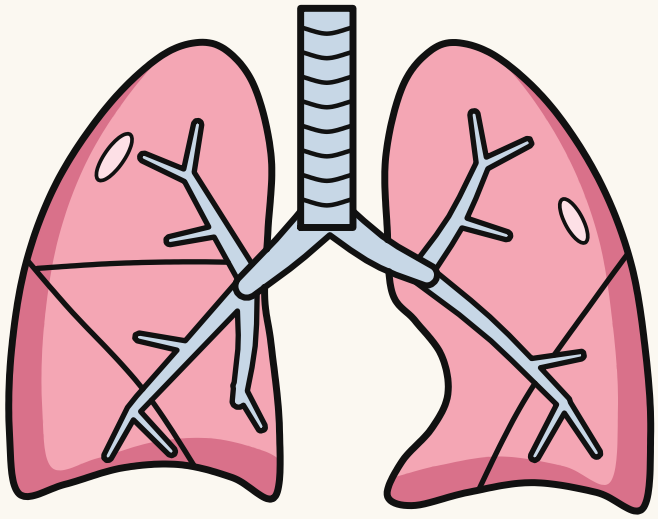
How to Draw Lungs

11 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

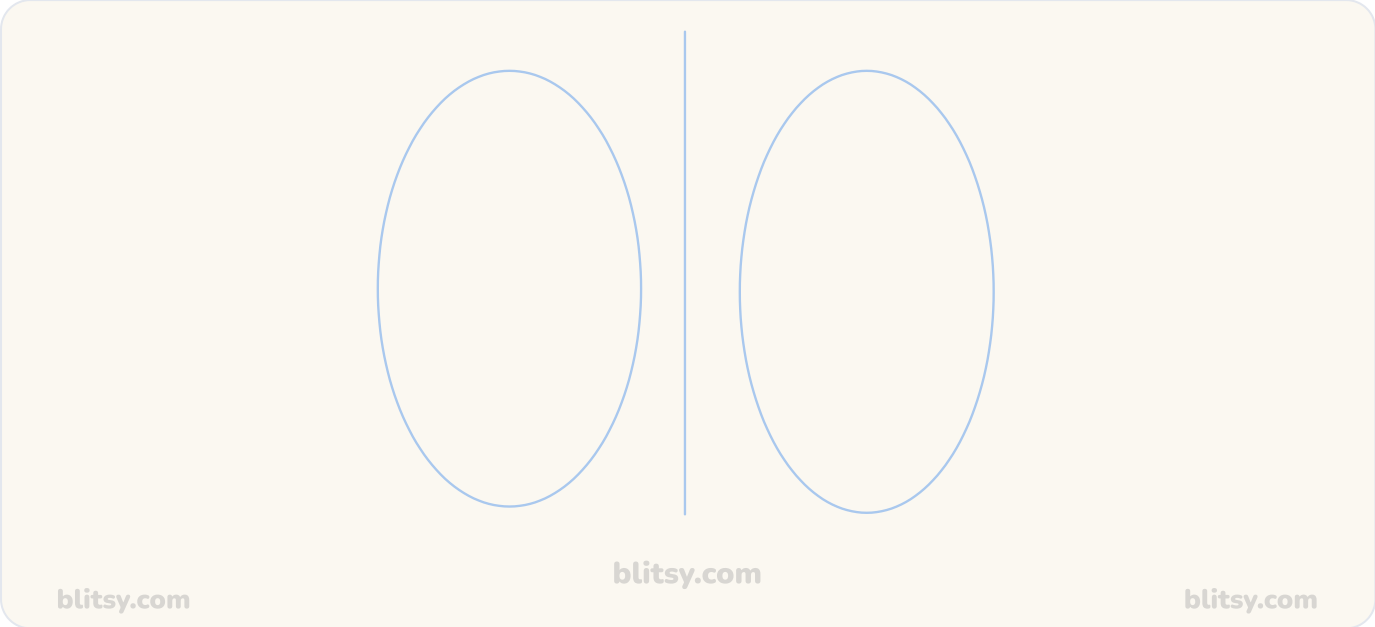
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black fineliner
- Pink and light blue colored pencils
- Plain paper

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 →

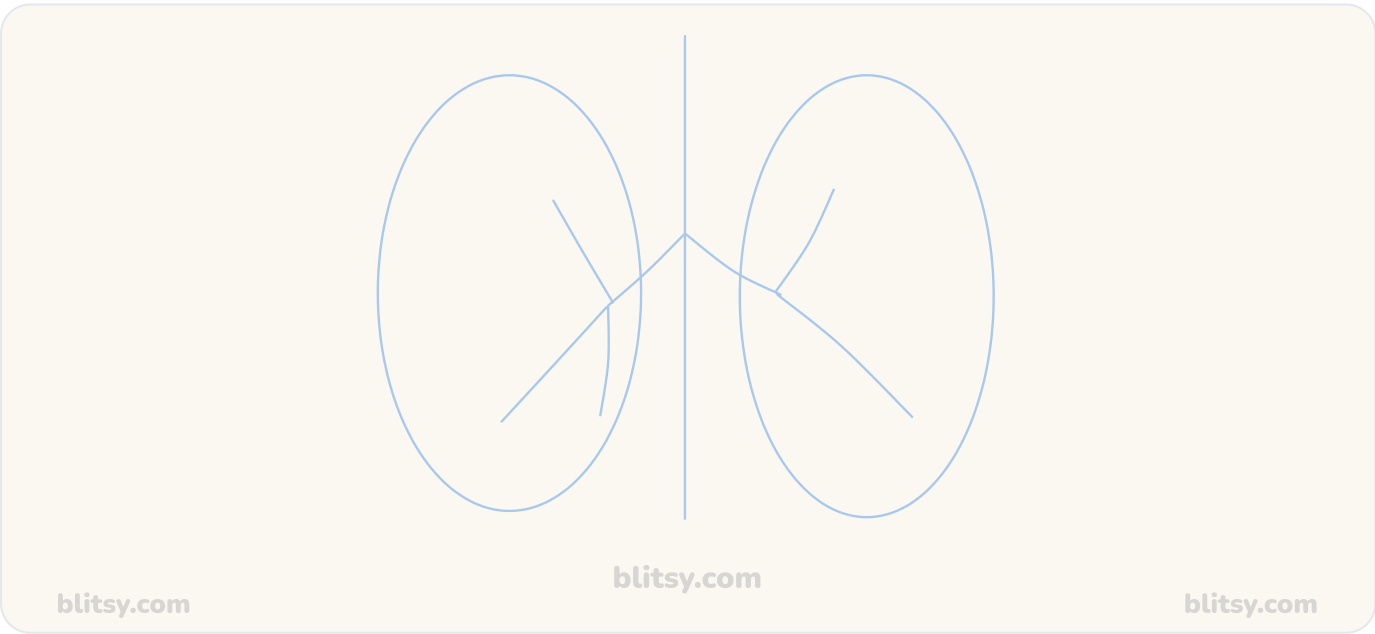
STEP 1 Sketch a center line and two tall ovals



Draw a light vertical line down the middle of the page. On each side, sketch a tall oval, a bit taller than it is wide, with a gap between them about as wide as your thumb. The gap matters, because the windpipe runs down it and the heart sits low in the middle. Keep both ovals about the same size for now.

💡 **Tip:** Hold the pencil far back from the tip. That makes faint lines almost automatic.

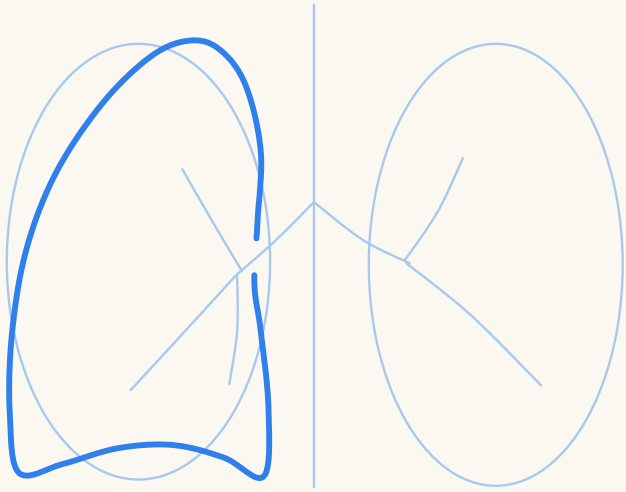
STEP 2 Add guide lines for the airways



Starting about a third of the way down the center line, draw two lines slanting out like an upside-down V. The one going left is steeper and shorter; the one going right is flatter and longer. From the end of each, add two or three loose lines spreading into the ovals like tree branches. These sticks show where every tube goes later.

💡 **Tip:** Don't worry about neat sticks. Their only job is to show direction.

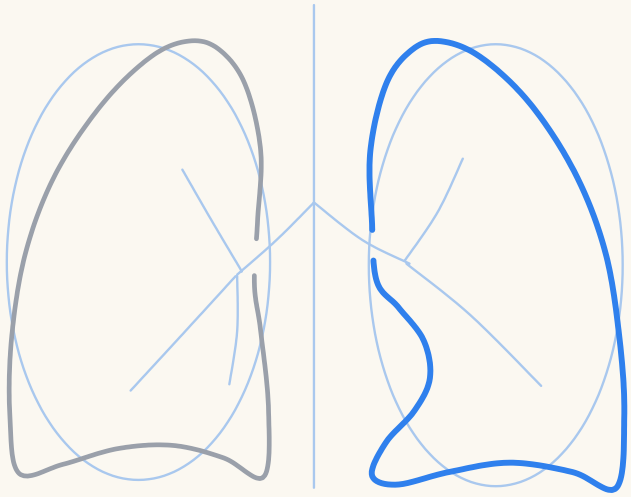
STEP 3 Outline the right lung



Here's the part that confuses everyone: the lung on the LEFT of your page is the person's right lung, because you're facing them. Draw it over the left oval with a rounded peak at the top, a long curved outer side and a bottom that dips upward in the middle, where the dome of the diaphragm pushes on it. Keep the inner side fairly straight and leave a small gap where the airway guide crosses it.

💡 **Tip:** Write a tiny R inside the left oval so you never mix the sides up.

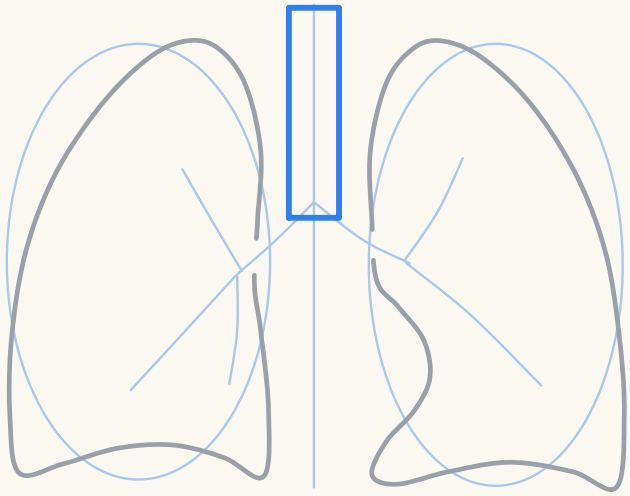
STEP 4 Draw the left lung with its cardiac notch



The left lung is a little narrower and slightly taller. Copy the rounded top and the long outer side, but on the inner edge, about halfway down, swing the line outward into a scooped dent. That dent is the cardiac notch, the space the heart leans into. Below it, bring the line back in to make a small tongue of lung called the lingula, then finish the bottom.

💡 **Tip:** Make the notch deep enough to see from across the room. A shy dent looks like a mistake.

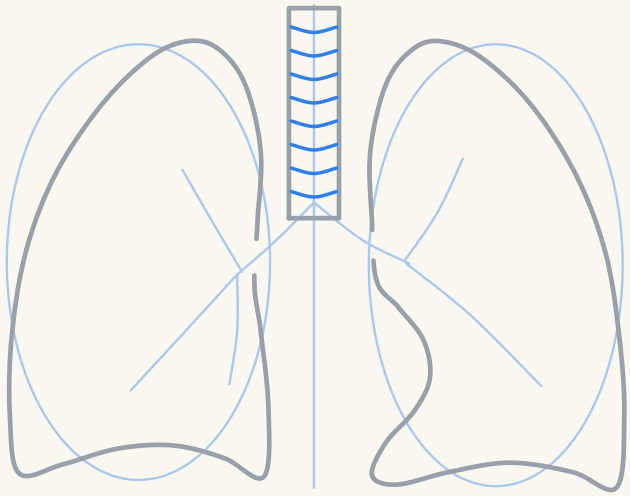
STEP 5 Draw the trachea



Turn the top of the center line into a narrow upright tube, about as wide as a finger on your page. Start it above both lungs and stop it just below their tops, where the guide lines split. I draw the two long sides first and cap the top with a flat line, the way diagrams cut it off. Leave the bottom open.

💡 **Tip:** A ruler is welcome here. A wobbly windpipe stands out more than any other line.

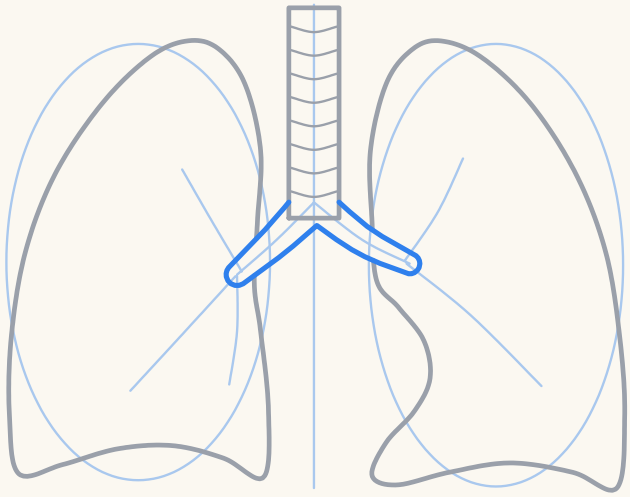
STEP 6 Add the rings on the trachea



Inside the tube, draw a stack of short, slightly curved lines from the top down to the bottom. Each one is a ring of cartilage, a stiff band that keeps the windpipe from collapsing when you breathe in. Space them evenly and let every curve sag a little in the middle. Seven or eight rings look right at this size.

💡 **Tip:** Mark the spacing with tiny dots down one side first, then draw the curves.

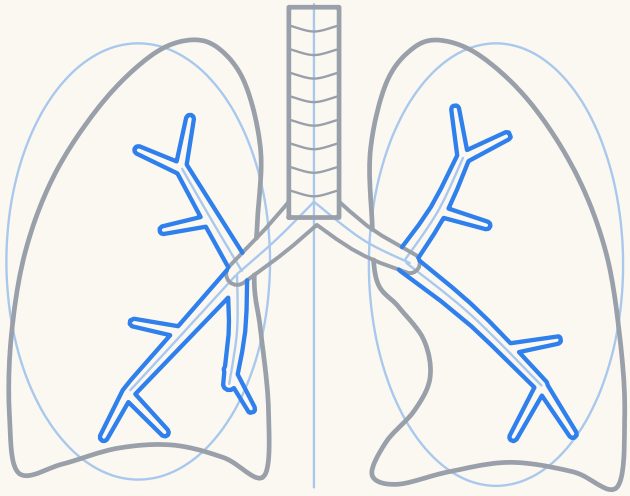
STEP 7 Draw the two main bronchi



At the bottom of the trachea, the airway splits into two tubes called the main bronchi. Follow your V guide: the right bronchus (left on the page) is wider and steeper, the left one is longer and lies flatter, since it has to pass the heart. Let both tubes get a little thinner as they go, and round off their ends just inside the lungs.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the split point sharp. A rounded U at the top looks like a pair of pants.

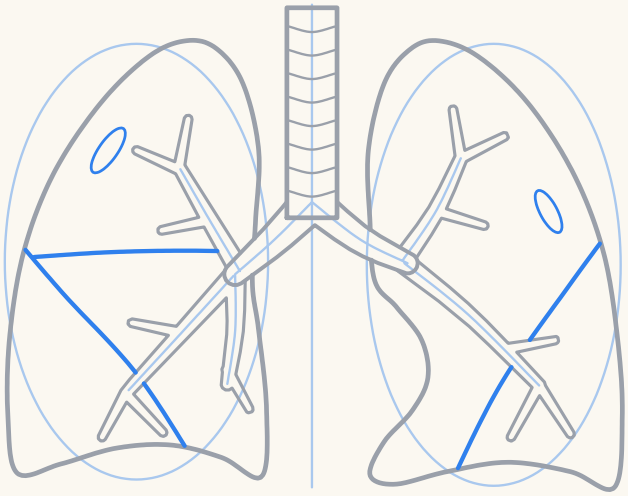
STEP 8 Branch out the bronchioles



Now grow the tree. From the end of each bronchus, draw thinner tubes along your branch guides: three on the right side, one for each lobe, and two on the left. Then add a few short twigs off those, each one narrower again. Stop well inside the lung outline. A handful is plenty for a clear diagram.

💡 **Tip:** Every branch should be thinner than the one it grows from. That rule alone makes it look real.

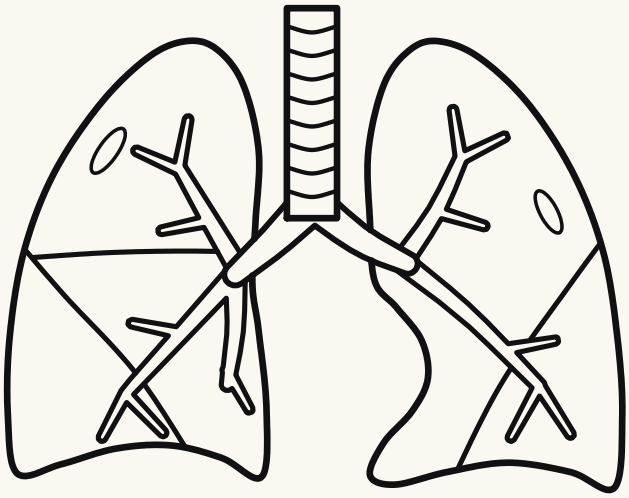
STEP 9 Add the lobe lines and shine marks



Lobes are the big sections each lung is divided into. In the right lung, draw a slanted line from high on the outer edge down toward the inner bottom corner, then a level line from that slant across to the inner edge. That gives three lobes. The left lung gets only one slanted line, so it has two. Finish with a small oval of shine near the top of each lung.

💡 **Tip:** Stop a lobe line where it meets an airway, so the tubes still look like they sit in front.

STEP 10 Ink the lines and erase the guides

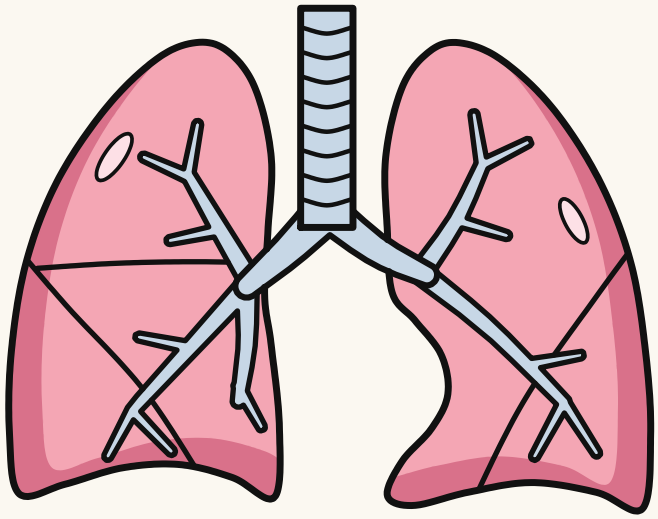


Go over every keeper line with the fineliner. I do the big lung outlines first while my hand is fresh, then the tubes, and the rings and lobe lines last because they're thinner. Wait for the ink to dry completely. Then erase the ovals, the center line and the branch sticks until only the clean diagram is left.

💡 **Tip:** Turn the paper as you ink, so each curve is pulled toward you instead of pushed away.

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STEP 11 Color the lungs



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Color both lungs with an even layer of pink. Along the outer sides and the bottom, add dark pink in a soft band, which gives the lungs a rounded, spongy look. Leave the little ovals very pale pink for shine. Color the trachea, the bronchi and every branch light blue, so the airways stand out clearly against the lungs.

💡 **Tip:** Blend the dark pink inward with light circles, not straight strokes, to avoid stripes.