How to Draw Olaf

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

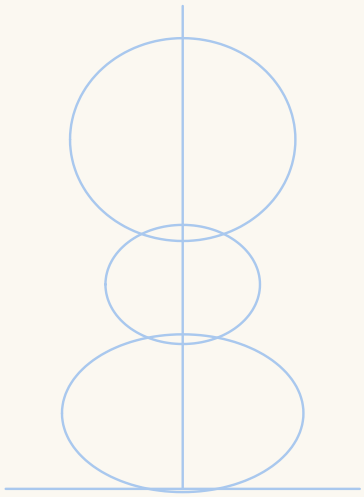
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black fineliner
- Colored pencils
- Plain paper

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 →

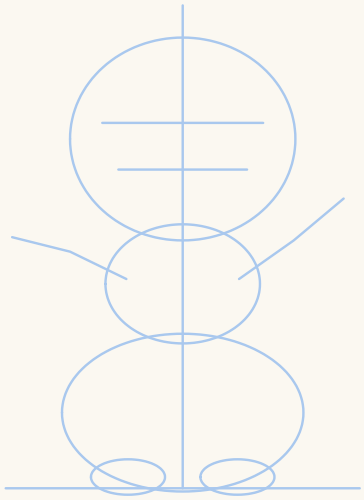
STEP 1 Stack three guide shapes



Draw a flat ground line near the bottom of the page and a straight line up through the middle. Stack three ovals on that line: a big one for the head, a small one for the middle and a wide one at the bottom resting on the ground. Let them overlap a little. The head oval should be noticeably bigger than the middle one, because Olaf is mostly head.

💡 **Tip:** Hold the pencil further back from the tip. Your lines come out lighter without trying.

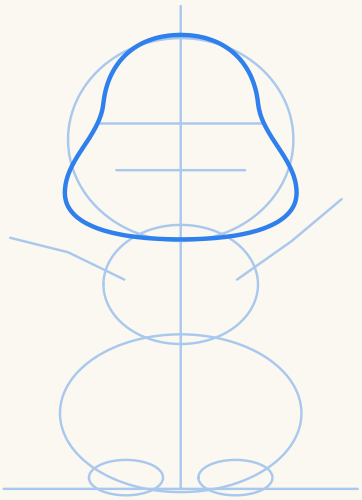
STEP 2 Mark where the face and limbs go



Inside the head, draw two short lines across: the upper one for the eyes and a lower one where the mouth begins. Then sketch two bent lines out from the sides of the middle oval. The left one points out, the right one climbs up for a wave. Finish with two small flat ovals at the bottom for the feet.

💡 **Tip:** Put the eye line a little above the middle of the head oval, not right on it.

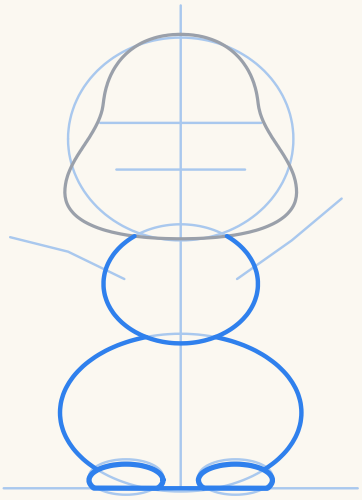
STEP 3 Shape a head wider at the bottom



This step decides whether he looks like Olaf or a regular snowman. Start at the top with a narrow, rounded dome. As you come down the sides, curve inward slightly, then swing out into wide, round cheeks below the mouth line. Close it with a gently curved chin. When I teach this, I tell kids to think of an upside-down pear.

💡 **Tip:** Draw one side, then the other, and compare the cheek bulges before you move on.

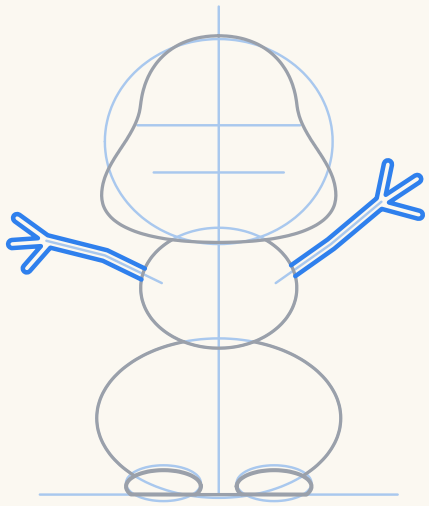
STEP 4 Draw the snowballs and little feet



Trace the middle oval, but stop where it meets the chin. The head sits in front, so the top of the middle ball stays hidden. Do the same with the bottom snowball, letting the middle ball cover its top edge. Then add two flat little feet sitting on the ground line, slightly in front of the bottom ball.

💡 **Tip:** Leave out every line that would cross a shape in front. It saves erasing later.

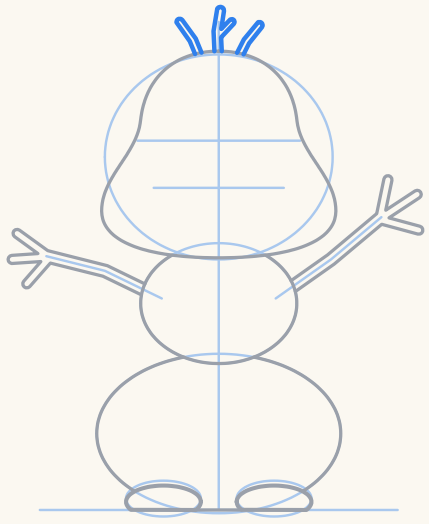
STEP 5 Add twig arms with three fingers



Each arm is a thin stick with a slight bend at the elbow. Draw two close parallel lines along each arm guide, starting from the edge of the middle ball. At the end, split the stick into three short fingers that spread like a fork. Most beginners make the arms too thick, and then they look like logs.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the two lines of each twig as close as a pencil tip. Thin reads as twig.

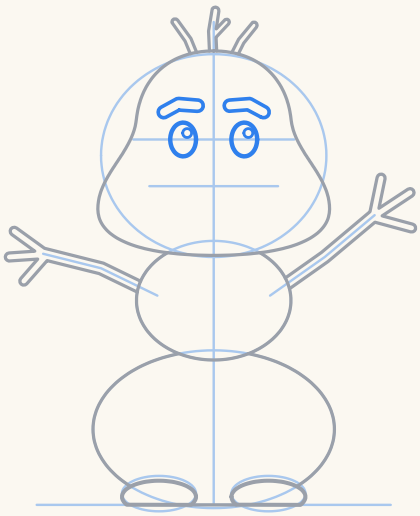
STEP 6 Give him three twig hairs



On top of the head, draw three thin twigs sticking up. The middle one goes straight up with a tiny side branch, and the outer two lean away from it. Start each twig right at the head line so it looks planted in the snow. I keep them short, since long hairs pull the eye away from the face.

💡 **Tip:** Little kids can draw each hair as one single line and skip the double outline.

STEP 7 Draw round eyes and thick eyebrows



Place two upright ovals on the eye line, one on each side of the center line, with a gap about one eye wide between them. Add a small shine circle near the top of each. Above them, draw thick eyebrows that arch up a bit at the outer ends. Raised brows make him look cheerful instead of cross.

💡 **Tip:** Draw both shines on the same side of the eyes, so the light comes from one place.

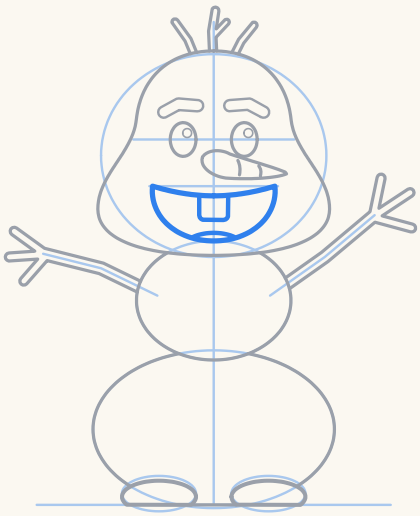
STEP 8 Add a pointy carrot nose



Right under the eyes, start a rounded end on the center line and stretch a long cone out to the right, ending in a point. It should reach almost to the edge of the head. Two small curved lines across the carrot make it look like a real vegetable. Pointing it sideways is a big part of what makes this character recognizable.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the top edge of the carrot first, then the bottom, and meet at the tip.

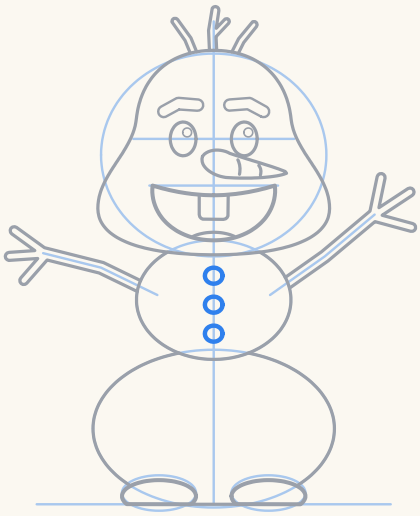
STEP 9 Draw a big smile with a buck tooth



His grin is huge. Draw a long, nearly flat top edge across the mouth line, then a deep U underneath that reaches close to the chin. Hanging from the middle of the top edge, add one square tooth with rounded corners. A small curve at the bottom of the mouth becomes the tongue. That single tooth is honestly the most fun part of the whole drawing.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the tooth centered. Off to one side, it starts to look like a gap instead.

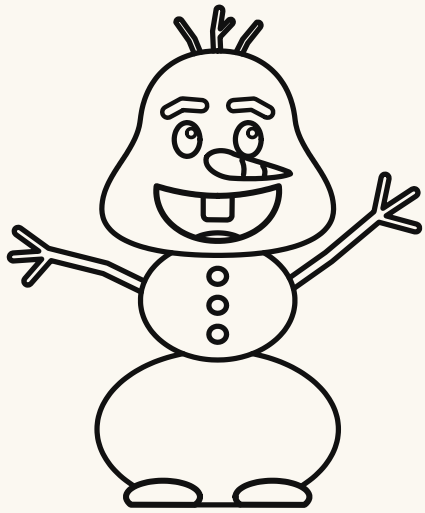
STEP 10 Add three coal buttons



Down the center line of the middle snowball, draw three small circles, evenly spaced. The top one sits just under the chin and the bottom one just above the bottom snowball. Make them all the same size. They look like lumps of coal once they're colored black.

💡 **Tip:** Mark three tiny dots first to check the spacing, then turn them into circles.

STEP 11 Ink the lines and erase the guides



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Go over every final line with your fineliner. I ink the face first while my hand is fresh, then the body and the twigs. Wait a minute for the ink to dry. After that, erase the ovals, the center line and the other guides, and the clean snowman appears.

💡 **Tip:** Ink the twigs with quick strokes. Slow lines wobble and make the sticks look bent.

STEP 12 Color your Olaf



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Leave the snow white and add pale blue along the right side of each snowball and just under the head, so the white shapes stand out on the page. Color the arms, hair and eyebrows brown, and the nose orange with a darker strip along the bottom. Eyes and buttons are black. The mouth gets dark red with a pink tongue, and the tooth stays white.

💡 **Tip:** Press very gently with the pale blue. A soft shadow looks like snow, a heavy one like ice.