How to Draw Kurama

11 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

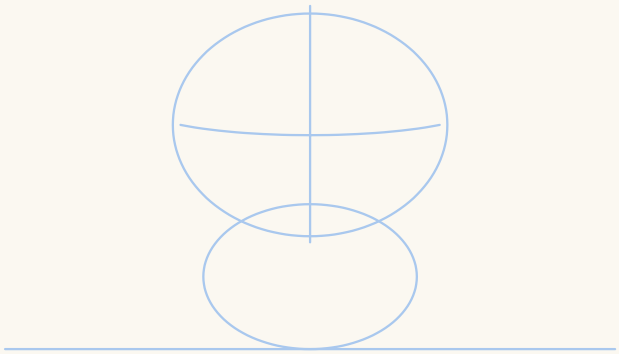
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A ruler
- A black marker
- Orange and red colors

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 →

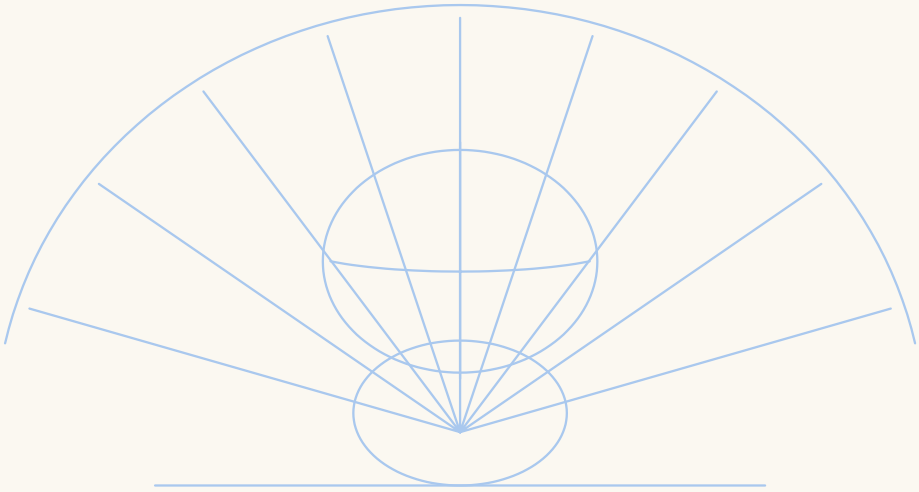
STEP 1 Sketch a head oval and a body oval



Turn your page sideways and draw a flat ground line near the bottom. Just above it, sketch a small oval for the body, then a bigger oval on top that overlaps it for the head. In chibi style the head is the star, so make it about twice as wide as the body. Add an upright line down the head and a gently curved line across it for the eyes.

💡 **Tip:** Press so lightly that you can barely see the lines. They're only scaffolding.

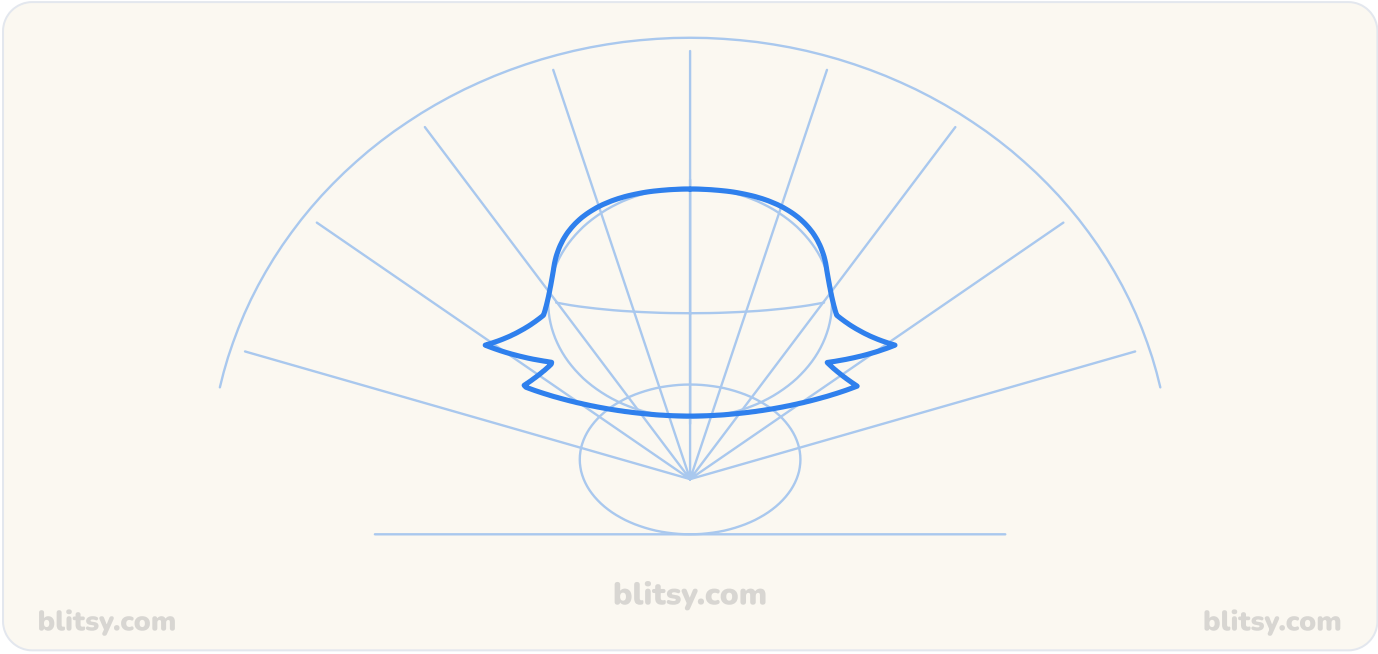
STEP 2 Add nine fan lines for the tails



This is the step I never skip when I teach Kurama. From a point in the middle of the body oval, draw nine straight lines spreading out like the ribs of a hand fan: one straight up and four on each side, with the lowest pair almost sideways. Join their outer ends with one big arc so you know how far each tail reaches.

💡 **Tip:** Count out loud as you draw the lines. It's surprisingly easy to end up with eight or ten.

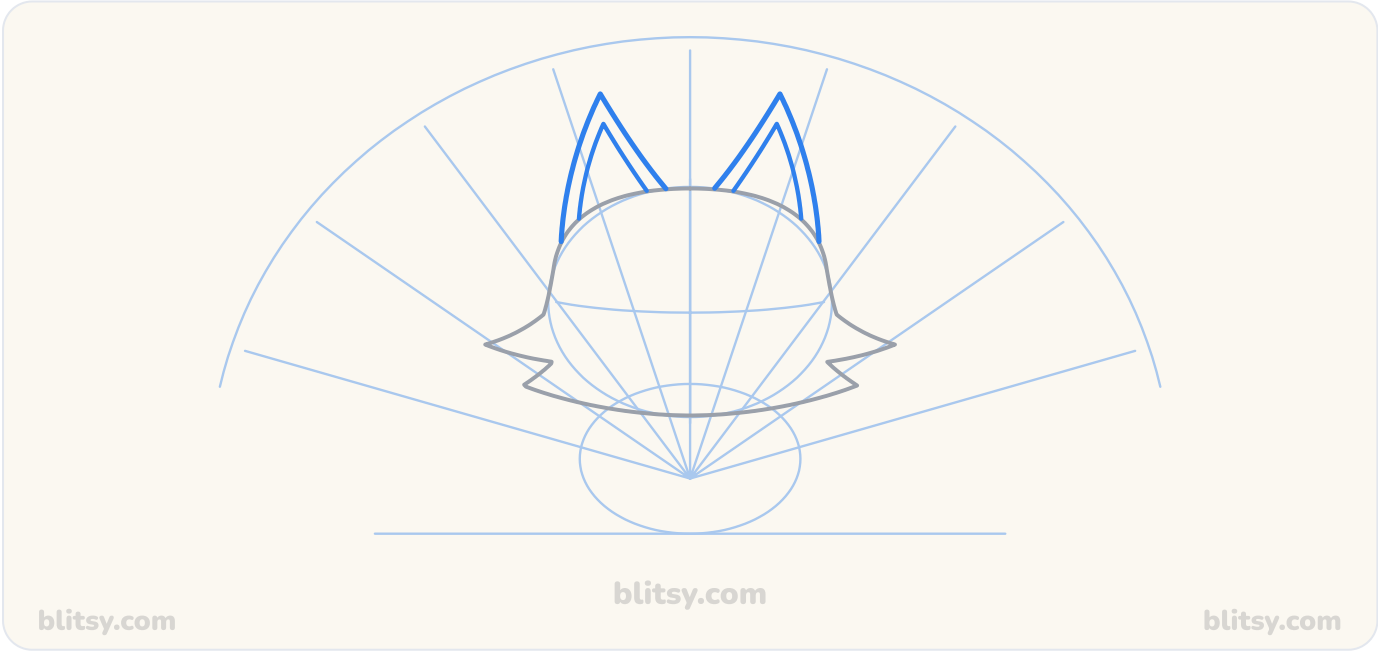
STEP 3 Shape the wide head and cheek fur



Go around the head oval with a rounder, wider shape. Keep the top smooth, then let the sides drop down. Near the bottom, pull out a pointed tuft of fur on each side with a smaller spike under it, and close the chin with a long, gentle curve. The tufts make the head look wider, which gives Kurama his bold look.

💡 **Tip:** Draw both cheek tufts before you fix either one, so you can compare their size side by side.

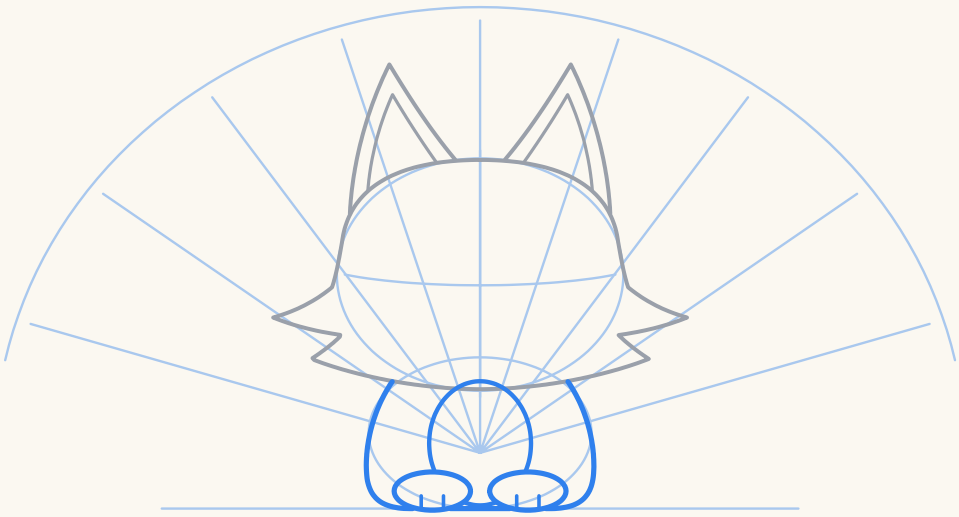
STEP 4 Draw the tall pointed ears



Kurama's ears are long and sharp, nothing like the soft ears of a pet fox. Start each one on top of the head, a little in from the side, and draw a tall narrow triangle with slightly curved edges, about as tall as the upper half of the head. Inside each, draw a smaller triangle for the dark inner part.

💡 **Tip:** Tilt the ears a touch outward. Perfectly upright ears can look stiff.

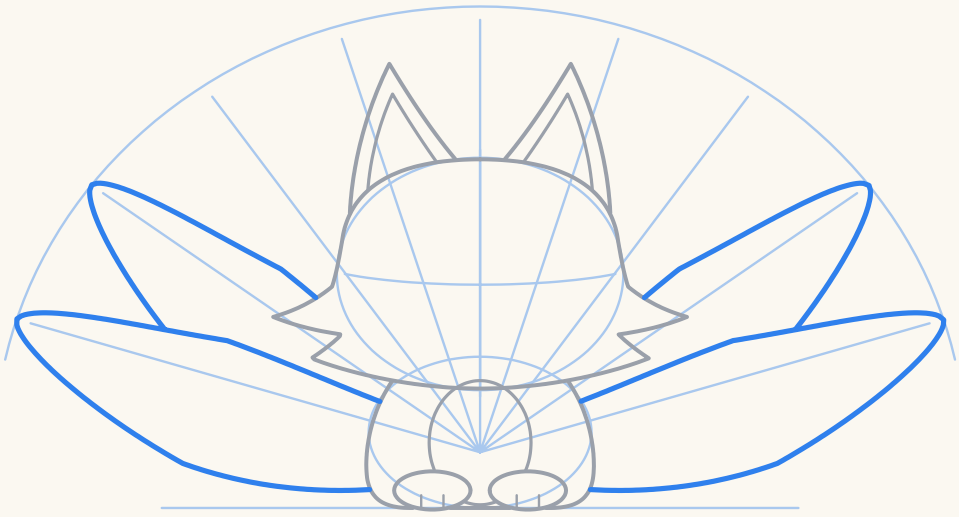
STEP 5 Draw the little body and paws



Under the chin, draw the body as a short pear shape sitting on the ground line. Add two wide oval paws in front with two tiny toe lines each, and a tall oval in the middle for the belly. Keep the body small, because the big head and tails are what read as chibi.

💡 **Tip:** If the body gets too big, the cute look disappears. When in doubt, go smaller.

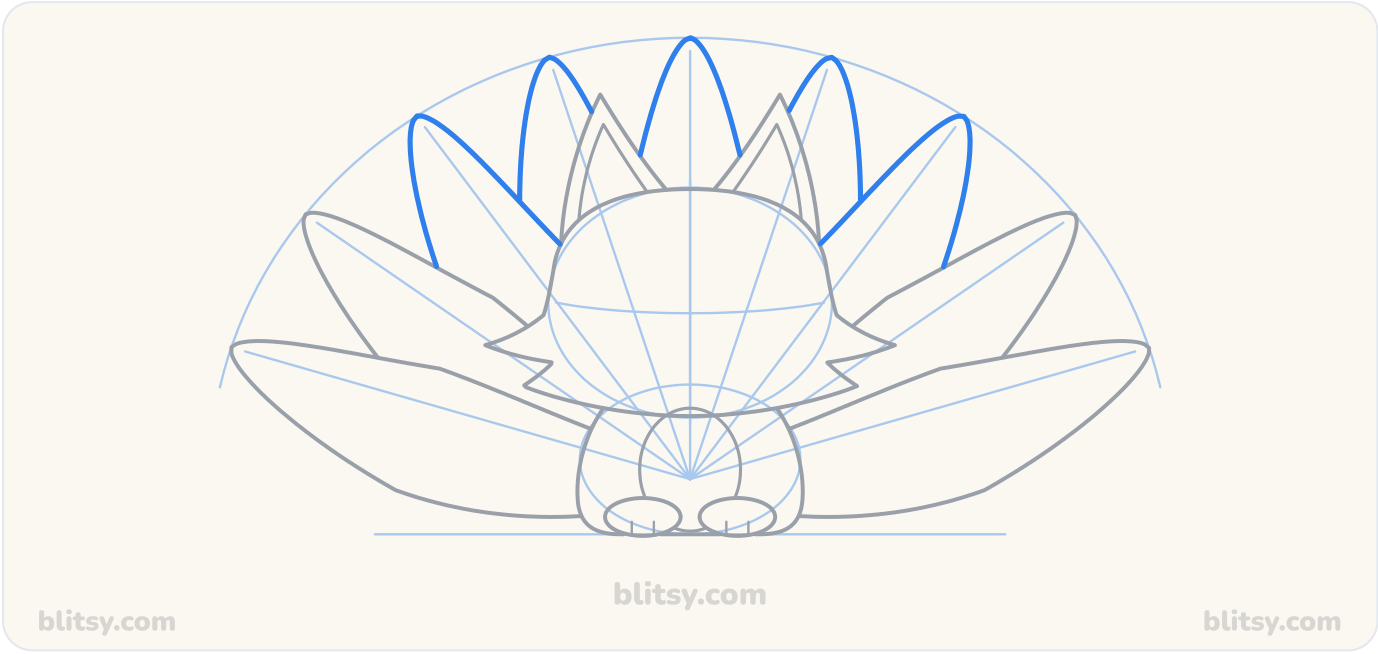
STEP 6 Draw the four front tails first



Start with the two lowest fan lines on each side. Around each, draw a long tail that's narrow at the body, swells in the middle and tapers to a soft point at the arc, bowing outward a little. These four sit in front of the others, so draw their full outline and stop where they reach the body.

💡 **Tip:** Think of each tail as a long leaf or a candle flame. That shape is easier than fur.

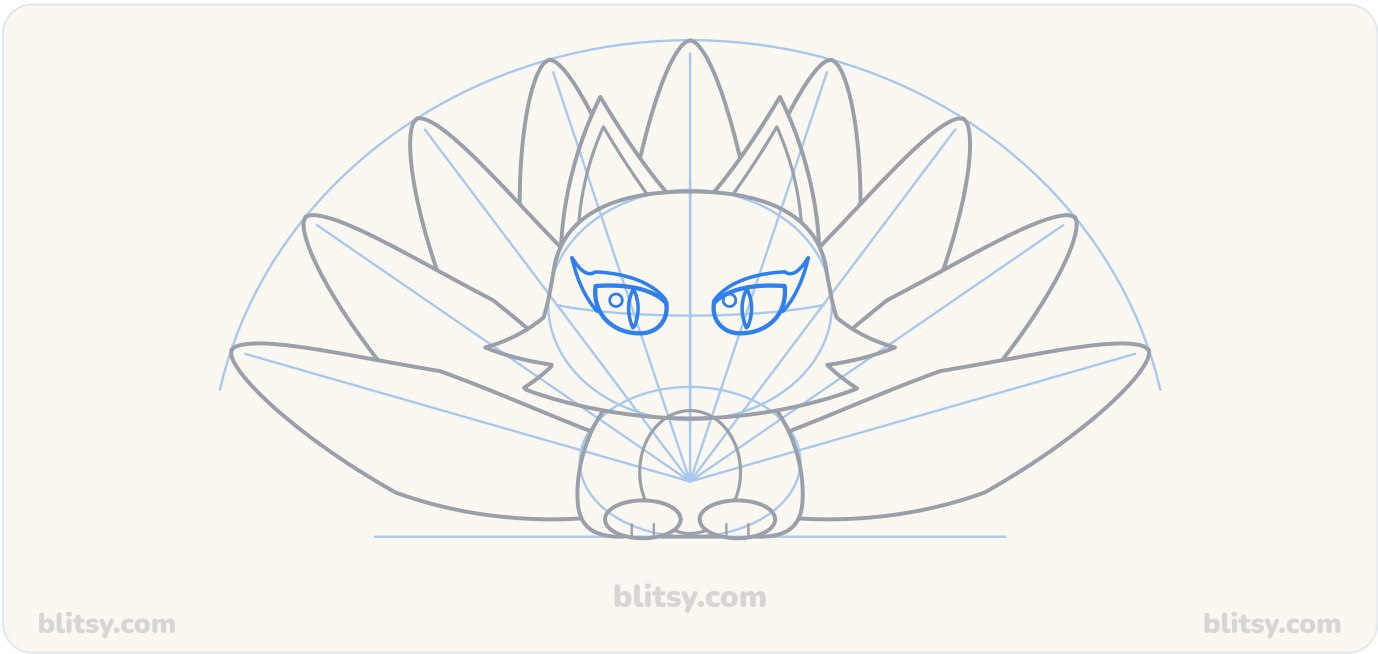
STEP 7 Tuck five tails in behind



Now use the five middle fan lines. Draw the same flame shape on each, but stop wherever the line touches a tail in front, an ear or the head. The middle tail shows only its tip, peeking up between the ears. Overlapping like this makes the fan look full, and it's the part that takes the most patience.

💡 **Tip:** I stop and count the tails right after this step. Nine tips on the arc means you're on track.

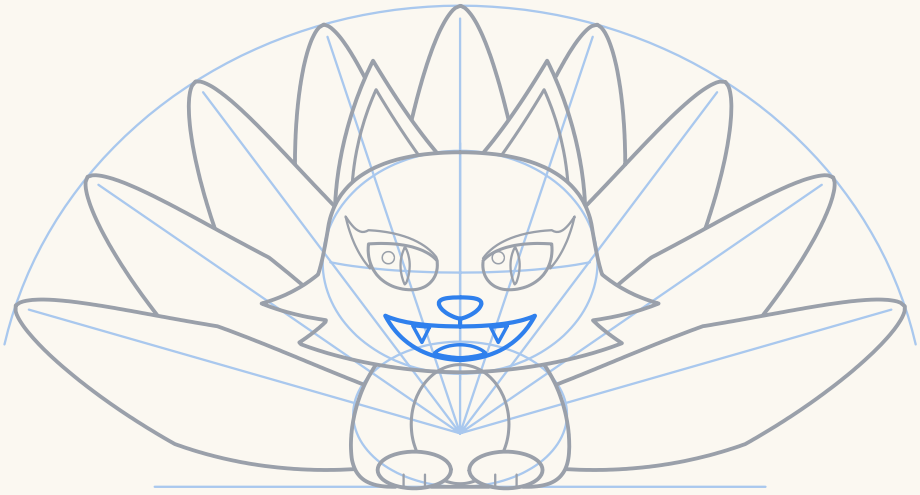
STEP 8 Draw the fierce eyes and markings



On the curved eye line, draw two large rounded eyes with a flatter top edge that slopes down toward the nose. That small slope makes him look determined, not mean. Add a thin pointed slit for each pupil and a little circle for the shine. Above each eye, draw a dark marking that sweeps outward into a point, like a wing.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the shine circles on the same side in both eyes, or he'll look cross-eyed.

STEP 9 Add the nose and a toothy grin



On the middle line under the eyes, draw a small rounded nose and a short line down from it. Below, draw a wide grin: a flat top line with curled-up ends and a deep U-shaped bottom. Hang two small triangle fangs from the top line and add a curve for the tongue. The open grin keeps chibi Kurama playful.

💡 **Tip:** Leave a little space between the fangs and the corners of the mouth so the grin stays readable.

STEP 10 Ink your lines and erase the guides



Trace every keeper line with your black marker: the head, ears, body, paws, all nine tails and the face. Skip the ovals, the fan lines and the arc. Let the ink dry for a minute, then erase all the pencil. The tails will suddenly stand out on their own.

💡 **Tip:** Ink the tails with long, steady strokes from base to tip, not lots of short ones.

STEP 11 Color Kurama



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Fill the head, ears, body, paws and every tail with orange. Go over the lower edge of each tail and the spot under the chin with darker orange for shading. Color the ear insides black, the eyes red with black pupils, and the markings and mouth dark red. Finish with a cream belly, a pink tongue and white fangs, leaving the eye shine as bare paper.

💡 **Tip:** Color all nine tails in the same direction, from base to tip. The strokes then look like fur.