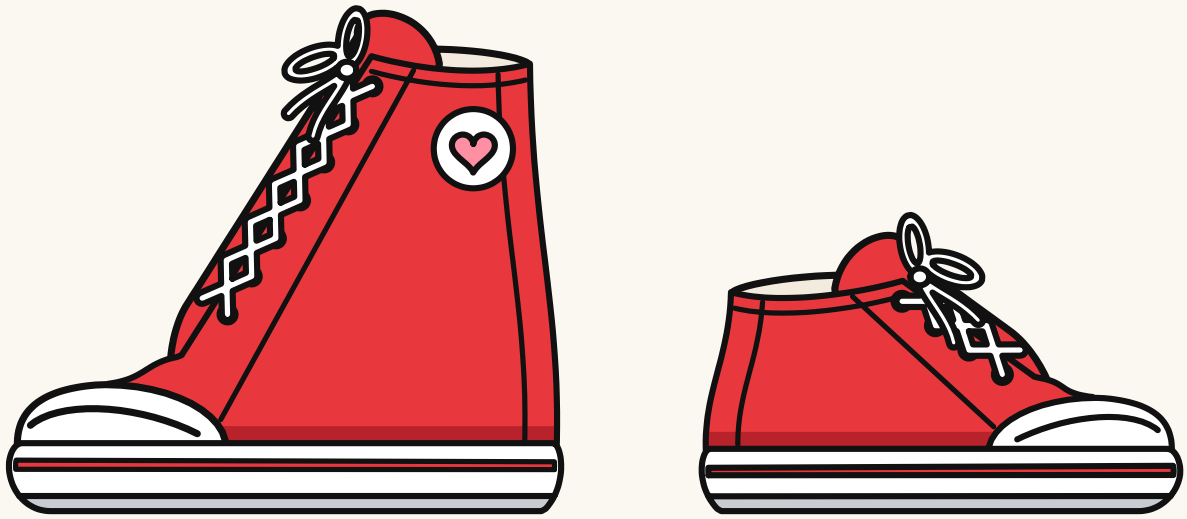
How to Draw Shoes

11 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

- A pencil
- An eraser
- A ruler
- A black pen
- Colored pencils

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 →

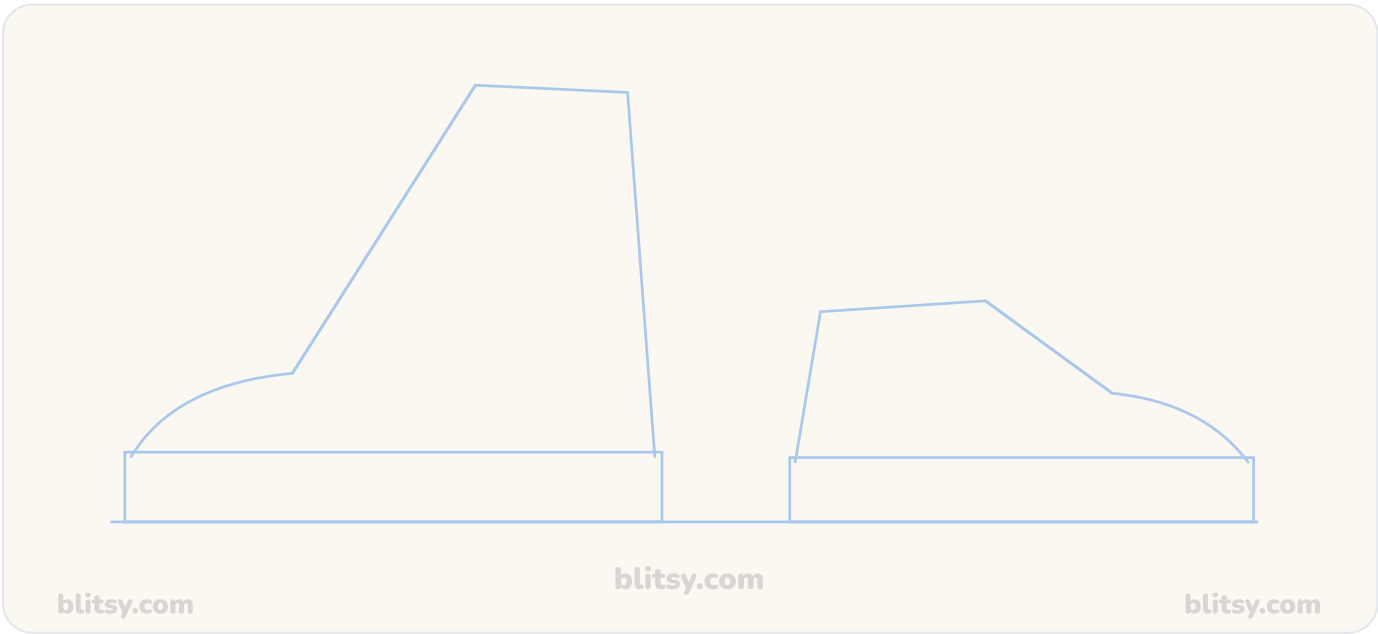
STEP 1 Rule a ground line and two flat sole boxes



Draw one long, straight line across the lower part of the page. Sitting on it, sketch two thin rectangles: a long one on the left for the high-top and a shorter one on the right. Each box is about eight times longer than it is tall. Leave a gap so the shoes don't bump into each other.

💡 **Tip:** Use the ruler here; a crooked ground line makes both shoes look like they're sliding downhill.

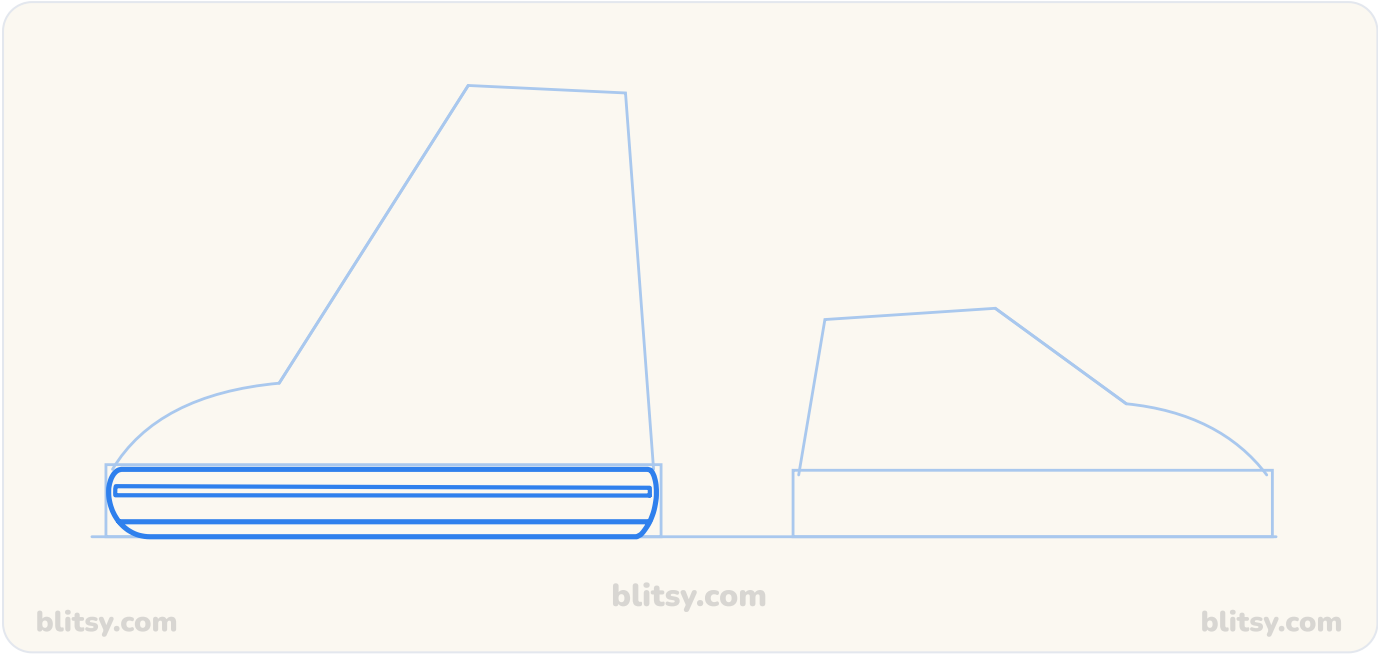
STEP 2 Block in the shoe shapes and the lace lines



On top of the left box, draw a curve rising from the front corner like a gentle hill, then a long slanted line climbing up and back. Finish with a short top edge and a nearly upright back line. That tall shape is the high-top. The low-top on the right gets the same idea, only mirrored and much lower. I call the slanted lines lace lines, because the laces will sit along them.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the high-top's back line almost vertical, or the shoe looks like it's tipping over.

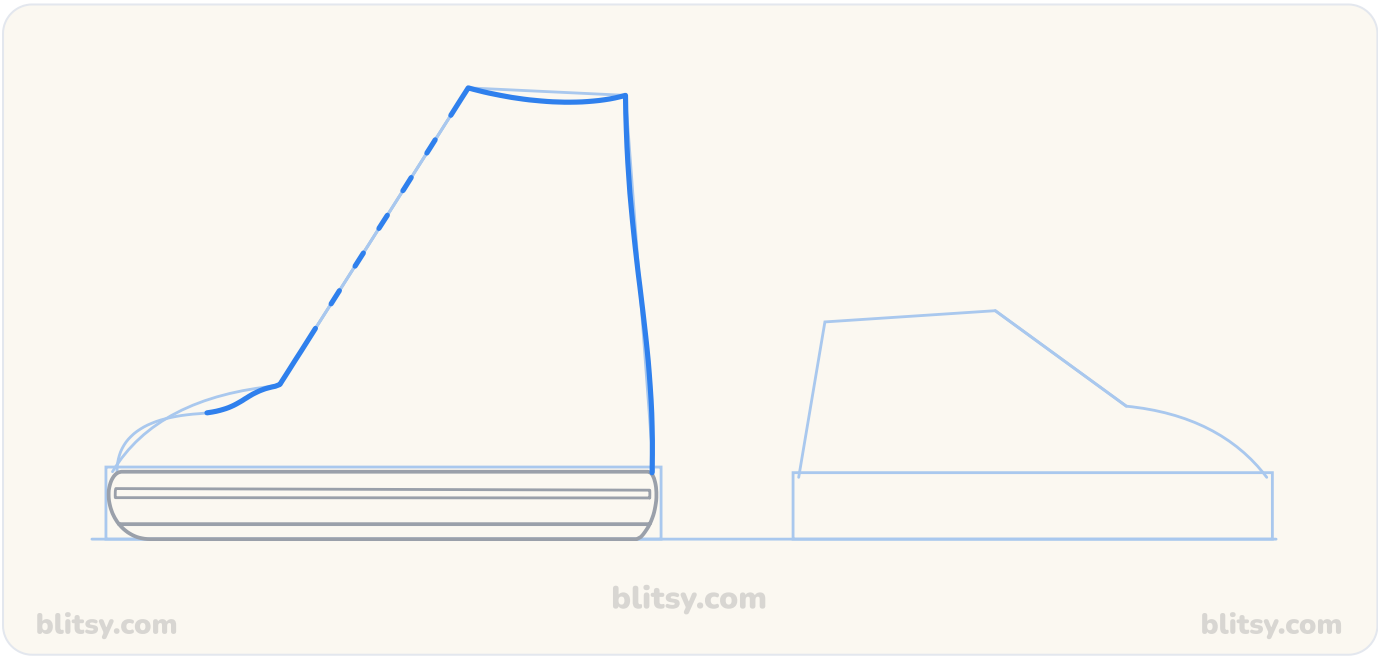
STEP 3 Draw the rubber sole of the high-top



Now the real lines start. Round off the front and back of the left box so the sole looks like a long, soft capsule. Inside it, draw a thin stripe a little below the top edge, plus one more line near the bottom for the tread. I find those two inner lines are what make it read as rubber instead of a plank.

💡 **Tip:** Make the front of the sole stick out a hair past the toe; real sneaker soles always do.

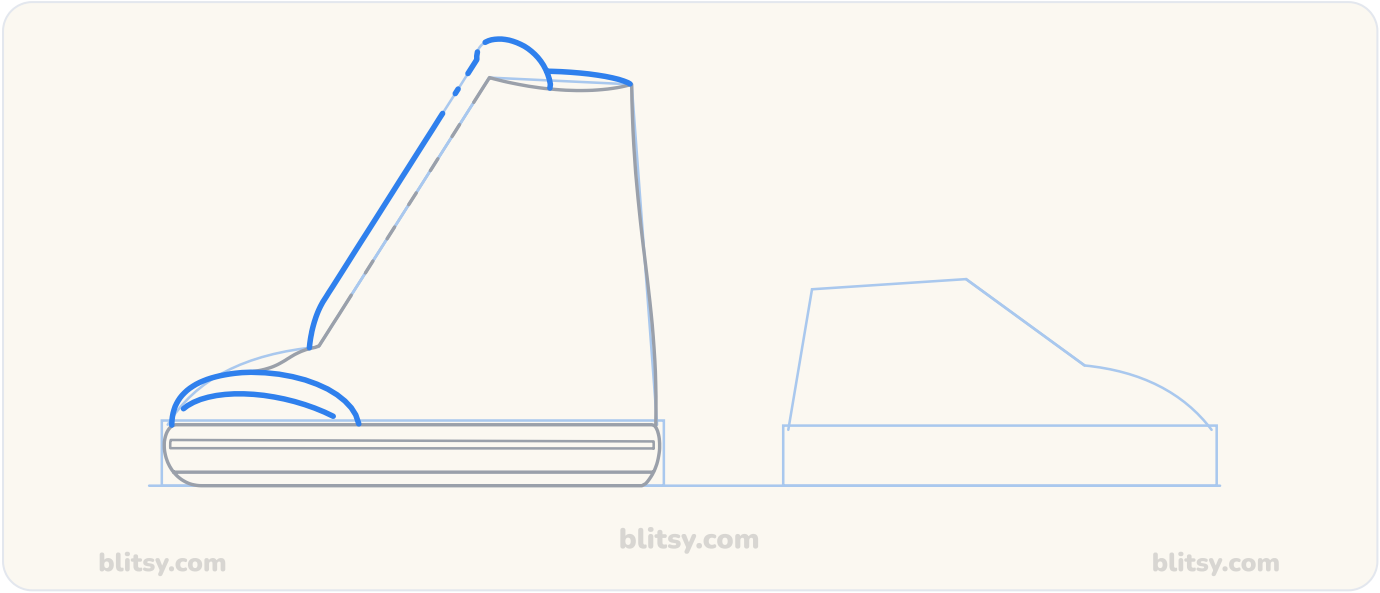
STEP 4 Outline the canvas upper and the ankle



Start at the toe, just above the sole, and curve up over the toe box. At the lace line, follow it straight up to the top. The collar dips slightly in the middle, like a shallow smile. Bring the back down along your guide, bending out a little near the heel, and stop on the sole.

💡 **Tip:** Stop the canvas line right on top of the sole, never below it, so the two parts don't overlap.

STEP 5 Add the toe cap, the tongue and the shoe opening



The toe cap is a rounded rubber dome over the front of the foot. Draw its arch from the tip of the toe to about a third of the way along the sole, with a curved ridge line inside. Next comes the tongue: a narrow strip just outside the lace line, poking above the collar in a rounded tab. A thin oval behind the collar shows the inside of the shoe.

💡 **Tip:** If the toe cap reaches past the middle of the shoe, it starts to look like a clown shoe; keep it short.

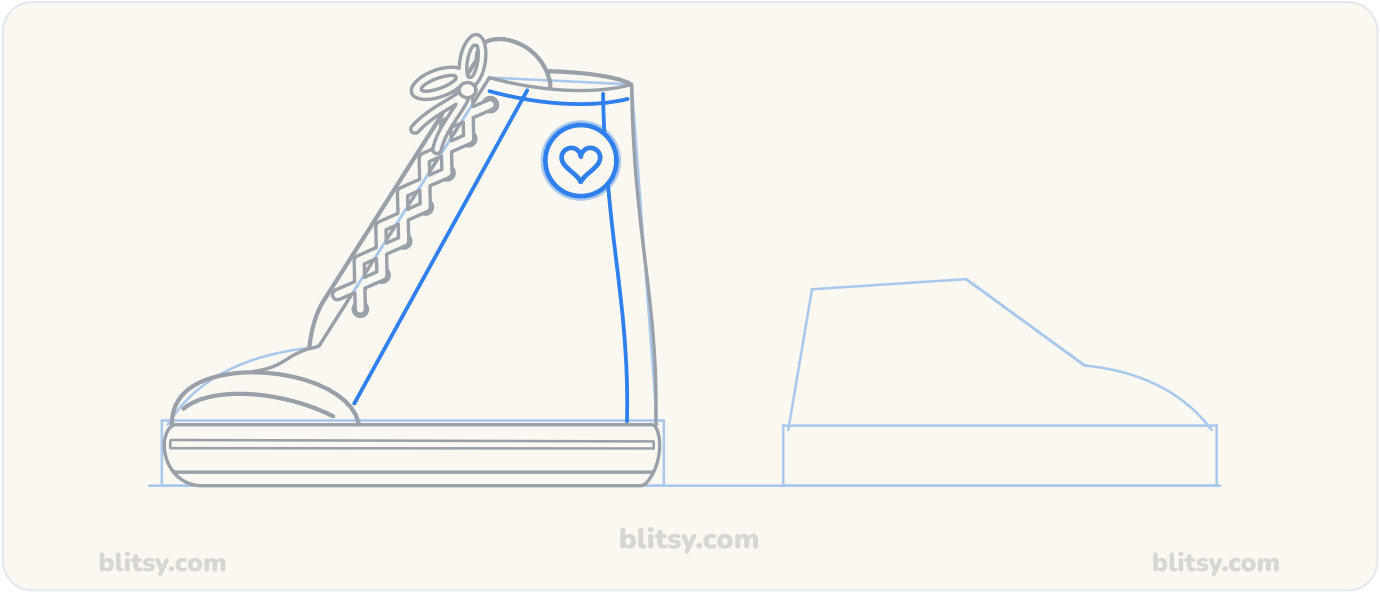
STEP 6 Draw the eyelets and the crossed laces



Place seven small circles in a row just inside the lace edge, each with a dot in the middle. From each eyelet, draw a lace band over to the tongue, letting neighboring bands cross in an X. A small bow with two loops and two short ends goes at the top. Most beginners make the laces too long; they only need to reach the tongue.

💡 **Tip:** Mark all seven eyelet spots with dots before drawing any circles, so the spacing comes out even.

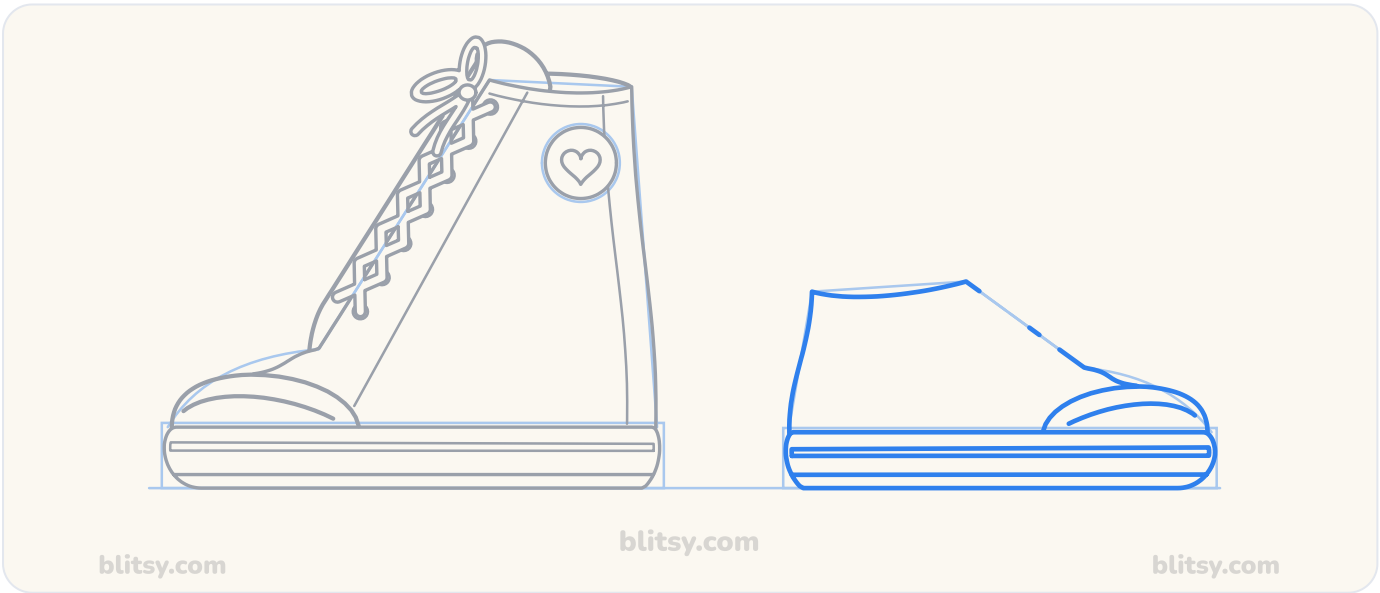
STEP 7 Put an ankle patch and stitch lines on the high-top



High-tops usually have a round patch on the inner ankle. Sketch a guide circle near the top back of the shoe, trace it, and draw a small heart inside. For stitching, I run one line parallel to the lace edge, one just under the collar and one close to the heel. Those quiet lines make the canvas look sewn.

💡 **Tip:** Swap the heart for a star, a moon or your initial; this patch is your own design, not a brand logo.

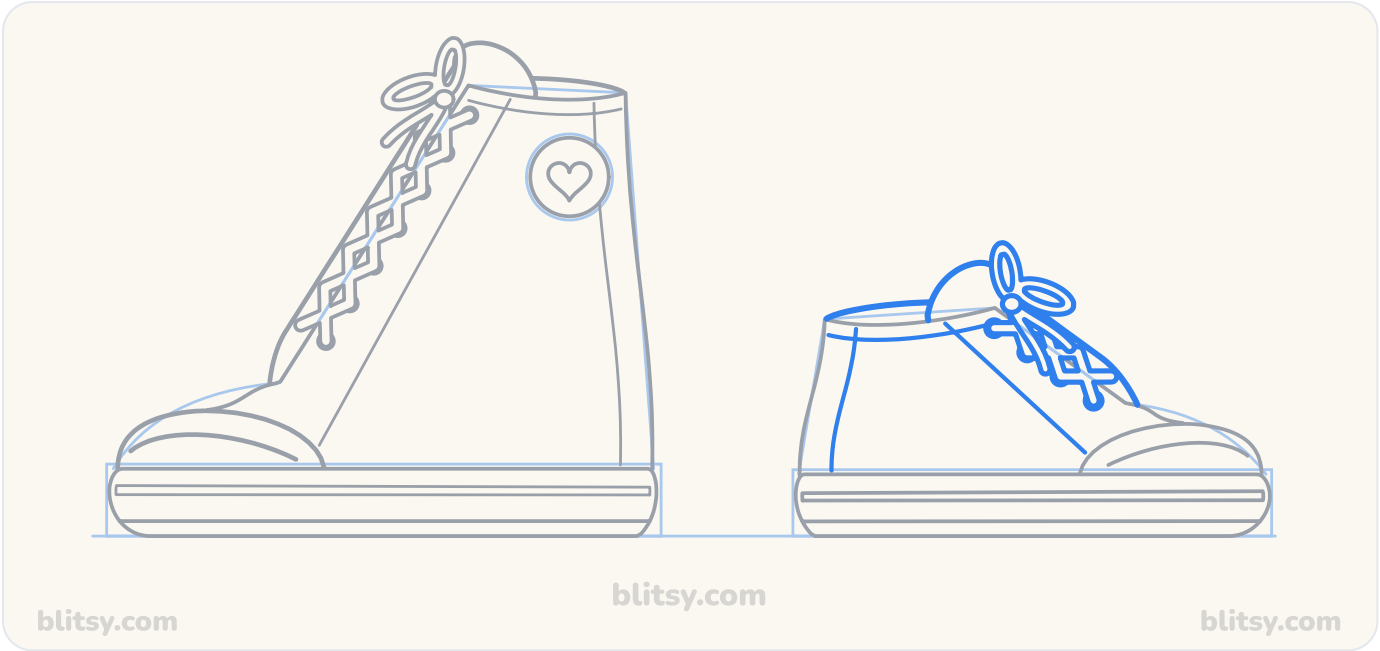
STEP 8 Draw the low-top's sole and upper



On the right shoe, everything gets shorter and points the other way. Round the ends of the sole box and add the stripe and tread line. Then draw the upper: a low toe box, a short lace edge and a collar just above the ankle bone. The toe cap sits on the right this time. Doing the high-top first pays off now, because the low-top repeats the same moves.

💡 **Tip:** Check that the low-top's sole is a bit thinner than the high-top's; the smaller shoe should look lighter.

STEP 9 Finish the low-top's tongue plus its laces and stitches



Give the low-top a small tongue tab peeking over the collar and a thin oval for the opening. Four eyelets are plenty on a shoe this short. Cross the laces between them and top them with a little bow. Finish with a stitch line beside the lace edge, another under the collar and a seam near the heel.

💡 **Tip:** Fewer eyelets on a low-top keeps the laces from turning into a tangled blob.

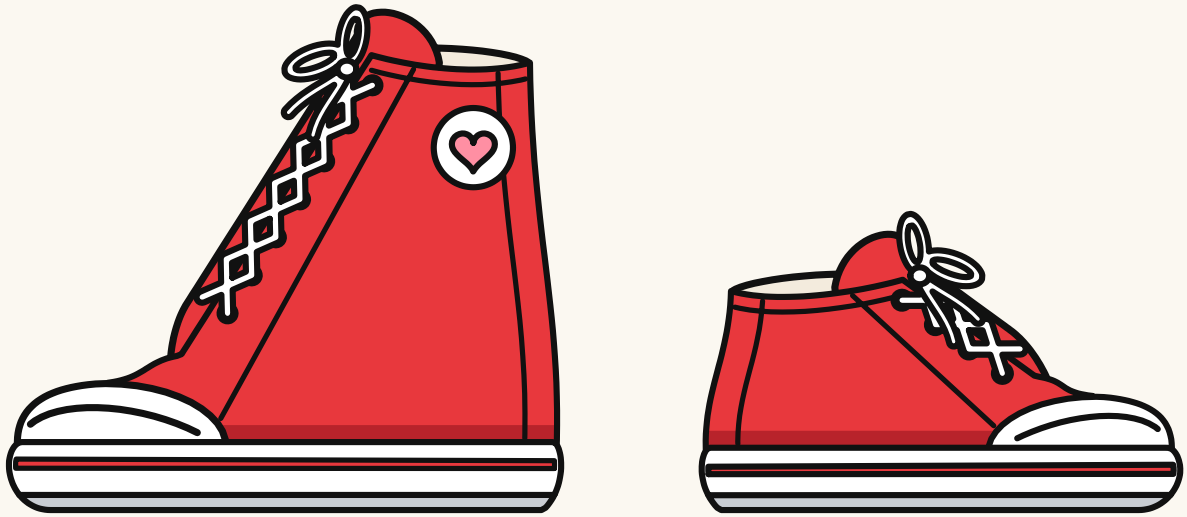
STEP 10 Ink the outlines and erase the guides



Trace every line you want to keep with the black pen, going slowly around the bows and eyelets. Once the ink is completely dry, erase the ground line, the boxes and the slanted lace lines. Pencil bits hidden under the laces go too, so the laces sit cleanly on top.

💡 **Tip:** Wait a full minute before erasing; fresh ink smears into gray streaks under the eraser.

STEP 11 Color both sneakers



Fill the canvas and tongues with bright red, then press harder, or switch to dark red, along the bottom of each upper just above the sole. I like that band of shadow because it makes the shoes feel grounded. Color the sole stripe red and the tread gray. Eyelets get light gray, the heart turns pink, and the opening gets a warm cream.

💡 **Tip:** Leave the soles, toe caps and laces as white paper rather than coloring them white.