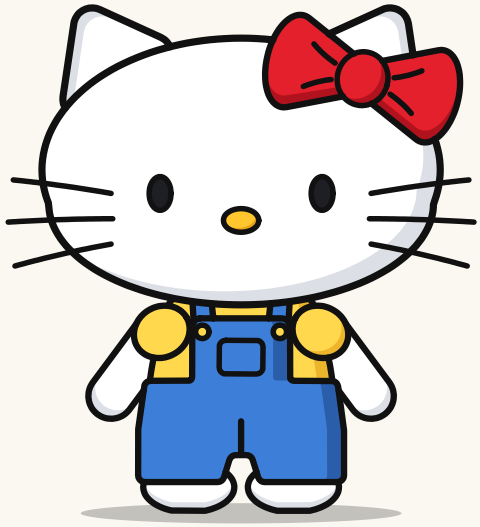
How to Draw Hello Kitty

11 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

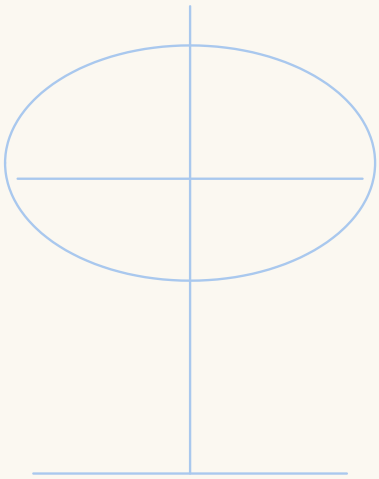
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black fineliner
- Colored pencils or markers
- Plain paper

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 →

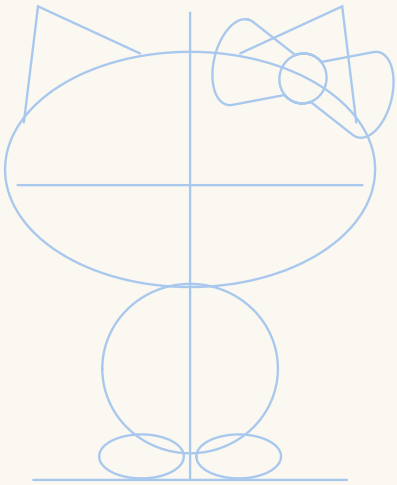
STEP 1 Draw a wide oval and guide lines



Sketch a big oval in the top half of the page, clearly wider than it is tall. Run a straight line down the middle, all the way to where her feet will stand, and draw a short ground line there. Then add a line across the oval a little below its middle. Her eyes and nose will sit on and just under that line.

💡 **Tip:** Turn your paper sideways for a moment if the oval keeps coming out round; a fresh angle shows the shape better.

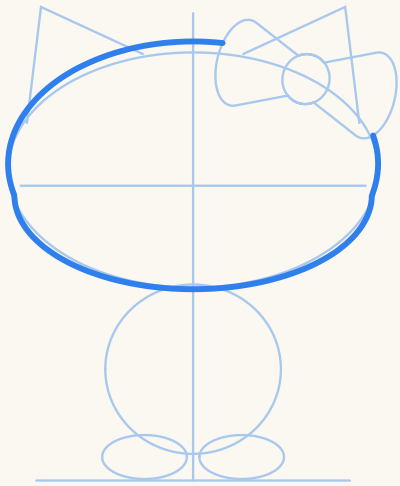
STEP 2 Sketch guides for the ears and body



Add two pointed triangles on the top corners of the oval for the ears. On the right ear, as you look at it, sketch a rough bow: a circle for the knot and an oval loop on each side. Below the head, draw a small circle for the body and two flat ovals for the feet. The body circle is only about half as wide as the head, and that tiny body is a big part of her charm.

💡 **Tip:** Compare the body circle to the head by holding your pencil across both. If they look close in size, shrink the body.

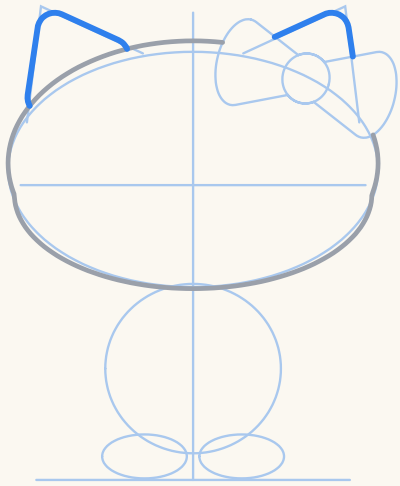
STEP 3 Outline the flat, wide head



Go over the oval with a firmer line, keeping the top a little flatter and letting the cheeks bulge slightly at the bottom. Stop the line where it meets the bow guide, because the bow will cover that part of the head. I find this flattened shape matters more than any other detail; a round ball head makes her look like a generic cat.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the outline in two halves, left then right, starting each at the top. Matching halves are easier than one long loop.

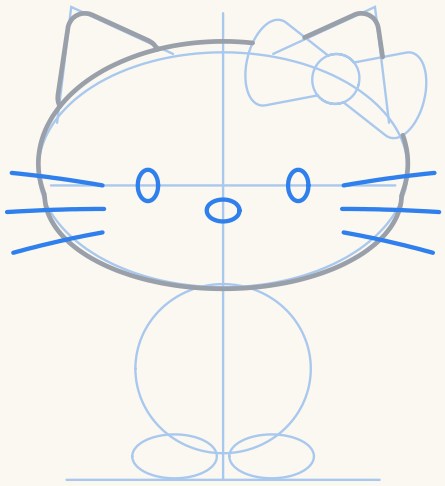
STEP 4 Add two rounded ears



Trace the ear guides with soft, rounded tips. Each ear leans slightly outward, and its lines end where they touch the head. On the right side, only the tip of the ear peeks out, since the bow sits in front of the rest.

💡 **Tip:** Round the tips with a tiny curve instead of a sharp point. Pointy ears make her look more like a fox.

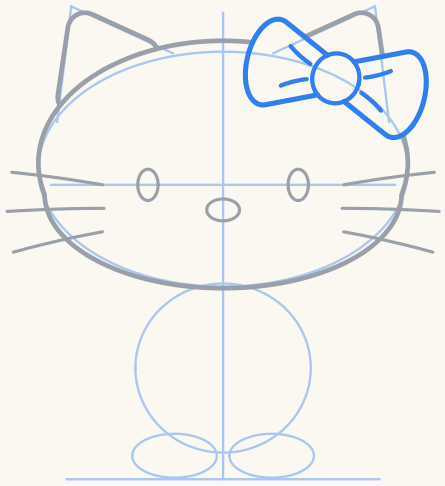
STEP 5 Place the face details and whiskers



Draw two small upright ovals on the cross line, set far apart, with roughly three eye widths between them. Halfway between them and a bit lower, add a small sideways oval for the nose. Then give her three whiskers on each side, starting inside the face and crossing the outline. There's no mouth to draw. Hello Kitty is always shown without one, and adding a smile changes who she is.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the eyes tiny. Beginners almost always draw them too big, and her calm look disappears.

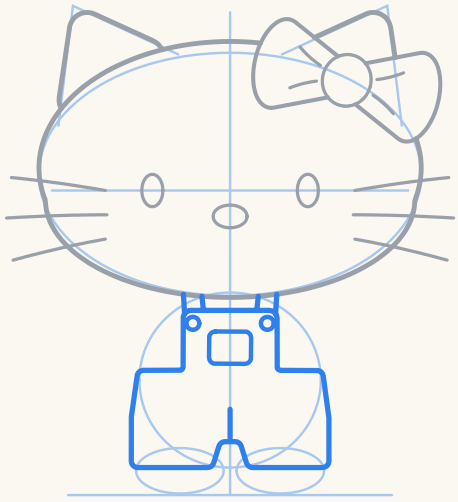
STEP 6 Draw the big bow on her left ear



Her bow sits on her left ear, which is on your right when she faces you. Go over the knot circle, then shape each loop like a fat, rounded fan that widens away from the knot. Add two short crease lines in each loop, starting just outside the knot. The bow tilts down a little toward the outside, following the slope of the head.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the knot first and the loops second, so both loops grow from the same center.

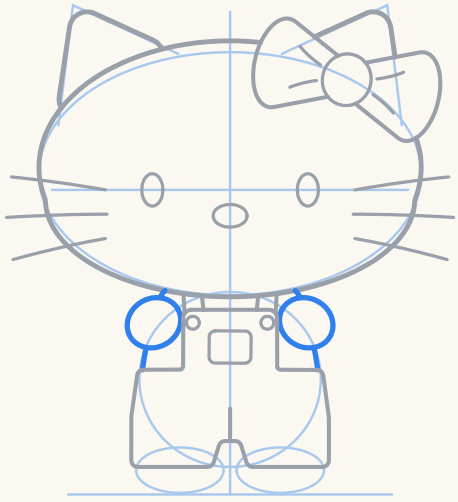
STEP 7 Draw the overalls with a bib



Below the head, draw a small square bib with two short straps going up under the chin. Under the bib, draw the wider pants part with straight sides and a flat bottom, and cut a small notch in the middle so you get two short legs. Finish with a little pocket on the bib, a button at each strap and a short center seam.

💡 **Tip:** Use the body circle as a size limit. The pants can stick out a bit at the sides, but not much.

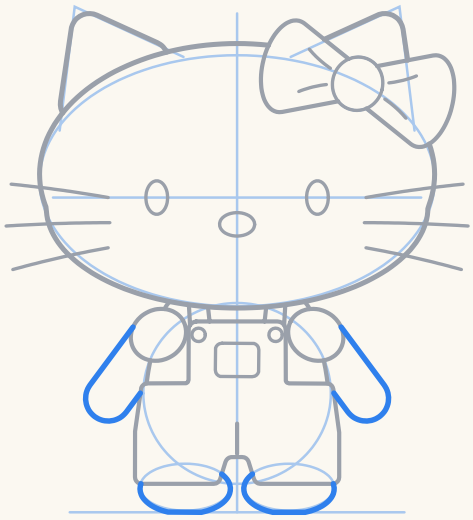
STEP 8 Add the shirt and puffy sleeves



Now fill in the shirt that shows around the overalls. Draw a short line on each side from under the head down to the pants. Over each shoulder, add a round puffy sleeve that overlaps the bib edge slightly. The sleeves are what make her look dressed instead of just colored in.

💡 **Tip:** Make both sleeves the same size by drawing them one right after the other, without stopping between.

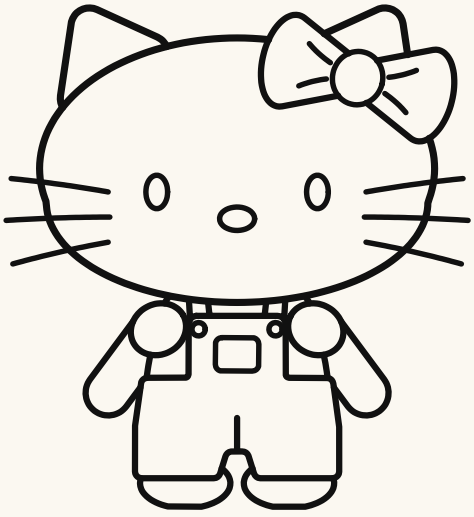
STEP 9 Draw stubby arms and round feet



From under each sleeve, draw a short, thick arm that angles down and out, ending in a round mitten hand with no fingers. Keep them chunky, roughly twice as long as a sleeve is wide. At the bottom, add a round white foot under each leg, with a flat sole resting on the ground line.

💡 **Tip:** Short arms look right here. If you're unsure, stop them before they reach the bottom of the pants.

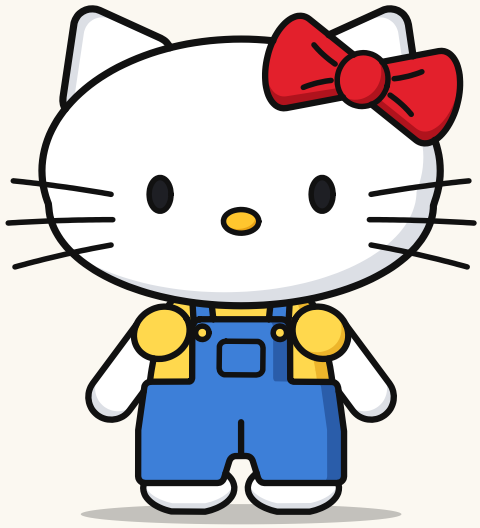
STEP 10 Ink the lines and erase the guides



Trace every keeper line with your fineliner. Go slowly, pulling the pen toward you where you can. I take the most care on the face, because a wobbly eye or nose is the first thing people notice. When the ink is completely dry, erase the oval, the cross lines, the bow guide and the body circles.

💡 **Tip:** Test your pen on scrap paper first. A pen that skips will leave gaps in the whiskers.

STEP 11 Color Hello Kitty



Leave her head, ears, arms and feet white, and shade their right and lower edges with light gray so she doesn't disappear into the paper. Color the bow red with a darker red under each loop. The nose, shirt and buttons are yellow, the overalls blue, and the eyes solid black.

💡 **Tip:** Press very gently with the gray. Heavy gray shading makes white fur look dirty instead of soft.