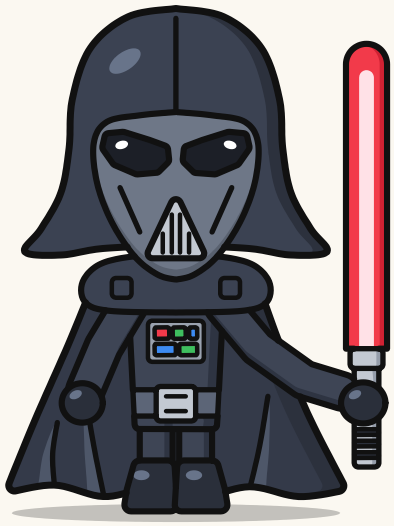
How to Draw Darth Vader

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

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

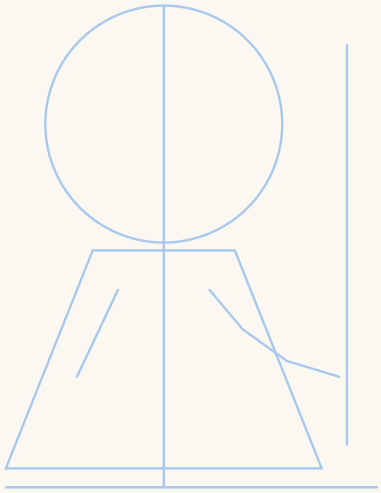
How to use this guide

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 →

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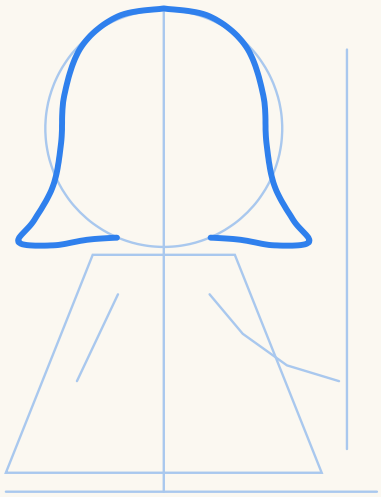
STEP 1 Sketch a head circle and a cape guide



Draw a ground line near the bottom of your page and a light line down the middle. Up top, draw a big circle for the helmet. Under it, sketch a trapezoid, narrow at the shoulders and wide at the ground, for the cape. Add two arm lines and one tall line on the right for the lightsaber.

💡 **Tip:** Make the circle about as tall as the trapezoid. A head that big is what turns him into a chibi.

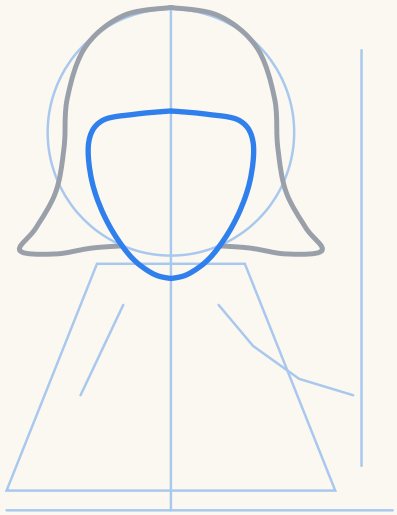
STEP 2 Draw the helmet with a flared rim



Follow the top of the circle for the rounded dome. About halfway down, let each side run fairly straight, then sweep outward into a wide flare with a soft point. I think of it like a bell or a samurai helmet, and that flare is the shape people recognize first.

💡 **Tip:** Check the two flares against the center line. If one sticks out farther, nudge it until they match.

STEP 3 Add the face mask



Start the mask with a nearly flat brow line across the middle of the helmet. From each end, curve down along the cheeks and meet in a rounded chin that hangs a little below the helmet rim. A band of helmet should show on both sides.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the brow low. If it sits too high, the dome looks small and he loses his heavy look.

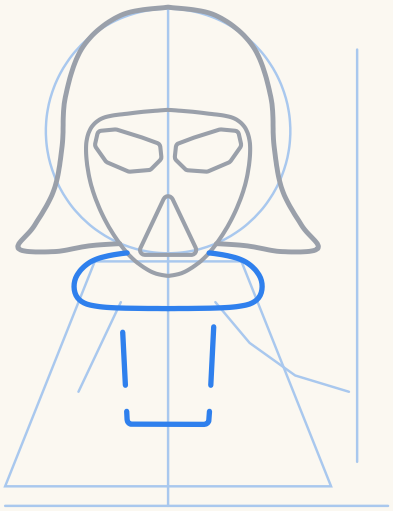
STEP 4 Draw the angled eyes and the mouth grille



Just under the brow, draw two wide lenses with angled corners. Their inner corners dip toward the nose, which gives him a stern look without any eyebrows. Below them, on the middle line, draw a triangle pointing up for the mouth grille.

💡 **Tip:** Leave a gap about one finger wide between the two eyes, or the mask will look crowded.

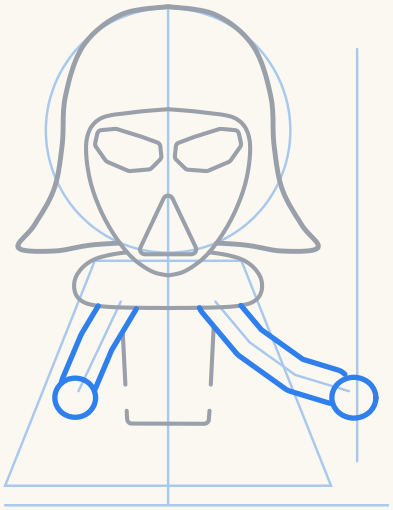
STEP 5 Shape the shoulder collar and the chest



Right below the chin, draw a rounded, pillow-like collar across both shoulders. Its middle hides behind the chin. Underneath, draw the chest as a short block that narrows a little toward the waist. Only its sides and bottom show.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the collar wider than the mask. Broad shoulders keep the giant helmet from looking wobbly.

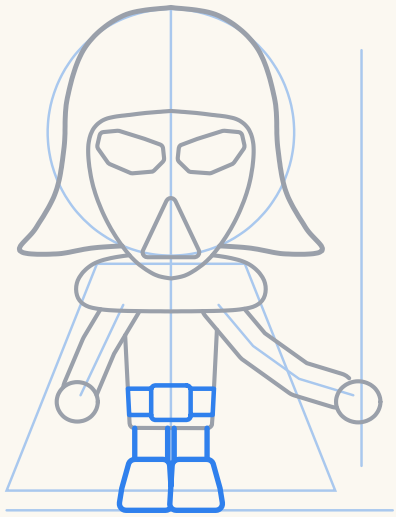
STEP 6 Draw the arms and round gloves



On the left, a short arm hangs slightly away from the body. On the right, the arm bends out toward the lightsaber line. Give both arms soft width, like tubes rather than sticks, and end each one with a round glove. The right glove sits right on the saber line.

💡 **Tip:** Draw both arms the same thickness so the pose feels balanced, even though one bends.

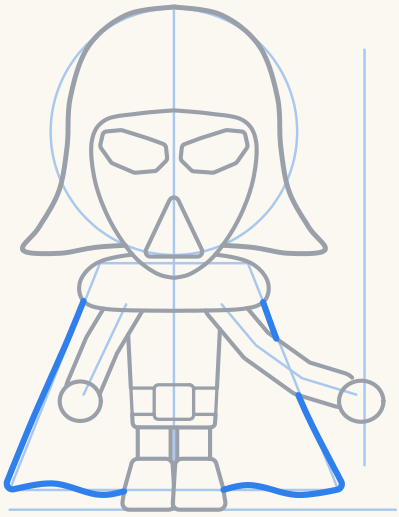
STEP 7 Add the belt, the legs and boots



Across the bottom of the chest, draw a belt band with a square buckle box in the center. Below it, two short legs drop down side by side, each ending in a chunky boot that rests flat on the ground line. Long legs would break the chibi proportions, so keep them stubby.

💡 **Tip:** Stop the boots exactly on the ground line so he stands instead of floating.

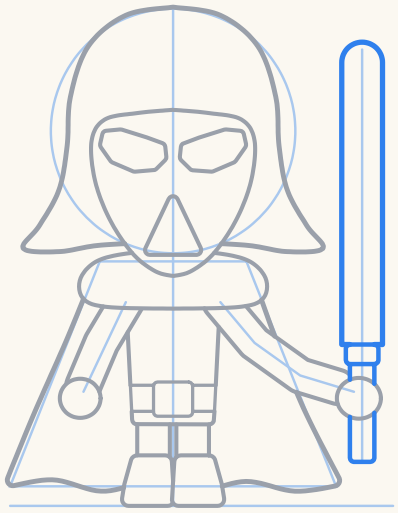
STEP 8 Sweep a long cape behind him



Trace down the sides of your trapezoid for the cape. It starts behind the collar, slides out behind the arms and spreads wider at the bottom. Join the sides with a gently wavy hem behind the legs. I draw the cape after the body on purpose, so I only sketch the parts that peek out.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the hem waves shallow. Big zigzags make the cape look torn instead of heavy cloth.

STEP 9 Draw the lightsaber hilt and blade

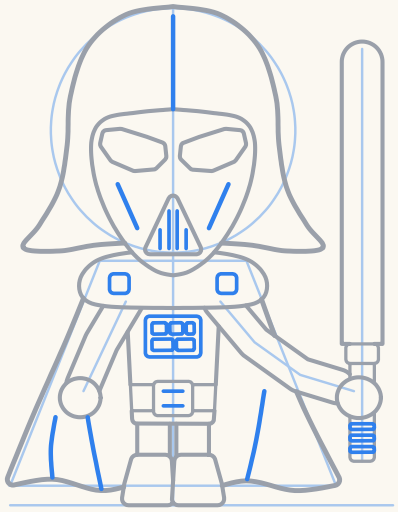


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Below the right glove, draw a slim rounded rectangle for the hilt, with a slightly wider band above the glove. From there, draw the blade as a long capsule running straight up the guide. He holds it upright and still, like a shining toy.

💡 **Tip:** Use a ruler or the edge of a book for the blade so it stays perfectly straight.

STEP 10 Add the ridge and the small details

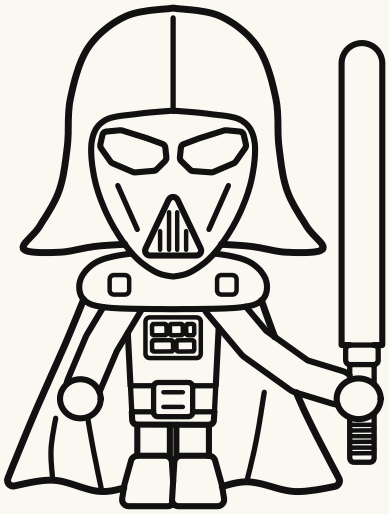


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These little marks sell the character. Draw a line down the center of the dome, a slanted line on each cheek and four slits in the grille. Put two square clasps on the collar and a small panel of tiny boxes on the chest. Finish with grip ridges on the hilt and three soft folds in the cape.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the chest buttons small and neat. Five tiny boxes are enough to read as a control panel.

STEP 11 Ink the lines and erase the guides

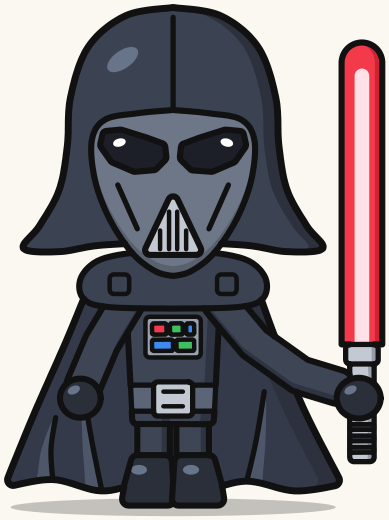


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Go over every keeper line with your black marker, starting with the helmet and cape outlines while your hand is fresh. Skip all the guide shapes. Give the ink a minute to dry before erasing, or the marker can smudge.

💡 **Tip:** Pull long curves like the cape in one smooth motion; short, hesitant strokes look hairy.

STEP 12 Color the armor and the lightsaber



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Color the helmet and collar dark gray, along with the cape and suit, and make the mask a lighter gray so it stands apart. Fill the eyes black but leave a white shine in each one; the gloves and boots are black too. Use light gray on the metal parts. For the blade, color the outer part red and keep a pale pink strip down the middle so it glows.

💡 **Tip:** Don't use pure black on the helmet. Dark gray lets the outlines and the shine still show.