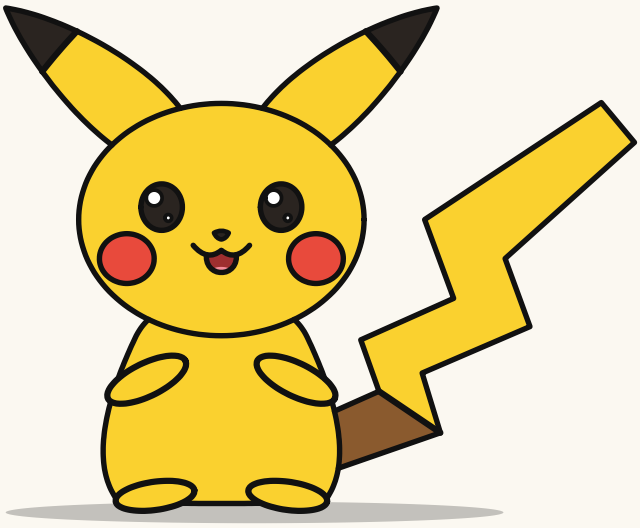
How to Draw Pikachu

11 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

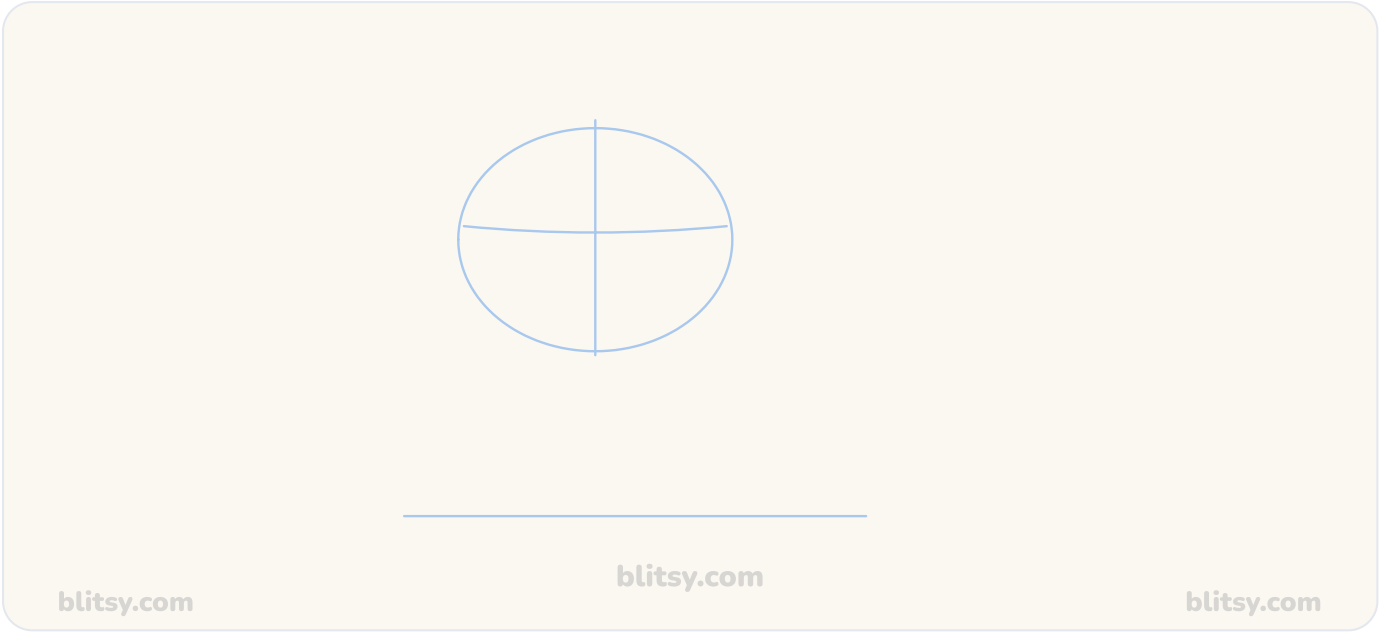
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black marker or fineliner
- Yellow, red, black and brown colors
- Plain paper

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 →

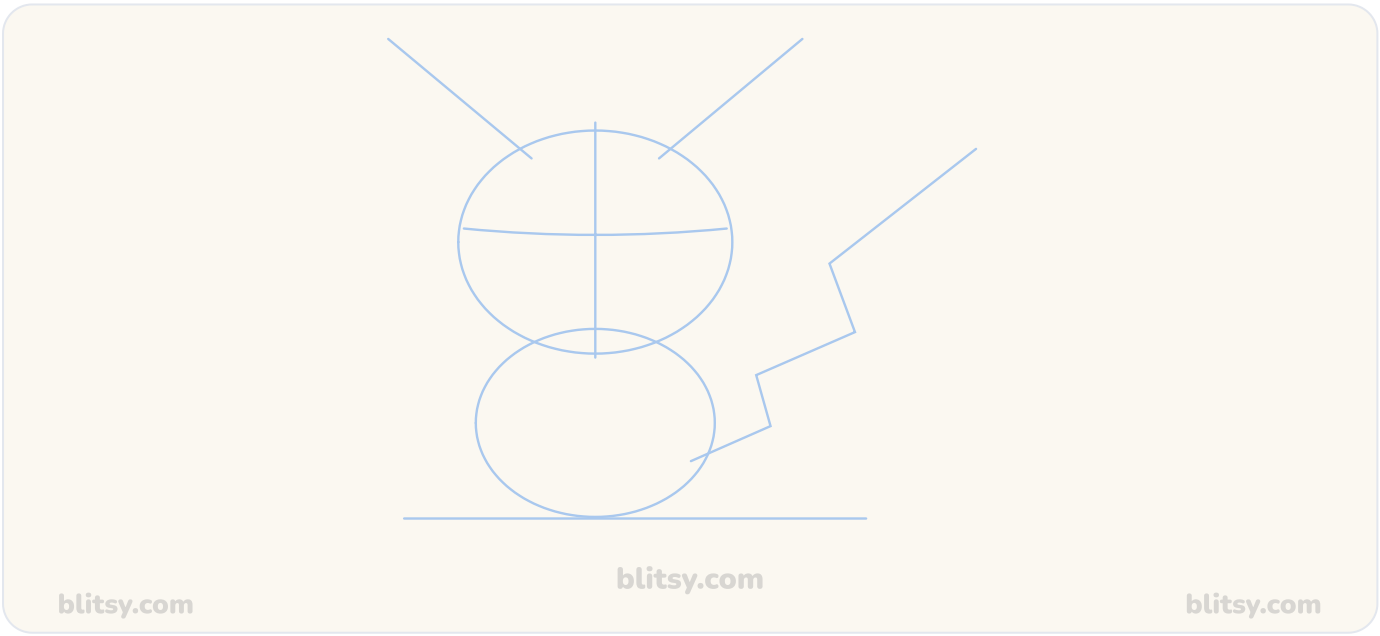
STEP 1 Draw a head oval and cross lines



Leave room on the right side of the page for the tail, then draw a wide oval a little left of center. It should be wider than it is tall. Run a straight line down through the middle and a gentle curve across it, slightly above halfway. Finish with a long, flat ground line near the bottom of the page.

💡 **Tip:** Press so lightly that you can barely see the lines. Every one of them gets erased later.

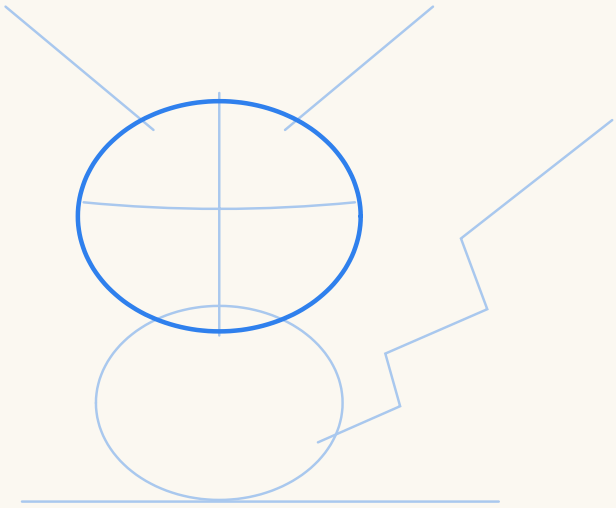
STEP 2 Sketch the body oval and helper lines



Under the head, draw a second oval that overlaps the chin a little and rests on the ground line. Make it slightly smaller than the head. From the top of the head, pull two straight lines up and outward like a wide letter V; these set the angle of the ears. On the right, sketch a zig-zag line climbing from the body toward the top corner. That one becomes the tail.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the head oval the biggest shape on the page. A big head is what makes Pikachu look young and cute.

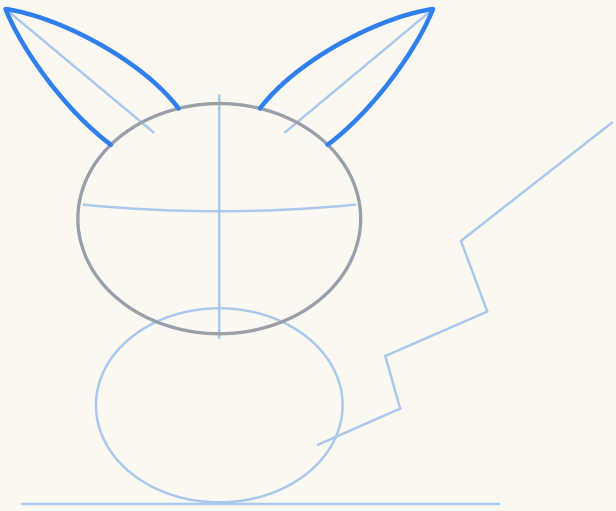
STEP 3 Outline the big round head



Go over the head oval with a firmer, smooth line. I like to draw it in two halves, left side first, turning the paper if my hand feels cramped. A slightly squashed circle is exactly what you want, so don't fight it if it comes out a bit wide.

💡 **Tip:** Keep your wrist loose and draw with your whole arm for rounder curves.

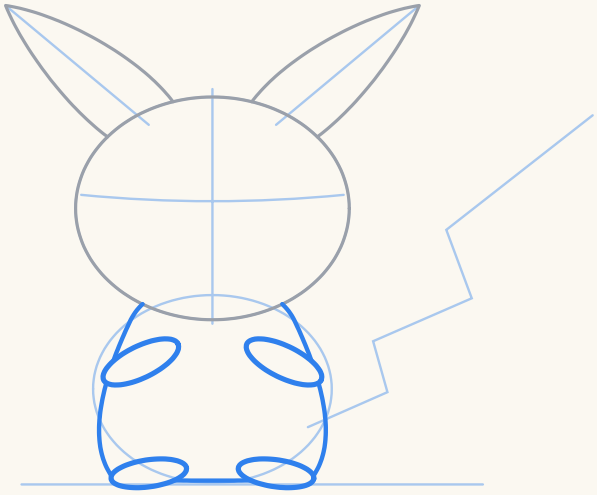
STEP 4 Draw two long pointed ears



Follow each ear guide line from the top of the head out to a sharp point. The ear is shaped like a long leaf: narrow where it joins the head, a little wider in the middle, then tapering to the tip. Stop both lines where they meet the head outline, because the ears sit behind it. Most beginners make them too short, and short ears turn Pikachu into a hamster.

💡 **Tip:** Check the length. Each ear should be nearly as long as the head is tall.

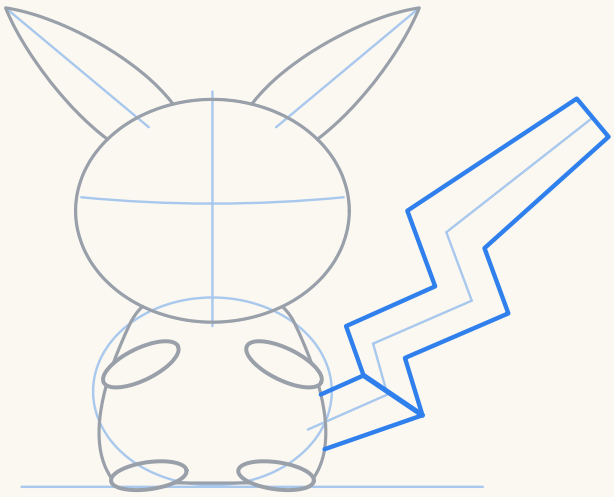
STEP 5 Shape the chubby body, arms and feet



Trace the body oval into a soft pear: narrow at the chin and wide at the bottom, with a flat base on the ground line. Near the top of the chest, add two short sausage shapes for arms, tilted so the hands point in toward the middle. At the bottom, draw two flat ovals for feet. Leave out any body line hidden behind the arms or feet.

💡 **Tip:** Tuck the arms close to the chest. Arms that stick far out make the character look stiff.

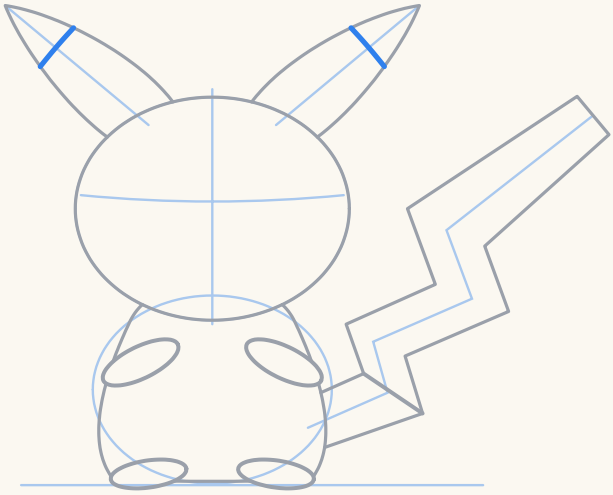
STEP 6 Draw the lightning bolt tail



Here's the fun part. Use your zig-zag guide as the center of the tail and draw a line on each side of it, keeping the two edges parallel. The tail starts narrow behind the body and gets wider at the top, ending in a big flat block. Close the end with a short straight line. Then draw one slanted line across the narrow base, right where the first zig turns; that piece gets colored brown later.

💡 **Tip:** Use sharp corners on the tail, not round ones. Rounded corners make it look like a ribbon.

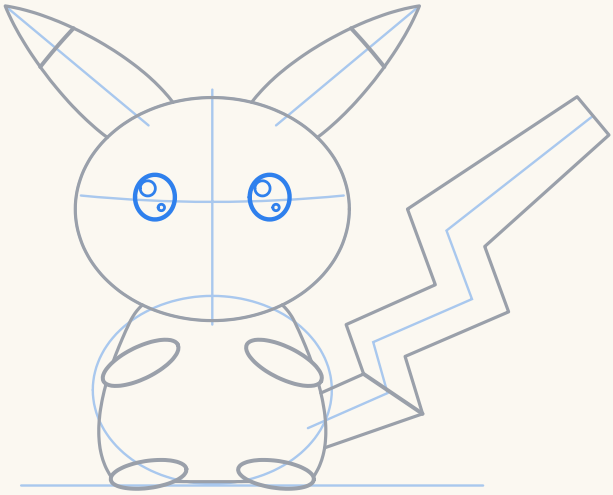
STEP 7 Mark the black ear tips



On each ear, about a third of the way down from the point, draw a short curved line straight across. Everything above that line will be black. Look at both ears together before you commit, because tips of different sizes are noticed right away.

💡 **Tip:** Measure the left tip with your pencil, then copy that length onto the right ear.

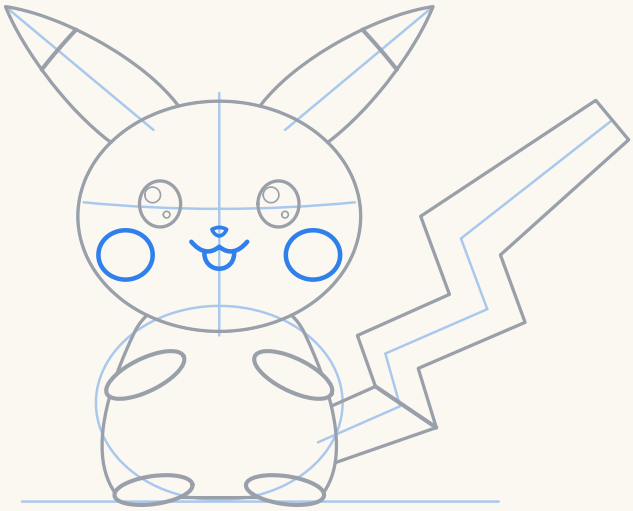
STEP 8 Draw big eyes with shines



Place two tall ovals on the curved cross line, one on each side of the middle. Space them wide, with roughly three eye widths between them, since wide eyes look friendlier. Inside each eye, draw a large circle near the top left and a tiny dot lower on the right. Those white spots are what make the eyes sparkle, so don't skip them.

💡 **Tip:** Put the shine dots in the same corner of both eyes so the light seems to come from one direction.

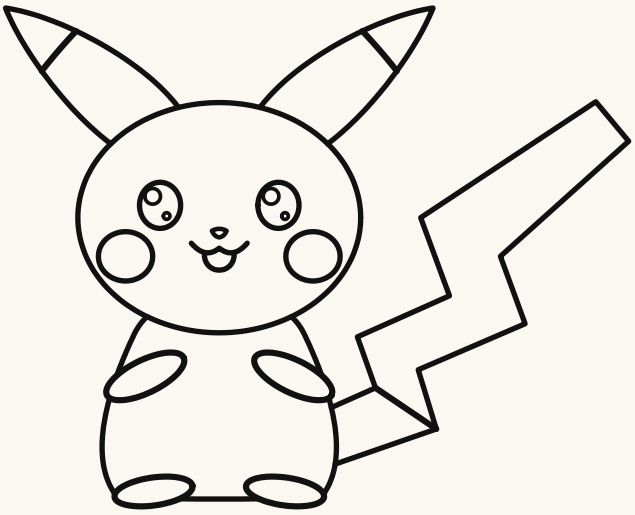
STEP 9 Add the nose, smile and red cheeks



Right on the center line, a little below the eyes, put a very small nose. Under it, draw a wide, flat letter W for the smile. Hang a small U shape from the middle of the W to make an open mouth, and add a little curve inside for the tongue. Finally, draw a round cheek under each eye, close to the edge of the face. I make the cheeks about as big as the eyes.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the nose tiny. A big nose takes attention away from the cheeks and the smile.

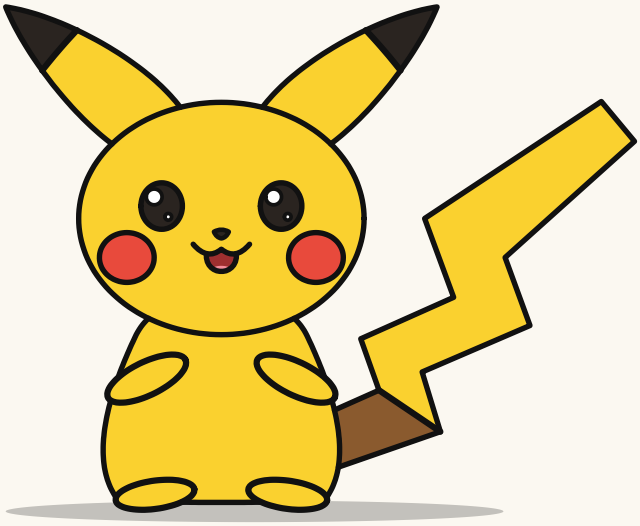
STEP 10 Ink the lines and erase the guides



Trace every final line with a black marker. I start with the face while my hand is fresh, then do the ears, the body and the tail. Skip the guide ovals, the cross lines and the zig-zag helper. When the ink is completely dry, erase all the pencil marks so only the clean outline is left.

💡 **Tip:** Count to thirty before erasing. Wet marker smears into gray streaks.

STEP 11 Color your Pikachu



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Yellow goes almost everywhere, from the ear bases down to the feet and over the tail. Color the ear tips black, then the eyes and nose, leaving the white shines empty. The cheeks are bright red, the bottom piece of the tail is brown, and the mouth is a dark red with a pink tongue. A soft gray shadow under the feet keeps Pikachu standing firmly on the ground.

💡 **Tip:** Color the yellow first and the black parts last, so dark pencil dust doesn't drag into the yellow.