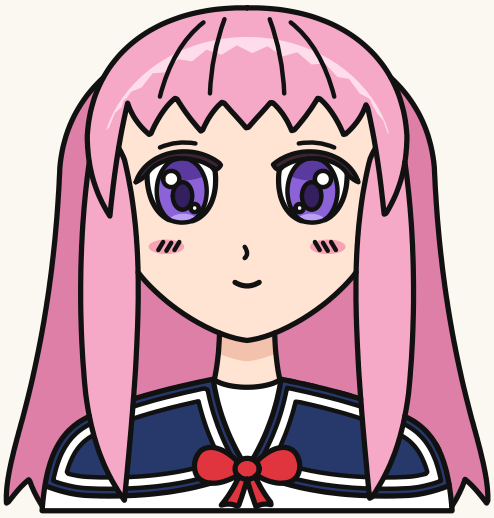
# How to Draw an Anime Girl

12 easy steps for beginners




## What you'll need

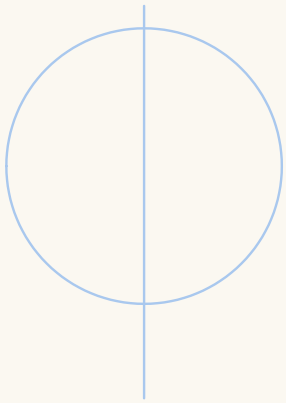
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black fineliner
- Colored pencils or markers
- White paper

## 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 a head circle and a center line



Start near the top of the page with a circle about as wide as your palm. Run a straight line down through its middle and well below it, since the chin and neck hang from it. This line keeps both halves of the face even.

💡 **Tip:** Keep your pencil pressure light enough that the line almost disappears when you squint.

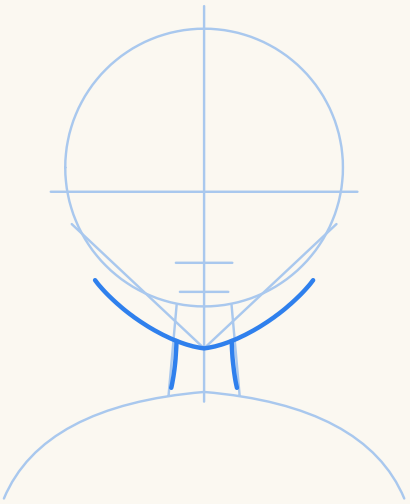
## STEP 2 Add the chin point, eye line and mouth marks



Mark a point on the center line a little below the circle and draw a line to it from each side, so the head ends in a soft V. Halfway between the top of the circle and the chin, draw a level eye line. Add two short marks low on the face: one for the nose and one, very close under it, for the mouth.

💡 **Tip:** Anime eyes sit on the halfway line, not up near the forehead, so measure before you draw it.

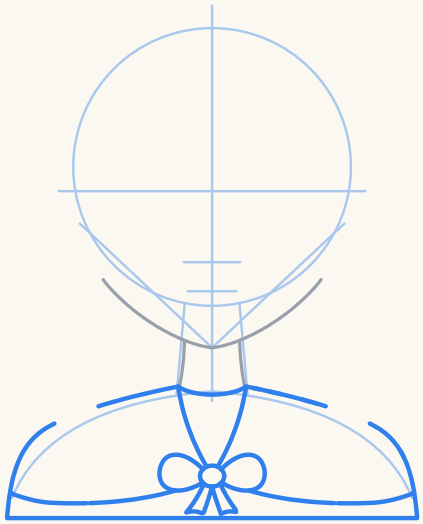
## STEP 3 Shape the face and the neck



Round off the V into a jaw. The cheeks curve in gently and meet in a chin that's pointed but not sharp. Below it, draw a narrow neck, then a wide, faint curve for the shoulders. I keep the neck slim, about a third of the face width, because a thick neck makes the face look older at once.

💡 **Tip:** If the jaw looks too square, pull the lower cheek curve a little closer to the center line.

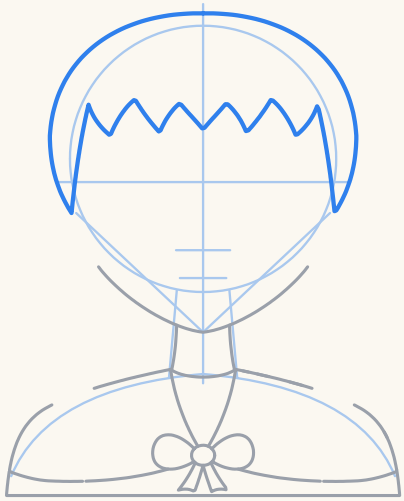
## STEP 4 Draw the shoulders and the sailor collar



Follow the shoulder curve for the top of her shirt, ending in a flat line at the bottom. For the collar, draw a V from each side of the neck down to the middle of the chest, then the wide flaps over the shoulders. At the point of the V, sketch a bow: a small knot, two loops and two short tails.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the bow knot first and hang the loops off it, so both sides stay the same size.

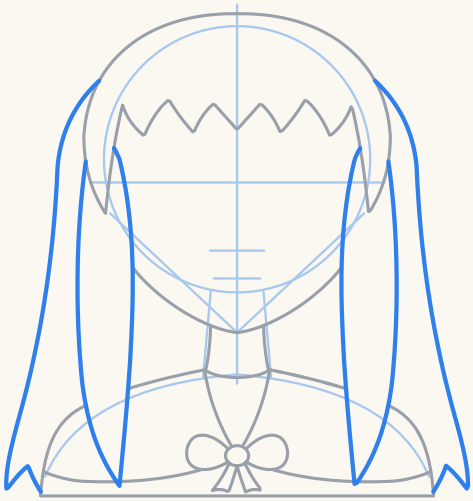
## STEP 5 Outline the top of the hair and the bangs



Hair sits above the skull, so start the outline a little higher and wider than the head circle and bring it down past the temples. Across the forehead, draw the bangs as a row of pointed locks. Let the tips stop just above the eye line, with one longer lock near each cheek. Uneven points look more natural than a perfect saw blade.

💡 **Tip:** Curve each lock slightly toward its tip instead of drawing straight zigzag lines.

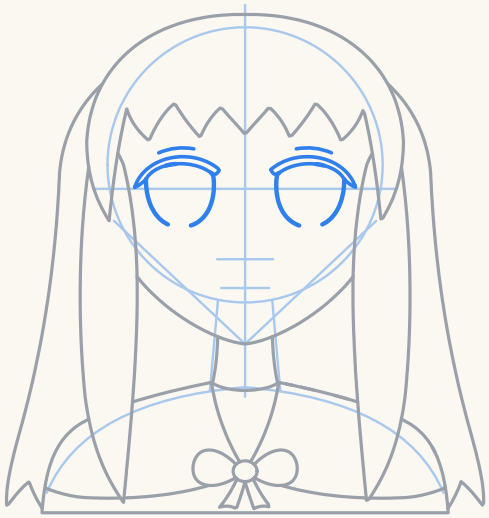
## STEP 6 Add the long hair and the side locks



From the sides of the hair top, draw two long curves that fall behind the shoulders and end in pointed tips. Then add a narrow lock in front of each side of the face, running over the collar to a point. Most beginners stop the hair at the chin, but the extra length is what makes the portrait feel finished.

💡 **Tip:** Draw each long lock in one smooth pull of the arm, not with lots of short scratchy strokes.

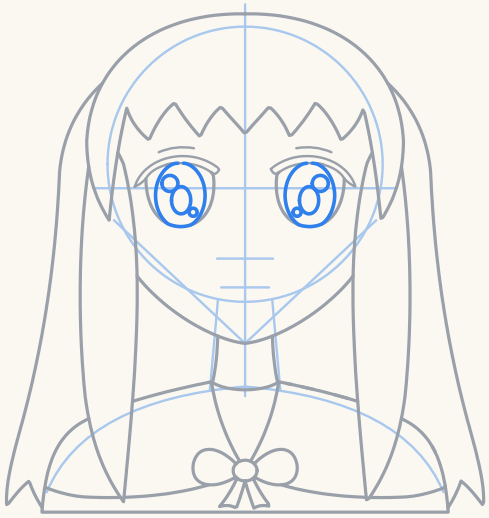
## STEP 7 Shape the eyes and the lash lines



Each eye is tall and rounded and sits right on the eye line. Leave a gap between them about one eye wide; that big spacing is a key part of the anime look. Over each eye, draw a thick curved lash line that flicks out at the outer corner, then a thin, short brow just under the bangs.

💡 **Tip:** I draw both lash lines before filling in either eye, which makes uneven heights easy to spot.

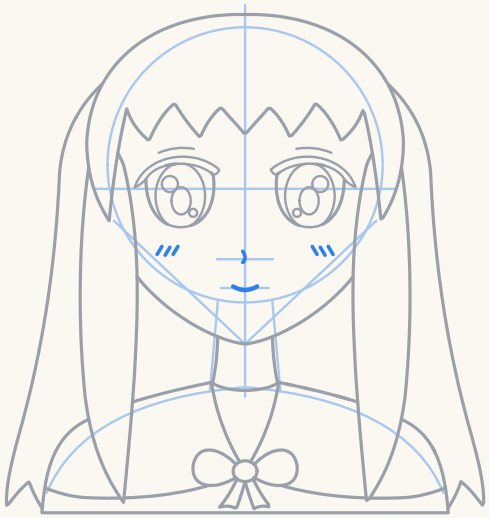
## STEP 8 Draw big irises and two shines



Inside each eye, draw a tall oval iris that fills most of the space and tucks up under the lash line, with a smaller oval pupil in its middle. Then place two shines on the same side in both eyes: a bigger circle at the upper left and a tiny one lower right. Shines facing different ways make the eyes look crossed.

💡 **Tip:** Leave the shine circles empty from now on, since that bare paper becomes the sparkle.

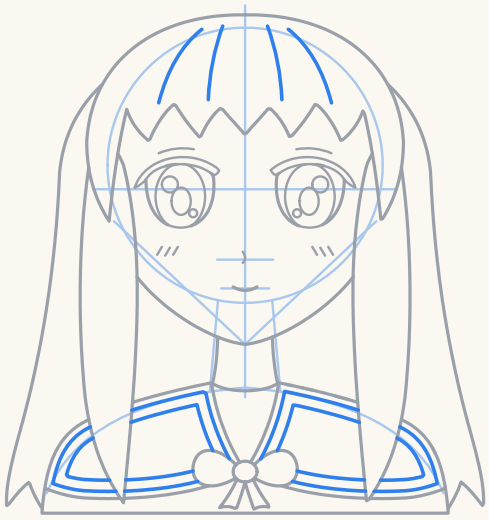
## STEP 9 Add a tiny nose, a small mouth and blush



On the nose mark, draw one small hooked line. That's the whole nose. Just below it, add a short smile, and under each eye three little slanted strokes for blush. A common trap is putting the mouth far down near the chin. In anime the nose and mouth sit close together, with most of the space below the mouth.

💡 **Tip:** Make the mouth narrower than the space between the pupils.

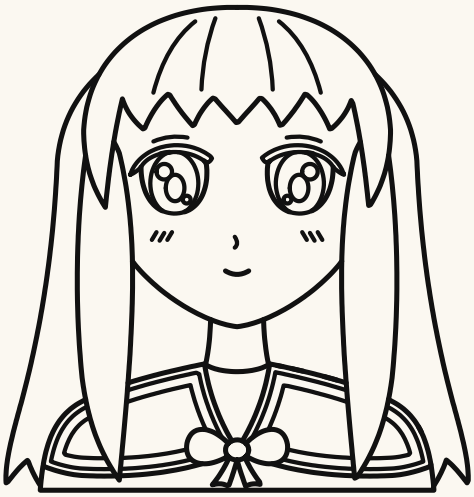
## STEP 10 Add the collar stripe and a few hair lines



Draw a second line just inside the edge of each collar flap, following its shape all the way around. That band is the white trim every sailor collar has. On the hair top, add three or four long strands curving from the crown toward the bangs. More than that makes shiny hair look messy.

💡 **Tip:** Space the trim line evenly from the edge, roughly the width of your pencil tip twice over.

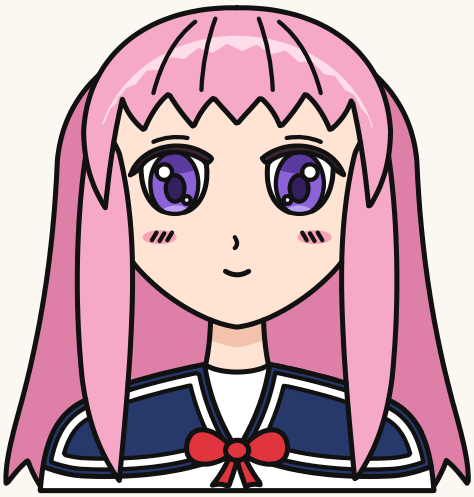
## STEP 11 Ink the drawing and erase the guides



Trace the keeper lines with your fineliner. I ink the face and eyes first, while my hand is fresh, then the hair and the collar. Skip the circle, the chin lines and the eye line. Let the ink dry for a minute, then erase every pencil mark.

💡 **Tip:** Press a little harder on the lash lines than anywhere else so they read as the boldest marks.

## STEP 12 Color your anime girl



Color the bangs and front locks pink and the long back hair a darker pink, which pushes it back in space. Leave a jagged pale band across the top as a shine. Use peach for the face and neck, a bit darker under the chin. Give the irises a darker purple top and a lighter bottom. The collar goes navy, the bow red, and the shirt stays white.

💡 **Tip:** Color the dark top of the iris before the main purple, then blend downward into it.