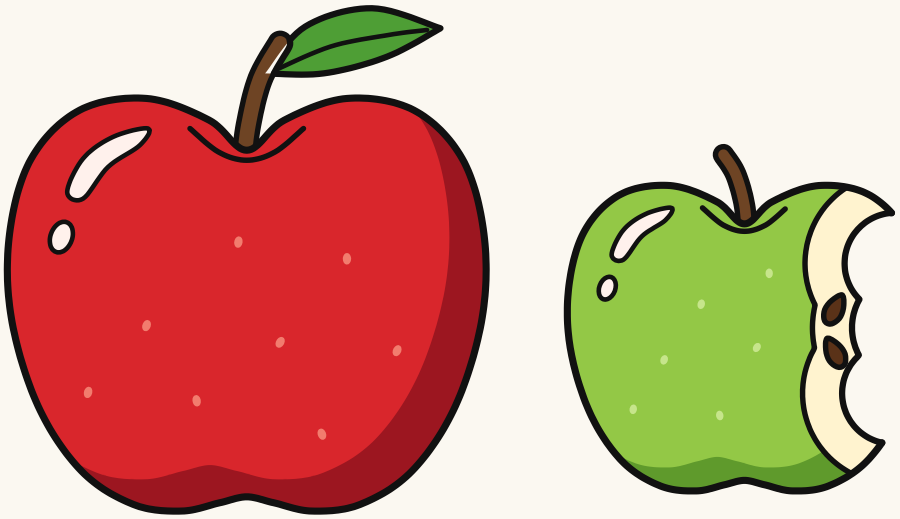
How to Draw an Apple

10 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

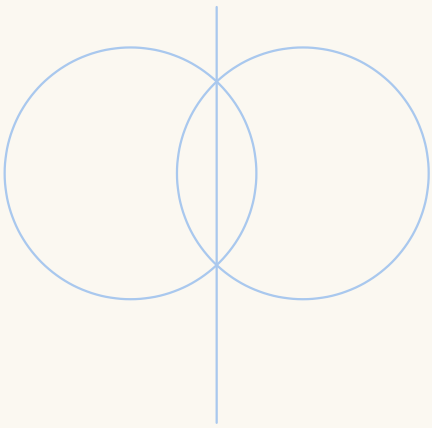
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black marker
- Colored pencils
- Plain paper

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 →

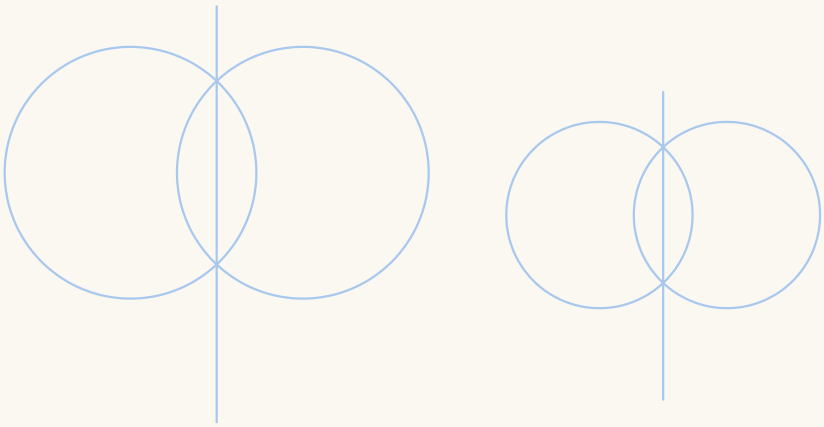
STEP 1 Draw two overlapping circles



On the left half of your paper, draw two circles of the same size, side by side, overlapping by about a third. Then run a light straight line down through the spot where they cross. Those circles become the rounded shoulders of the apple, and the line keeps the stem and the bottom centered. When I teach apples, this is always where I start, because it gives you the heart-ish shape almost for free.

💡 **Tip:** Sketch each circle with a few quick, loose loops. A slow single line usually comes out lumpy.

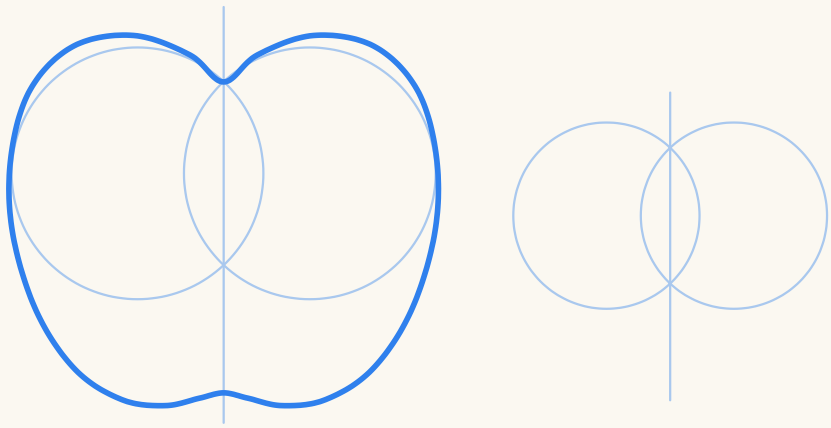
STEP 2 Repeat a smaller pair on the right



Leave a gap about as wide as your thumb, then draw the same setup for the green apple, only smaller, roughly three quarters the size. Add its own middle line too. I like having one big apple and one small one, because two identical fruits sitting side by side look like a sticker sheet instead of a still life.

💡 **Tip:** Line up the bottoms of both sets, not the tops. The fruits should look like they sit on the same table.

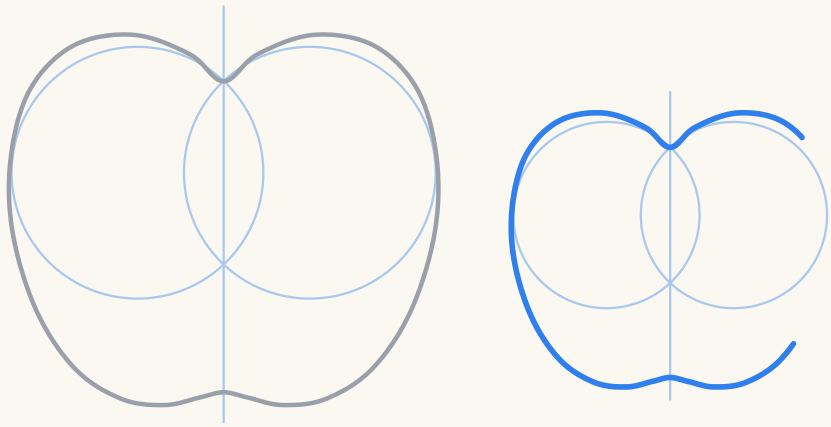
STEP 3 Wrap the outline of the red apple



Start at the middle line, just below where the circles cross at the top. Pull your line up and over the left circle, down its side, and keep going past the bottom of the circle, curving in slowly. Close the base with a gentle wave that has a tiny dip at the center. Do the right side the same way. The top dip and the narrower bottom are what make it read as an apple and not a tomato.

💡 **Tip:** Let the outline bulge a hair outside the guide circles at the shoulders. Apples are fuller up there than you'd expect.

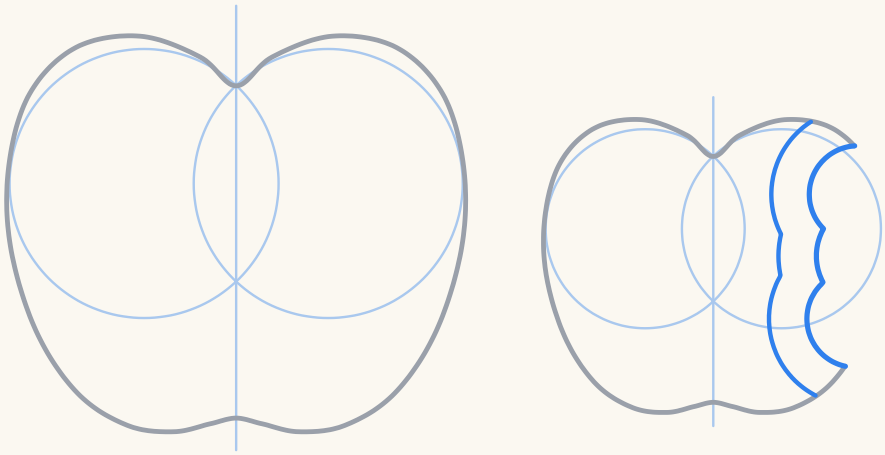
STEP 4 Outline the green apple



Wrap the small circles the same way, with the dip on top and the rounded base, but on the right side stop just past the top of the shoulder and again just above the bottom. Leave the right side open between those two points, since a bite is about to go there. My stopping points are chosen by eye and don't need to be exact.

💡 **Tip:** Glance at your red apple while you draw. Copying your own shape is easier than inventing a new one.

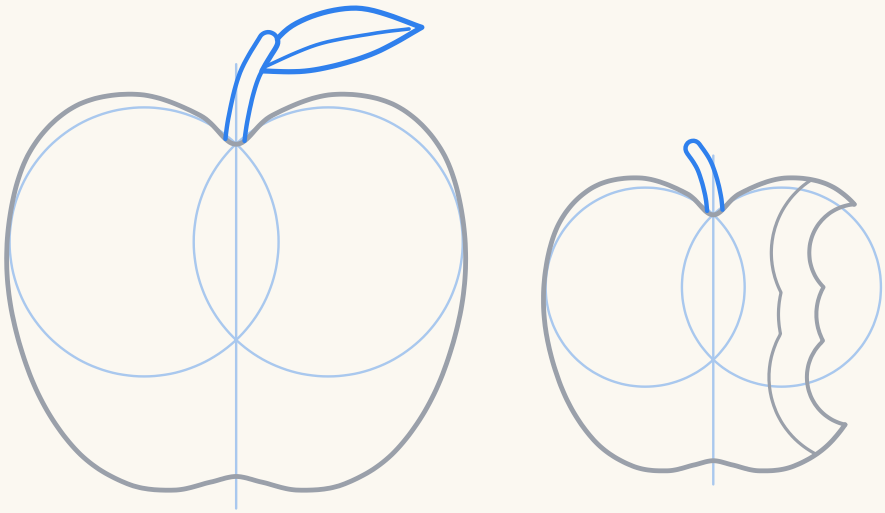
STEP 5 Take a big bite out of it



Join the two loose ends with three curved scoops that cut into the apple, like the edge of a cloud turned inward. Where two scoops meet, let them form a small point; those points are the tooth marks. Next, draw a second line inside the apple that follows the bite at a steady distance. The band between the two lines is the flesh you can see, and the outer line marks where the skin stops.

💡 **Tip:** Make the middle scoop the deepest. A bite from real teeth is never perfectly even.

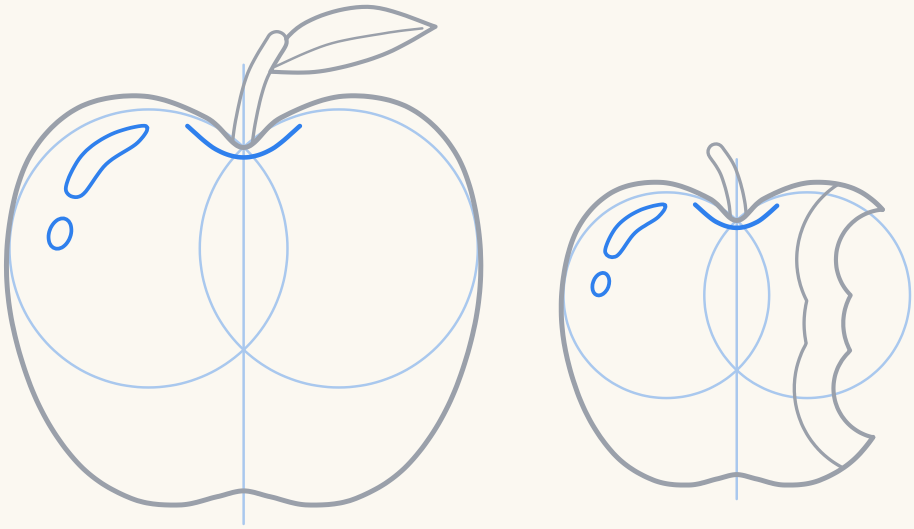
STEP 6 Add curved stems and a leaf



From the dip of the red apple, draw a short stem that leans and curves to the right, using two lines that end in a rounded tip. Partway up, add a leaf pointing out to the right: two arcs that meet in a sharp point, with a vein through the middle. Give the green apple a stem too, leaning the other way. I skip the leaf on the small apple so the eye goes to the bite.

💡 **Tip:** Stems are thin. If yours is wider than your little fingernail on paper, slim it down.

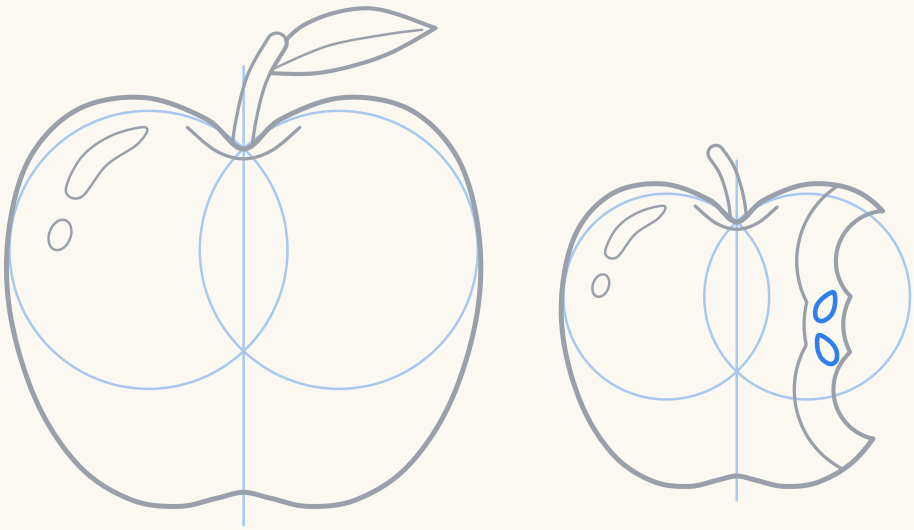
STEP 7 Shape the stem dips and shine marks



Under each stem, draw a soft little smile that hugs the dip; it shows the hollow the stem grows out of. Then, high on the left side of each apple, draw a curved stripe that follows the round shoulder, with a small oval below it. These outline the shine. Most beginners put the shine right in the middle, which flattens the fruit. Near the edge looks rounder.

💡 **Tip:** Keep both shines on the same side. One light source, one side of shine.

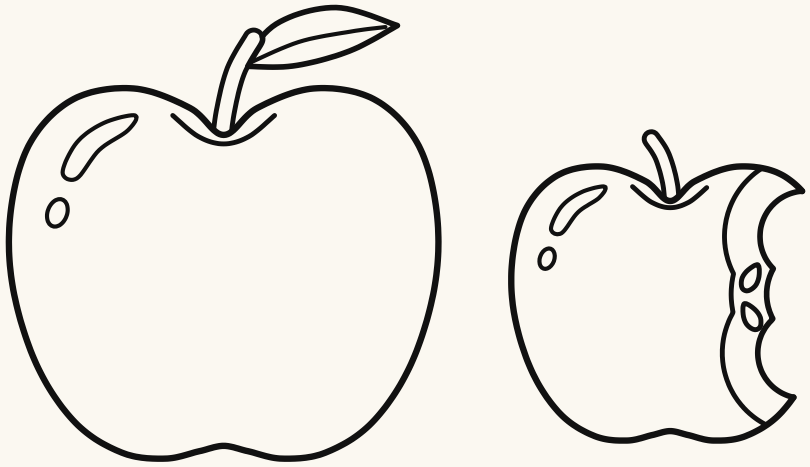
STEP 8 Draw two seeds in the bite



Inside the cream band, near the deepest part of the bite, draw two small teardrops, one above the other. Point their narrow ends inward, toward the center of the apple, the way real apple seeds sit around the core. They only need to be about as long as a grain of rice on your page.

💡 **Tip:** Tilt the two seeds slightly toward each other so they look like a pair.

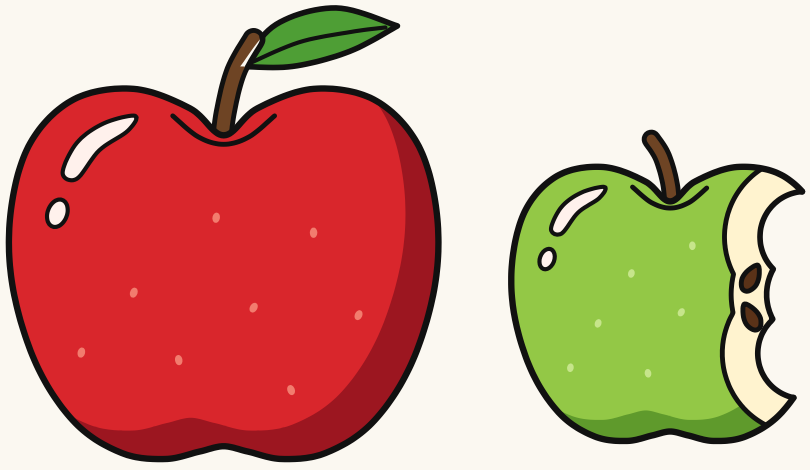
STEP 9 Ink the lines and erase the guides



Trace the lines you want to keep with your black marker: both outlines, the bite, the flesh line, the stems, the leaf, the dips, the shine marks and the seeds. Wait a minute for the ink to dry, then erase the guide circles and both middle lines. I always photocopy the clean outline at this point, so there's a spare to color later.

💡 **Tip:** Press a bit harder on the outer edges than on the small inside shapes. The apples will pop off the page.

STEP 10 Color both apples



Fill the red apple with a solid red, then add dark red along the right side and across the bottom. Leave the shine white. Color the green apple light green and give it a darker green edge along the bottom. Use cream for the bite and brown for the seeds and stems, and finish the leaf in a fresh green. Tiny light dots on the skin are optional, but they make the fruit look real.

💡 **Tip:** Color the shading in short curved strokes that follow the apple's roundness, not straight across.