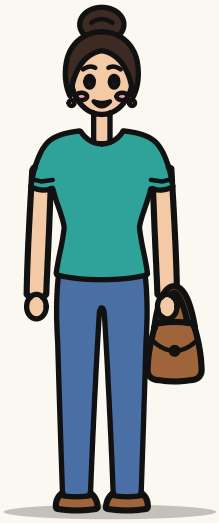
How to Draw a Woman

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

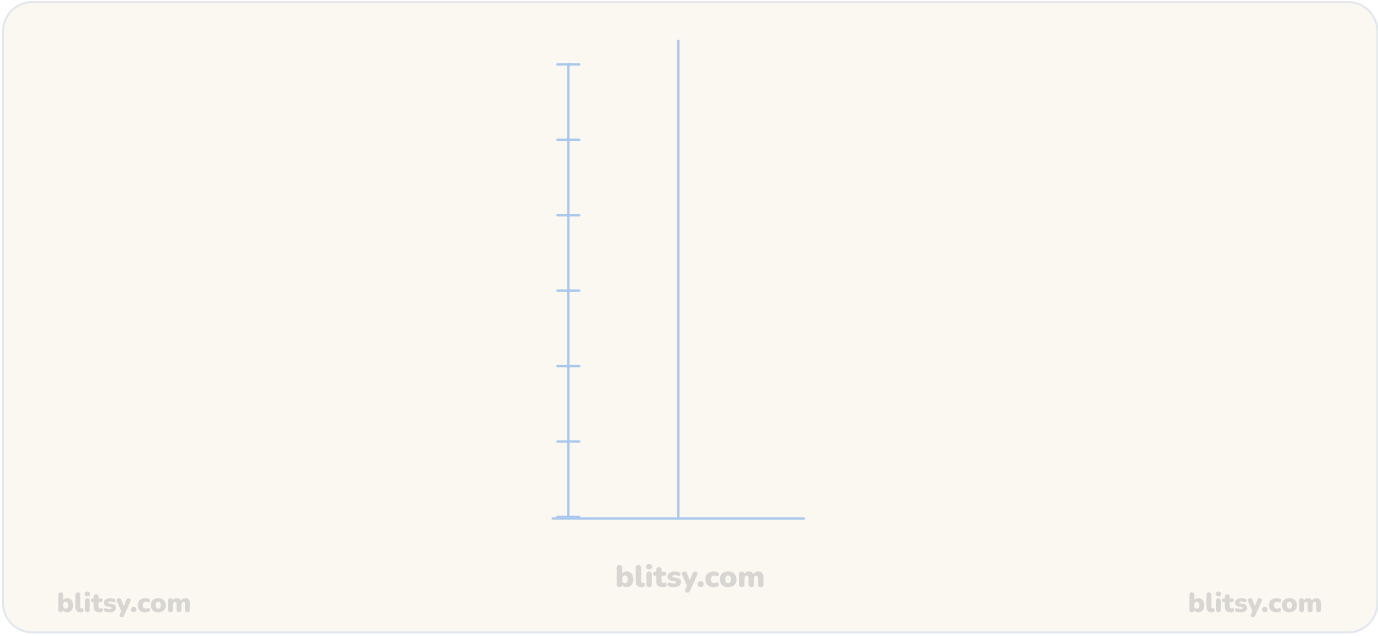
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A ruler
- A black fineliner
- Colored pencils or markers
- Plain paper

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 →

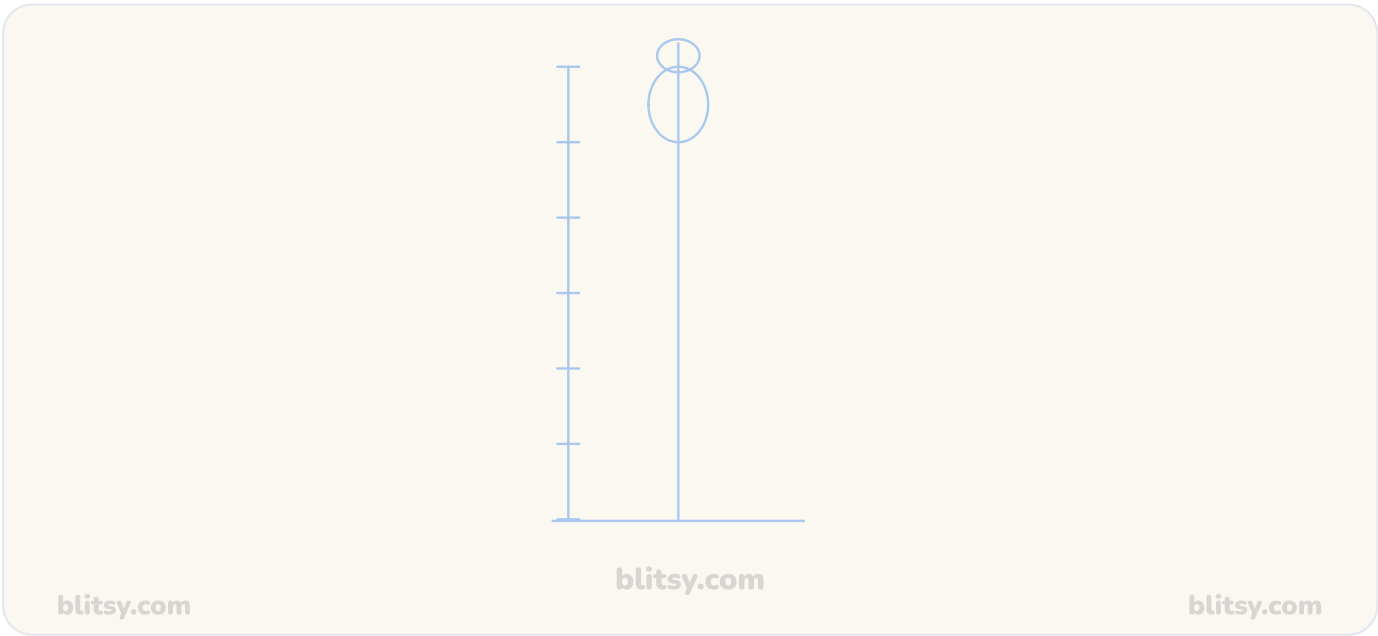
STEP 1 Measure six head units



Draw a ground line near the bottom of the page and a long vertical centre line standing on it. To its left, rule a second line of the same height and split it into six equal parts with small ticks. Each part is one head. This ruler decides every length that follows.

💡 **Tip:** Measure the gaps with your ruler instead of guessing. Uneven ticks will stretch one part of her body.

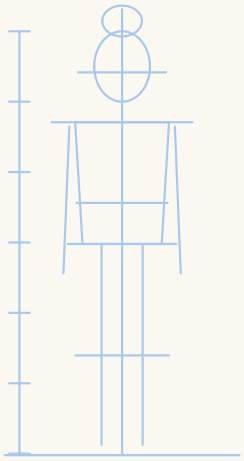
STEP 2 Sketch the head oval and a bun circle



Fit an oval into the top unit of the ruler, centred on the vertical line. It should be a little taller than wide, like an egg. Sitting on top, add a small flattened circle for the bun, about two thirds as wide as the head. Let it overlap the oval slightly so it looks attached.

💡 **Tip:** If the oval spills into the second unit, shrink it now. A head that's too big turns her into a child.

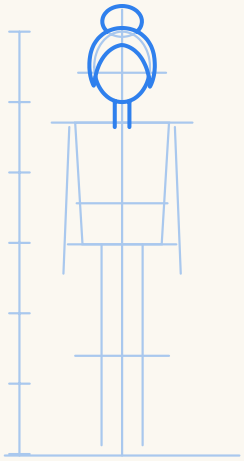
STEP 3 Mark the body landmark lines



Now the body gets its map. A short line across the face shows where the eyes go, just under the middle of the oval. Draw the shoulder line a little below the chin, wider than the head on each side. The waist sits a little below the second tick, the hips at the third tick, and the knees at about four and a half. Join shoulders to hips with a simple box, then add straight lines for the arms and legs.

💡 **Tip:** Her wrists should reach the hip line. That one check tells you the arms are the right length.

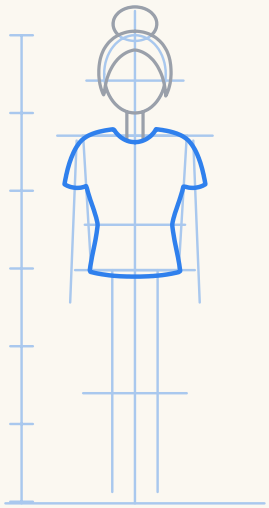
STEP 4 Outline the face and pulled-back hair



Trace the head oval with a firm line and drop a short neck down toward the shoulder line. Her hair is smooth and pulled back, so draw a rounded cap over the top of the head with a soft arch for the hairline. Let the sides come down just past the cheeks. Then outline the bun on top, letting the cap hide its lower edge.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the neck about half the width of the face. A thin stick neck looks wobbly once it's inked.

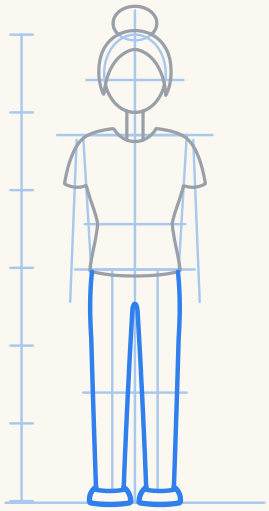
STEP 5 Draw the top with short sleeves



Start at the round neckline, then slope down to the shoulders and out into two short sleeves that end around the chest line. From the armpits, bring the sides in toward the waist line and let them flare a little over the hips. Finish with a gently curved hem just below the hip line.

💡 **Tip:** Draw one side, then copy the same curves on the other side by eye before moving on.

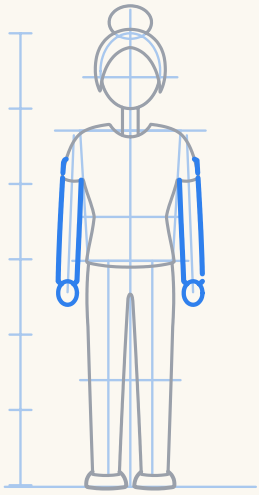
STEP 6 Add the trousers and flat shoes



The trousers start under the hem and follow the leg guides straight down to the ankles. Leave a narrow gap between the two legs that begins just below the hips; this little split stops her legs from looking like one tube. At the bottom, draw two rounded flat shoes resting on the ground line, with the toes pointing slightly outward.

💡 **Tip:** Both shoes must touch the ground line. A small lift makes her hover.

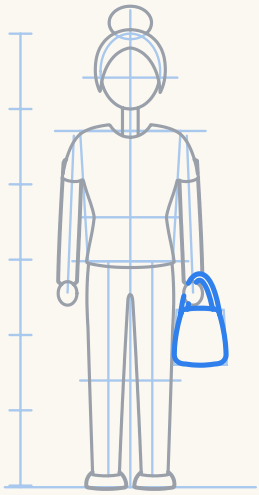
STEP 7 Shape the arms and hands



Each arm comes out of a sleeve and hangs beside the body, following the slanted guide you drew earlier. Keep a small gap between the arm and the waist so the shape of the top stays visible. End each arm with a small round hand right at hip level.

💡 **Tip:** Space between arm and body matters. Arms glued to her sides make the top look boxy.

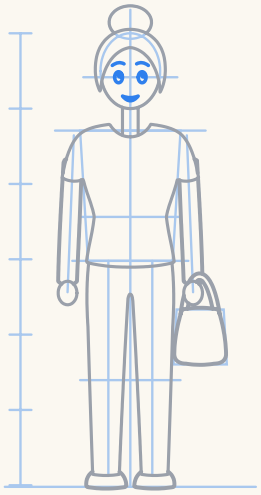
STEP 8 Put a handbag in one hand



Sketch a light box below her right hand (on your right as you look at the page), about the size of her head. Round its corners and make the bottom a touch wider than the top. Then add a curved handle that rises from the bag and passes behind her fingers. It's the one part that isn't symmetric, and it relaxes the pose.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the hand first and the handle second, so the strap disappears behind her fingers cleanly.

STEP 9 Draw the eyes and a small smile



I keep faces this small to very few marks. Place two oval eyes on the eye line, one on each side of the centre, with a white shine dot in the same top corner of each. Two short curved brows sit above them. The smile is a small half-moon, closer to the chin than to the eyes. Most beginners put the mouth too high.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the eyes a bit bigger than feels natural. Tiny dot eyes get lost once you ink around them.

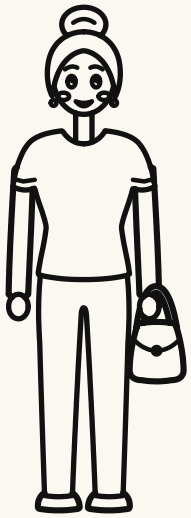
STEP 10 Add the small finishing details



Add two soft ovals on the cheeks just under the eyes and a small round earring below each side of the hair. On the sleeves, draw a short band line near the edge. The bag gets a curved flap across its upper part and a round clasp in the middle. Very young artists can skip these.

💡 **Tip:** Stop when it looks complete. Extra pockets or buttons crowd a figure this size.

STEP 11 Ink the outline and erase the guides

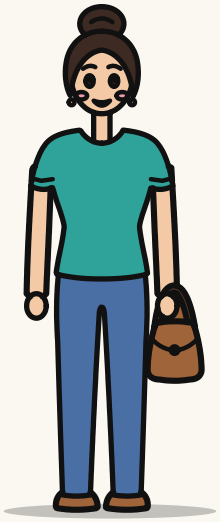


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I ink the face first, while my hand is fresh, then every other line I want to keep. Leave the ruler, landmark lines and box shapes alone. Once the ink is fully dry, erase all the pencil underneath.

💡 **Tip:** Wait a full minute before erasing. Gel and felt pens can stay wet longer than they look.

STEP 12 Color the woman



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Peach goes on all the skin. Use dark brown for the hair and bun, teal for the top and blue for the trousers. Her handbag and shoes share one brown, which ties the outfit together. Finish with pink cheeks, yellow earrings and clasp, a red smile, and a light gray shadow under her feet.

💡 **Tip:** Color the big shapes in long strokes going one direction, and save the tiny spots for last.