How to Draw an Umbrella

11 easy steps for beginners



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 Sketch a dome and a flat oval



Draw a wide, low dome across the upper middle of your page, a bit like the top half of an egg lying on its side. Its two ends sit on a long, thin oval that marks the bottom rim. Then draw a straight line through the middle of the dome and down past the oval, leaning slightly; this is where the pole will go. I tilt the whole thing a little because a perfectly straight umbrella looks stiff.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the oval thin. A fat oval makes it look like you're staring up into the umbrella.

STEP 2 Trace the outer curve of the canopy



Go over the dome guide with one smooth line, from its left end, over the top, down to its right end. Stop right where it touches the oval on each side. This curve is the outline of the canopy, so take it slowly and turn your paper if your hand starts to bump.

💡 **Tip:** Draw from your elbow, not your wrist, and the big curve stays rounder.

STEP 3 Add the scalloped bottom edge



Mark six points along the front half of the oval: one at each end and four spaced between them. Now connect neighboring points with little arches that bend upward, toward the top of the umbrella. These arches are the fabric sagging between the ribs. Notice the arches on the right are narrower than those in front; they're turning away from you, so they get squeezed.

💡 **Tip:** Put the points down first, then join them; it keeps the arches an even size.

STEP 4 Curve the ribs up to the top



From each of the four middle points, draw a line up to the very top of the dome, where your center line crosses it. I never use a ruler here. Each rib should bow outward, following the round shape of the dome, and the ones near the sides bend the most. The middle ribs stay almost straight. In my experience, this one change is what makes the umbrella look full instead of flat.

💡 **Tip:** Before drawing a rib, trace its path in the air above the paper once.

STEP 5 Put on the top tip and rib caps



On top, where all the ribs meet, draw a small pointed tip sticking up along the center line. Then add a tiny circle at the end of every rib, just below each point of the scallops. Real umbrellas have these little caps so the metal ends don't poke anyone. I keep them small, about the size of a pea on the page.

💡 **Tip:** Make every cap the same size; one big cap stands out more than you'd expect.

STEP 6 Drop a straight pole



Follow the center guide line down from under the middle arch. Draw two close, parallel lines for a thin pole. The pole starts behind the scalloped edge, so begin your lines right at the arch and not inside the canopy. Stop when the pole is about as long as the dome is tall; a longer pole makes the canopy look small.

💡 **Tip:** Lay the side of your eraser along the guide if you need a straight edge to follow.

STEP 7 Bend the J-shaped handle



At the bottom of the pole, draw a short, wider tube for the grip, with a line across the top where it joins the pole. Let it continue down, then curve it around in a U and up again on the right, like the letter J. Round off the end of the hook. A handle that's a bit thicker than the pole looks easier to hold.

💡 **Tip:** Sketch the J as a single curvy line first, then draw its two sides around that line.

STEP 8 Scatter raindrops and splashes



Fill the space on both sides with small teardrops, round at the bottom and pointed at the top. Stagger them so they don't form rows. Where rain hits the canopy, draw three short dashes fanning outward and two tiny dots; that's a drop bursting on the fabric. Then hang one drop just under each end cap, as if water is running off.

💡 **Tip:** Leave a little air around the umbrella so no drop touches its outline.

STEP 9 Add a puddle with ripples



Under the handle, draw a long, very flat oval for the puddle, wider than the umbrella's hook by a lot. Keep a small gap between the hook and the water so the umbrella seems to float. On the right side of the puddle, draw two small ovals, one inside the other, for the ripples from a falling drop.

💡 **Tip:** Flatter puddles look like they're lying on the ground; taller ones look like holes.

STEP 10 Ink the lines, then erase guides



Go over every line you want to keep with a black marker: the canopy, ribs, caps, pole, handle, drops and puddle. Wait a minute for the ink to dry. Then erase the dome guide, the oval and the center line. Most beginners rush this part, and I've smudged plenty of my own drawings that way.

💡 **Tip:** Ink the long canopy curve first while your hand is fresh, and the tiny dots last.

STEP 11 Color the panels red and yellow



Color the first and middle panels red and the second one yellow. For the two panels on the right, use dark yellow and dark red. They're on the side away from the light, and that small change makes the canopy look curved. Finish with a brown handle, gray pole and caps, light blue drops and a pale blue puddle.

💡 **Tip:** Color each panel in strokes that follow the ribs, from the top down.