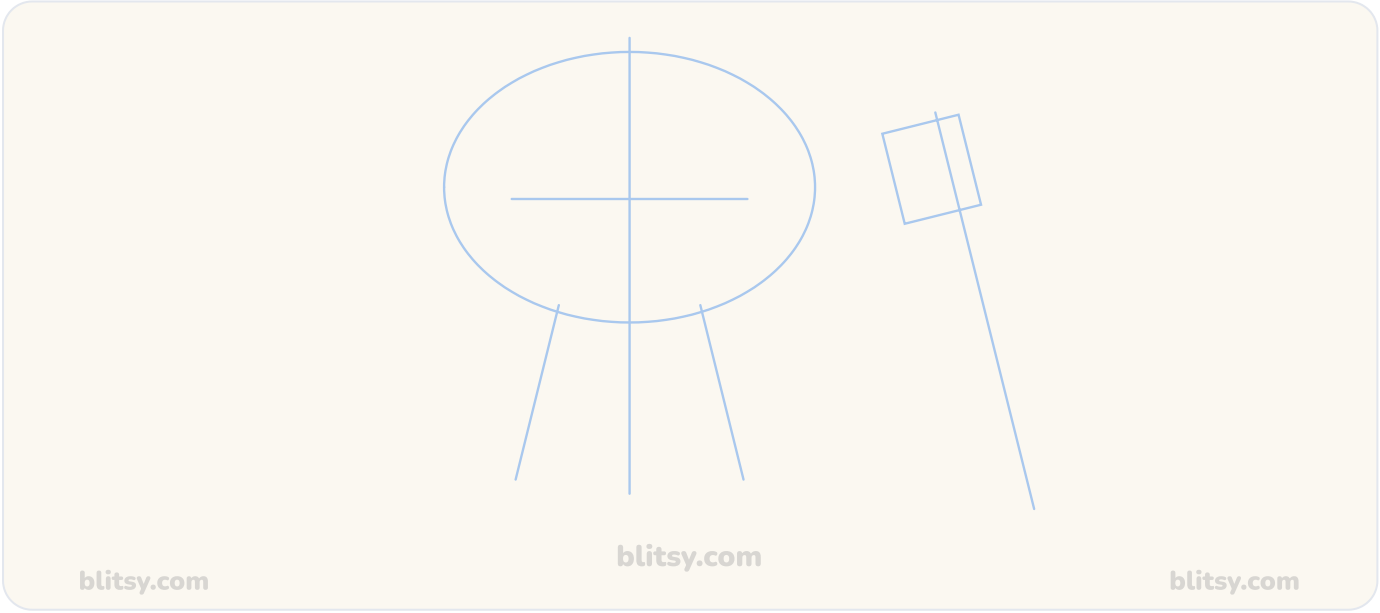
STEP 1 Sketch a crown oval and the root lines



Start with a wide oval on the left half of the page, a little wider than it is tall. This will become the crown, the chewing part of the tooth. Draw a straight line down through its middle and keep going below the oval. Then add two slanted lines under the oval, one on each side of the center line, leaning slightly outward. Those two lines show where the roots will go.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the oval away from the right side of the paper. The toothbrush needs that space later.

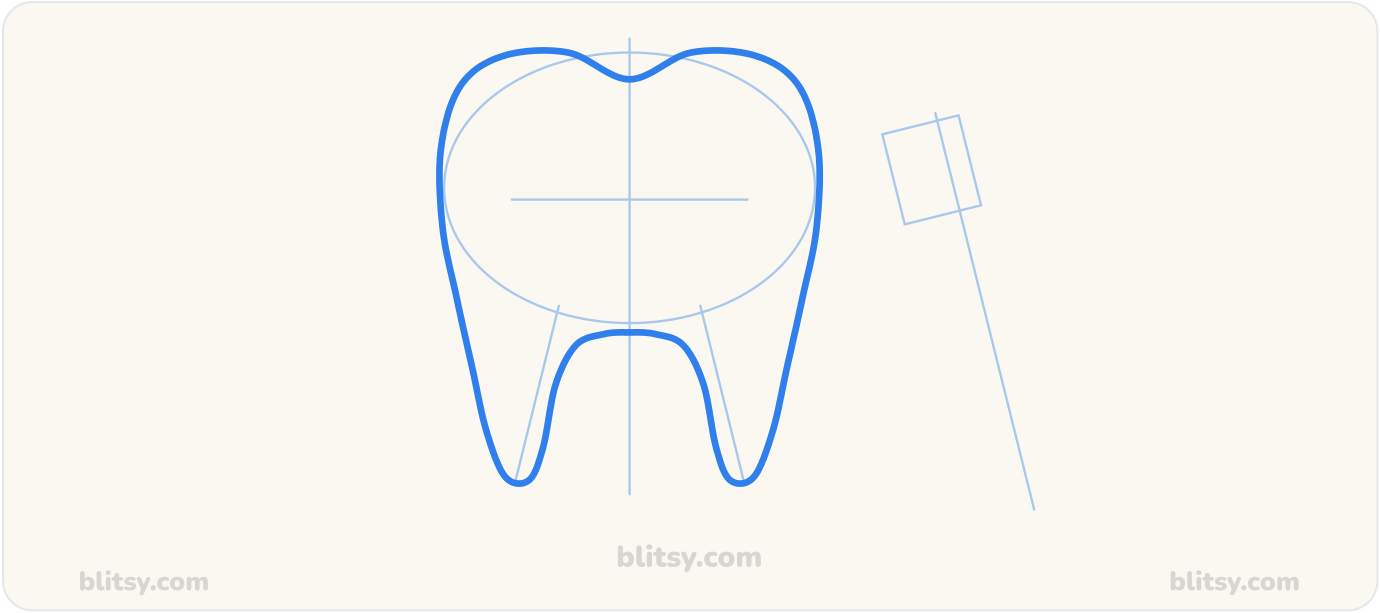
STEP 2 Add an eye line and a toothbrush guide



Draw a short level line across the oval, just below its middle. The eyes will sit on it. Over on the right, draw a long slanted line for the toothbrush handle, tipping its top toward the tooth. Finish with a small tilted box at the top of that line for the brush head. I like the brush leaning in a bit, because it looks like it's about to start scrubbing.

💡 **Tip:** Make the brush line a little shorter than the whole tooth so it doesn't look like a broom.

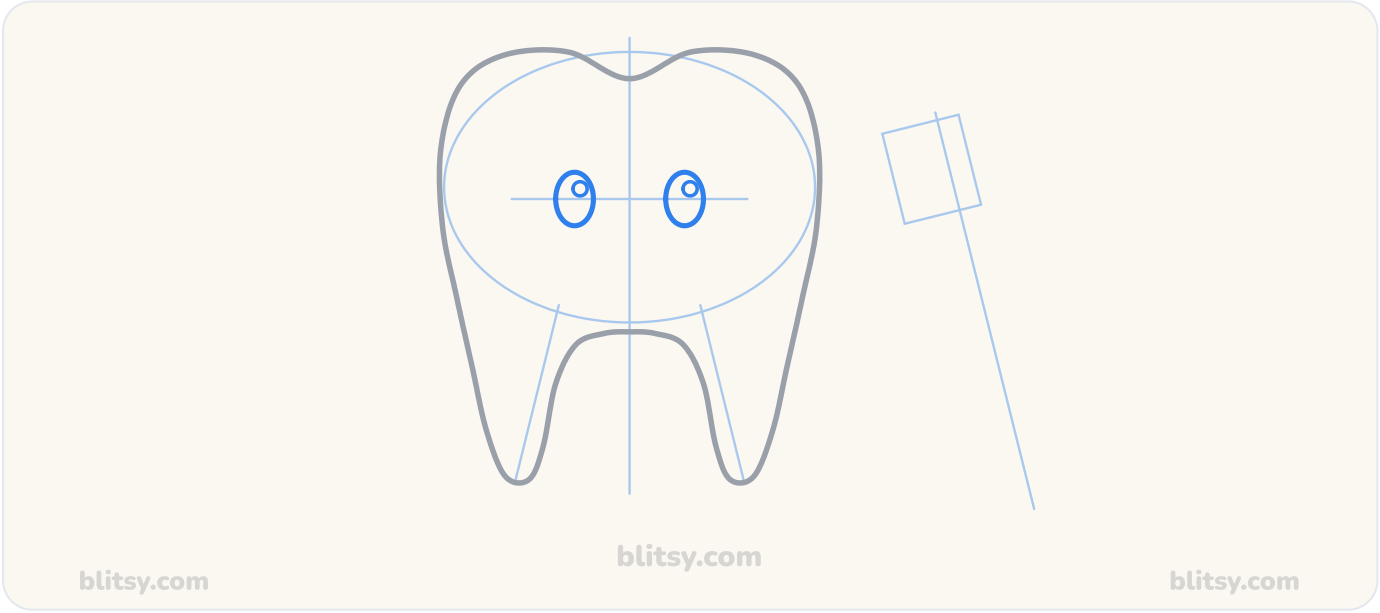
STEP 3 Draw the molar outline with two roots



This is the most important line, so take it slowly. At the top, draw two soft bumps with a small dip in the middle, right on the center line. Let the sides run down along the oval and then narrow into two roots that follow your slanted lines. Round off each root tip, and join the roots with an arch that looks like an upside-down U. When I teach this, I tell kids the bottom looks like a pair of short legs.

💡 **Tip:** Make the dip between the two top bumps shallow. A deep notch turns the tooth into a heart.

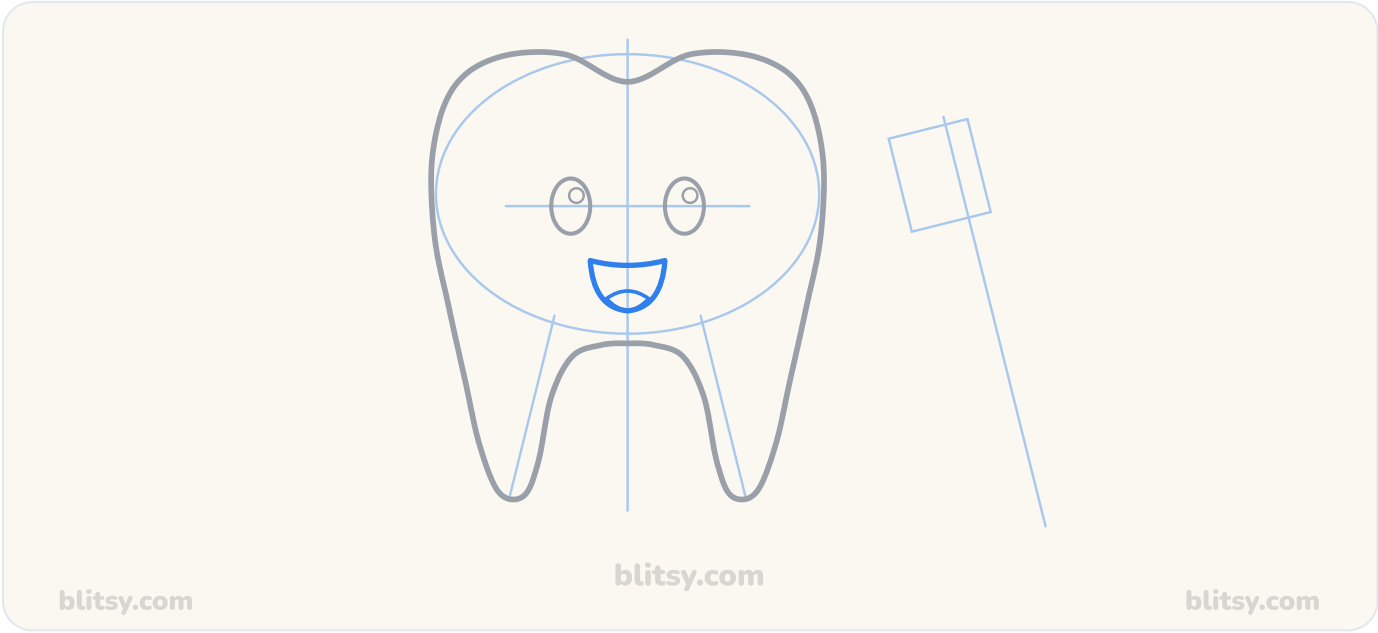
STEP 4 Add two tall oval eyes



Place two ovals on the eye line, standing up tall rather than lying flat. Leave a gap between them about as wide as two eyes, so the face doesn't look cross-eyed. Inside each eye, near the top right, draw a small circle for the shine. Putting both shines on the same side makes the eyes look like they're catching the light from one window.

💡 **Tip:** Big eyes set low on the crown make the tooth look young and friendly.

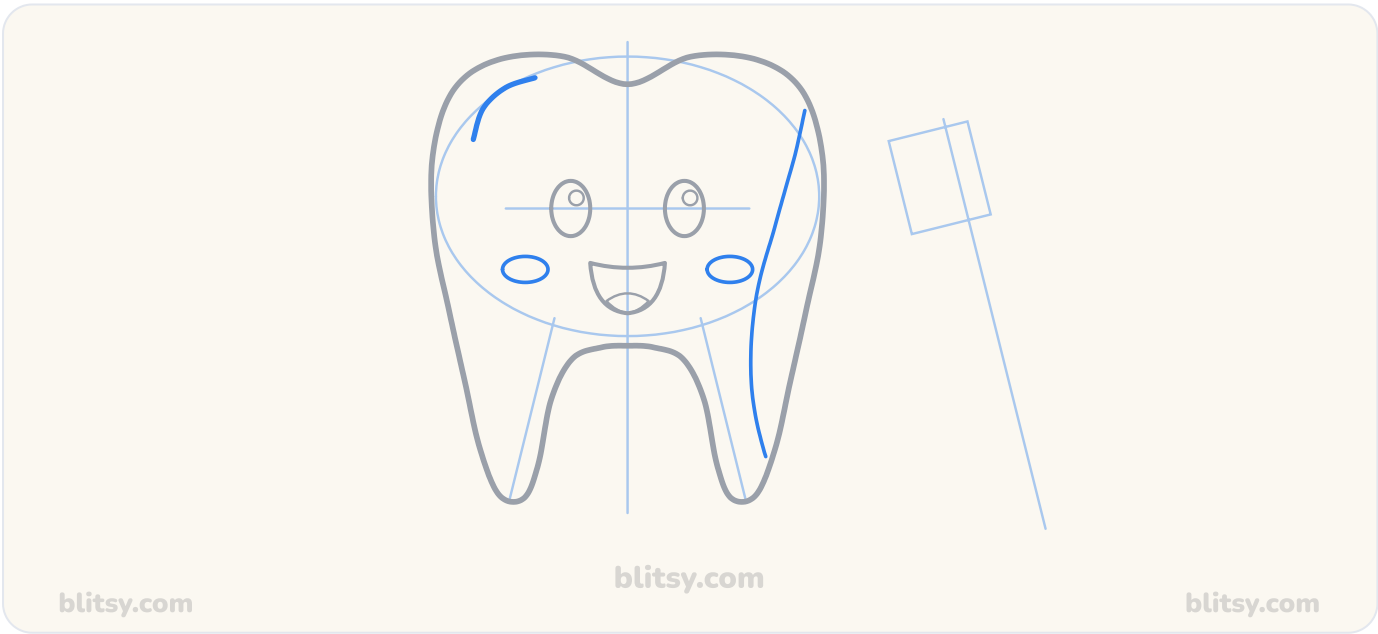
STEP 5 Give the tooth an open smile



Right under the eyes, between them, draw a gentle curve for the top of the mouth. Hang a deep U shape from both ends of that curve, so the mouth looks like a wide open grin. Now add the tongue as a small hill along the bottom of the mouth. Keep the whole mouth narrower than the space between the outer edges of the eyes, or it will swallow the face.

💡 **Tip:** Start the U a bit inside the ends of the top curve so the corners stay rounded.

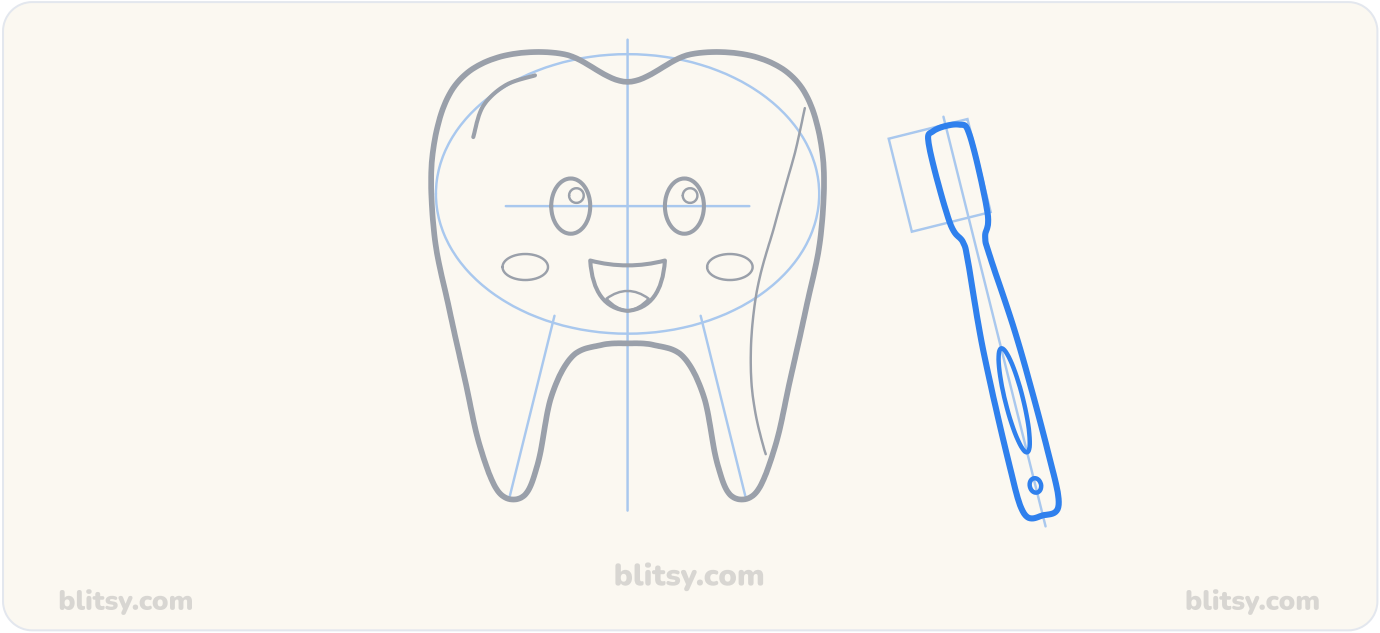
STEP 6 Draw cheeks, a shine and the shading line



Put a small flat oval under each eye, a little to the outside, for the cheeks. Next, draw a curved shine line inside the top left bump, following the edge of the tooth. On the right side, draw a long gentle curve from the top shoulder down into the right root. The strip between that curve and the outline is the shadow side, and it makes a flat drawing look rounded.

💡 **Tip:** Stop the shading curve before it touches a cheek, so the face stays clear.

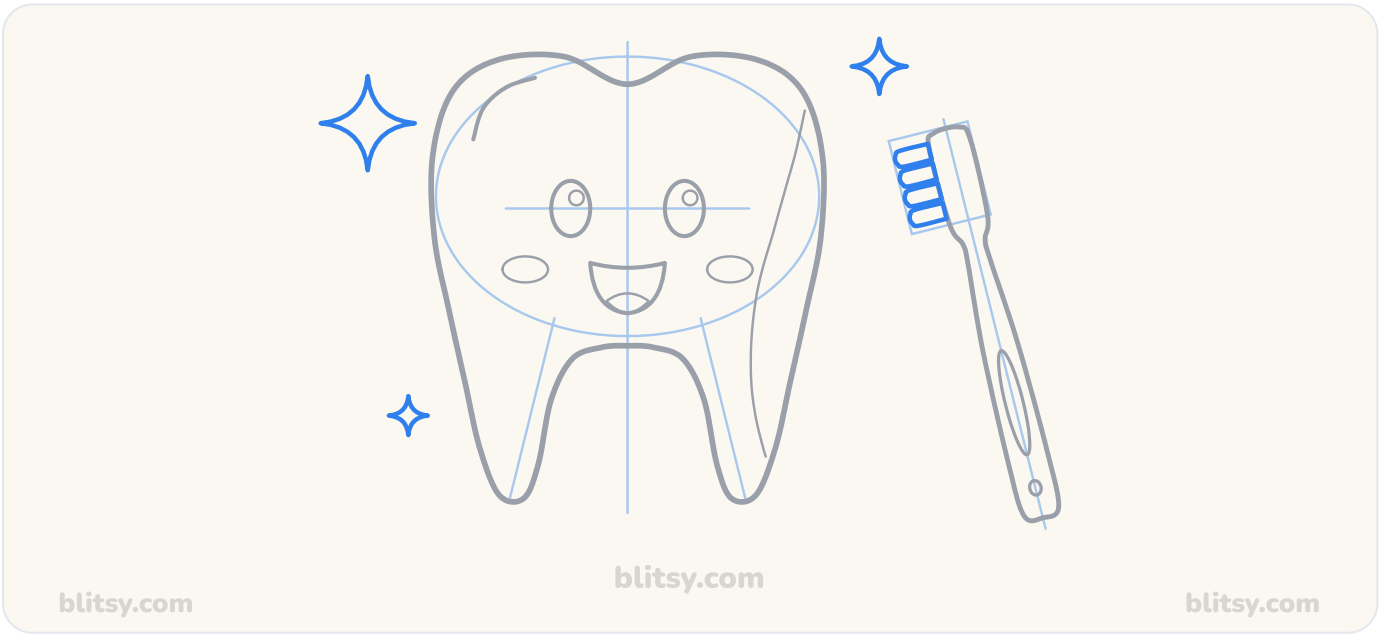
STEP 7 Draw the toothbrush handle



Use the slanted guide to draw the handle. Make it a long rounded shape that is wider at the bottom, gets slimmer just below the head, then widens again for the head itself. Add a long thin oval in the lower part for the rubber grip, and a tiny circle near the end. Honestly, the narrow neck is the part people forget, and without it the brush looks like a stick.

💡 **Tip:** Draw both sides of the handle at once, left then right, so the width stays even.

STEP 8 Add the bristles and three sparkles



On the side of the brush head that faces the tooth, draw four short rounded tufts stacked one above the other. Small gaps between them keep the bristles looking separate. Then draw three four-pointed stars around the tooth: a big one at the upper left, a medium one near the brush and a tiny one low on the left. Each star has four points with sides that curve inward.

💡 **Tip:** Draw each star as a plus sign first, then connect the tips with inward curves.

STEP 9 Ink every keeper line and erase the guides



Trace over the tooth, face, cheeks, shine, shading line, toothbrush and stars with your black pen. Leave out the oval, the center line, the eye line, the root lines and the brush guide. Give the ink a minute to dry. Then erase all the pencil guides and your tooth will suddenly look clean and finished.

💡 **Tip:** Go over the tooth outline a second time so it's the thickest line on the page.

STEP 10 Color the tooth and the toothbrush



Shade the tooth with a soft cream or very pale yellow, and fill the strip on the right with light blue. Color the cheeks and tongue pink, the mouth red and the eyes black, leaving the little shine circles white. For the brush, I go with purple for the handle, yellow for the grip and turquoise on two of the tufts. The sparkles look best in the same yellow.

💡 **Tip:** Press very lightly on the cream. A heavy layer makes a healthy tooth look stained.