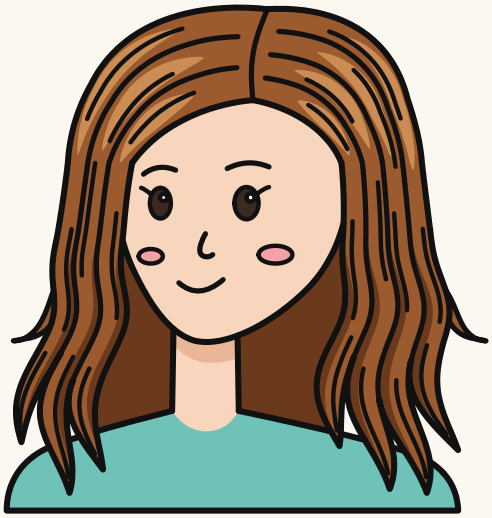
How to Draw Hair

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black fineliner
- Brown and dark brown colored pencils
- 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 →

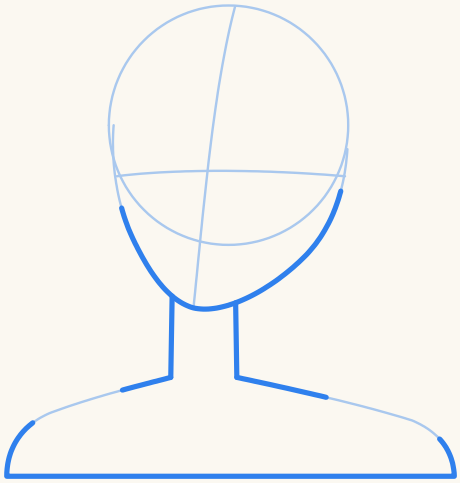
STEP 1 Draw the head circle and face guides



Start with a circle a little above the middle of your page. Run a gently curved line down through it, slightly left of center, so the face turns a touch to the side. Add a level eye line across the lower half, then hang a soft jaw from the circle down to a chin.

💡 **Tip:** Keep these lines faint. If you can read them from across the room, you're pressing too hard.

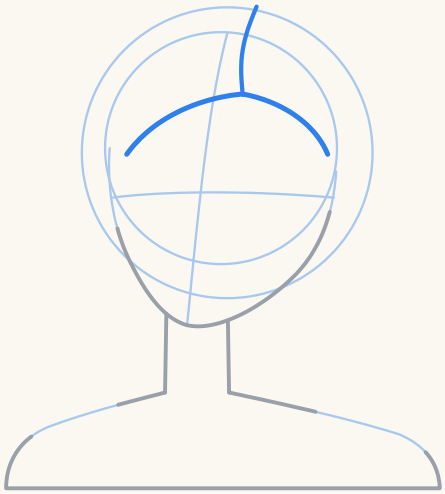
STEP 2 Outline the face, then the neck and shoulders



Trace the lower cheeks and chin over your jaw guide; hair will cover the rest. Drop two straight lines for the neck, then sweep the shoulders out wide with a little scoop for the neckline. Where hair will hang over the shoulders, keep the line extra light.

💡 **Tip:** Make the shoulders about twice as wide as the head. Narrow shoulders leave long hair nowhere to fall.

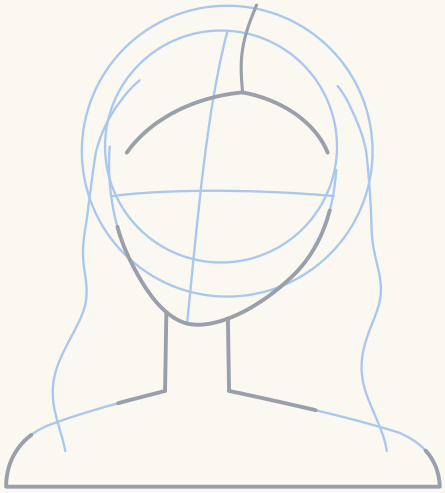
STEP 3 Place the hairline, the part and the volume



Draw the hairline as an arch across the forehead, from temple to temple, peaking a bit right of center. From that peak, run a short curved part line up and back. Then add a second, bigger circle around the head. Hair sits on top of the skull, so I let its outline float about a finger's width above it.

💡 **Tip:** Leave a gap between the two circles on top. Hair drawn tight to the skull is what makes the helmet look.

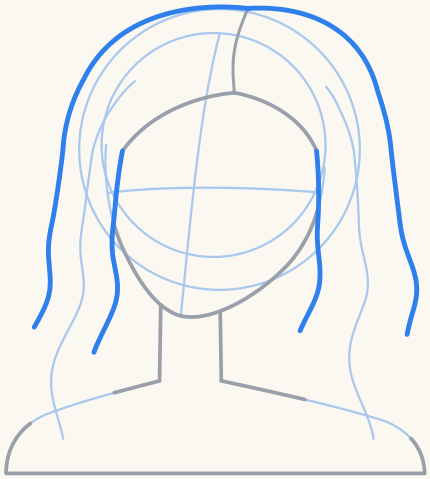
STEP 4 Sketch two S-shaped flow lines



Before any real hair, show yourself where it goes. Start each line near the part, curve it over the head, then let it fall past the face in a lazy S down to the shoulders. One line per side is plenty. Tighter S shapes give curlier hair, straighter ones give smooth hair.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the flow lines with your whole arm, not just your fingers. The curves come out smoother.

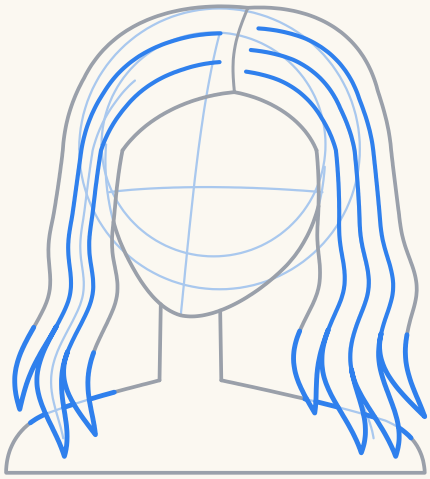
STEP 5 Draw the big outer hair shape



Starting at the part, follow the bigger circle around the head and carry the line down each side, echoing your flow lines. Then draw the inner edges, from each temple down beside the cheeks and past the neck. Leave the bottom open for now. I think of this stage as drawing one big wavy sack of hair.

💡 **Tip:** Let the near side (on the right here) look wider than the far side. That small difference sells the turn of the head.

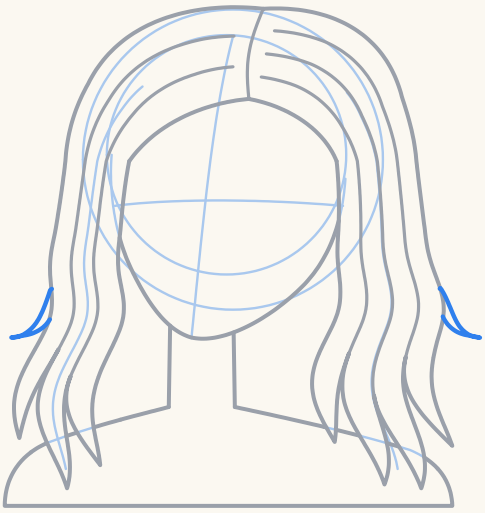
STEP 6 Split it into S-shaped clumps with pointed tips



Now cut the big shape into clumps. Draw two or three long curves inside each side, starting near the part and following the same S-wave. Close every clump at the bottom with a pointed tip, and make the tips different lengths so the ends don't look trimmed with a ruler. Finish the bits of shoulder line that show between tips.

💡 **Tip:** Real hair rarely splits into equal pieces. Make one clump fat and the next one thin.

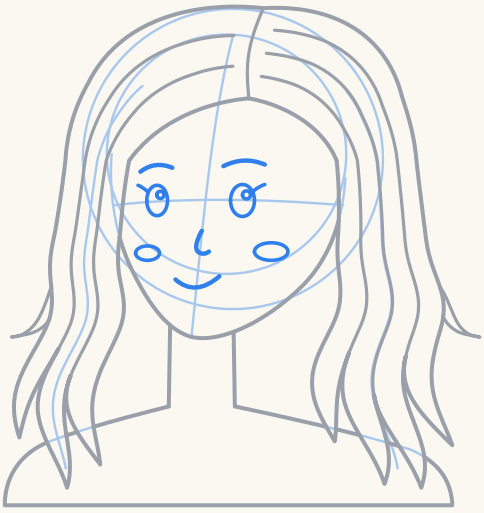
STEP 7 Add a few loose flicks



Pick two spots on the outside edges, around shoulder height. From each, let a slim leaf shape peel away from the hair and curl outward. Flicks break up the outline and make the hair feel light. Two or three are enough; more starts to look messy.

💡 **Tip:** Start each flick by following the edge for a moment, then bend it away. Sharp corners look like thorns.

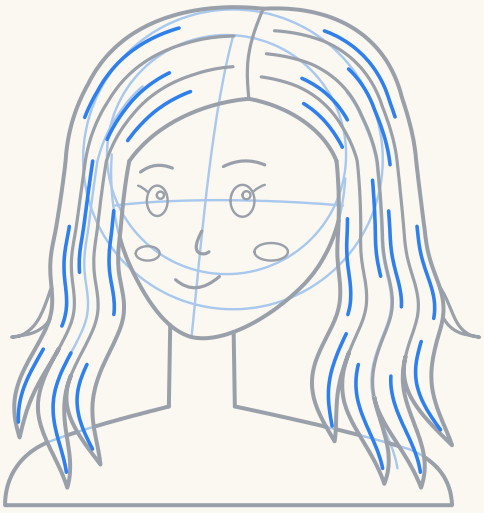
STEP 8 Draw the eyes, brows and a closed smile



Put two tall ovals on the eye line, the far one a little smaller, with a lash flick at each outer corner and a small circle for shine. Arch the eyebrows just above them. A little hook makes the nose; add a gentle smile and two oval cheeks. Keep the face simple, because today the hair is the star.

💡 **Tip:** Leave a full eye's width between the two eyes. Close-set eyes make faces look worried.

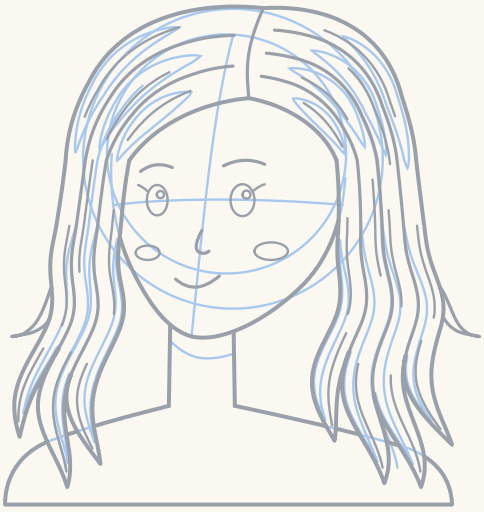
STEP 9 Add strand lines inside each clump



Here's where most beginners overdo it. Give each clump just three short lines that follow its curve: one near the top, one in the middle, one running into the tip. Start and stop them at different spots, and keep them off the clump edges. Gaps are what let hair look soft.

💡 **Tip:** If you can't decide whether to add another strand line, don't. Fewer lines look shinier.

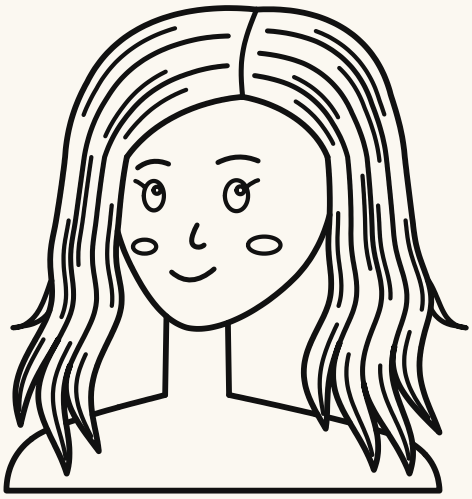
STEP 10 Map out the light and shadow shapes



Lightly outline where the color will change. On top of the head, draw a long almond shape in each clump, all at about the same height, so together they form one shiny band around the crown. Lower down, mark a thin strip along one side of each clump, plus a small shadow on the neck under the chin.

💡 **Tip:** The shine band goes on the roundest part of the head, never right at the part line.

STEP 11 Ink the lines and erase the guides

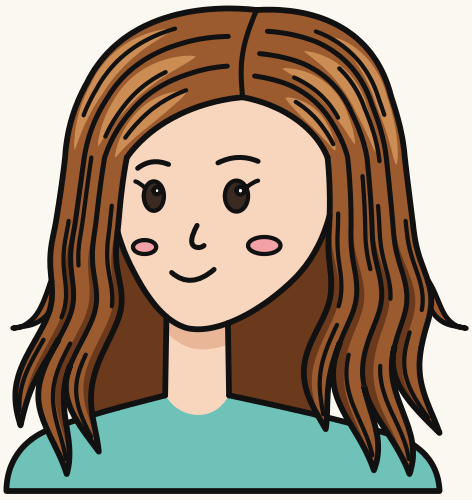


blitsy.com
blitsy.com
blitsy.com

Go over every keeper line with your black pen: the face and neck, the shoulders, the whole hair outline with every clump, tip and flick, the strands and the face details. Skip the circles, flow lines and the light map. Give the ink a minute, then erase all the pencil.

💡 **Tip:** Ink the long hair curves in one smooth pull from root to tip. Stopping halfway leaves a blob.

STEP 12 Color the hair and the rest



blitsy.com
blitsy.com
blitsy.com

Fill the face and neck with peach and the shirt with teal. Color the hair in warm brown, always stroking the way it grows. Layer dark brown into the shadow strips, the hair behind the neck and the shadow under the chin. My last touch is light brown in the shine band, pink cheeks and dark eyes, leaving the white dots empty.

💡 **Tip:** Color the light shine band last and softly, so the brown underneath doesn't smudge into it.