How to Draw Tanjiro

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

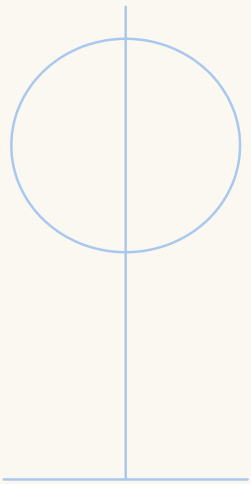
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black fineliner
- Markers or colored pencils
- Plain paper

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 →

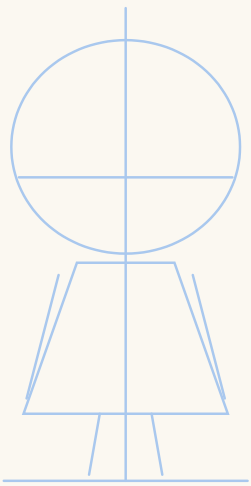
STEP 1 Draw a head circle and a center line



Start near the top of your paper with a big, slightly wide circle. In chibi style the head is almost as tall as the whole body, so don't be shy with it. Run a straight line down through the middle to the bottom of the page, then add a short flat line there for the ground.

💡 **Tip:** Hold the pencil far back from the tip; it keeps guide lines soft.

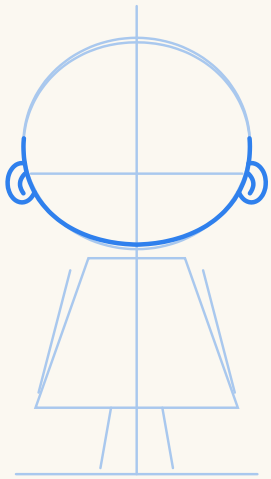
STEP 2 Add the eye line and body guides



Cross the circle with a level line a little below its middle, because chibi eyes sit low on the face. Under the head, sketch a trapezoid that is narrow at the top and wide at the bottom; that's the jacket. Two slanted lines on the sides mark the arms, and two short lines below show the legs.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the trapezoid shorter than the head, or he stops looking chibi.

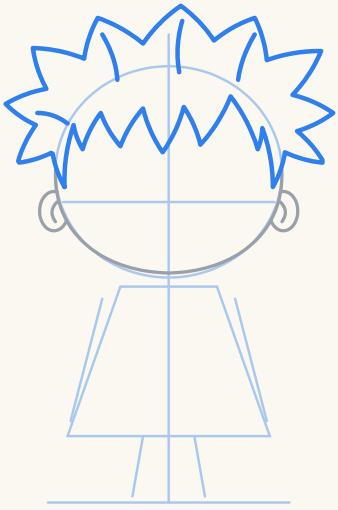
STEP 3 Shape the round face and the ears



Trace over the circle with a smooth face shape that has full cheeks and a soft, rounded chin. Small C-shaped ears go on each side, level with the eye line. I place them a touch low on purpose, since the earrings will hang from them and need room above the shoulders.

💡 **Tip:** Draw each ear as a little bump half hidden behind the cheek.

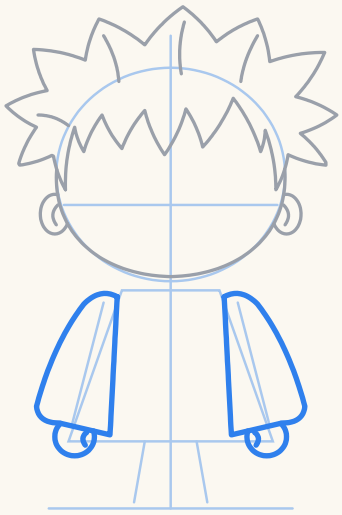
STEP 4 Draw the spiky hair and bangs



Tanjiro's hair is a messy mop, not tall like a super-powered fighter. Go around the top of the head with short, uneven spikes pointing up and out to the sides. For the bangs, zigzag across the forehead with pointed locks hanging toward the brows. Leave a wider gap on his left side (your right) for the forehead mark. Erase the face line hidden under the hair.

💡 **Tip:** Make every spike a slightly different size; matching spikes look like a crown.

STEP 5 Add the wide sleeves and mitten hands

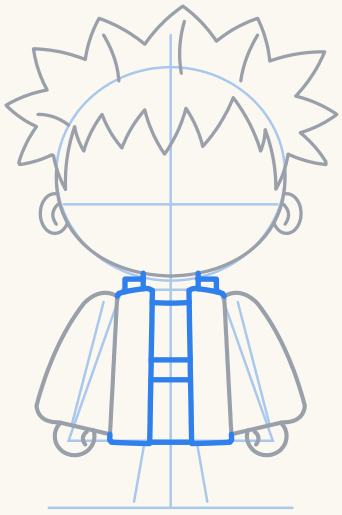


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A haori has big, loose sleeves, so each arm is a wide bell shape that starts at the shoulder and flares out toward the bottom. The inner side of each sleeve stays almost straight, which leaves room for the jacket front. Below each sleeve, draw a round mitten hand with a small curve for the thumb.

💡 **Tip:** Round hands read as cute; fingers at this size just look busy.

STEP 6 Draw the haori front with collar and belt

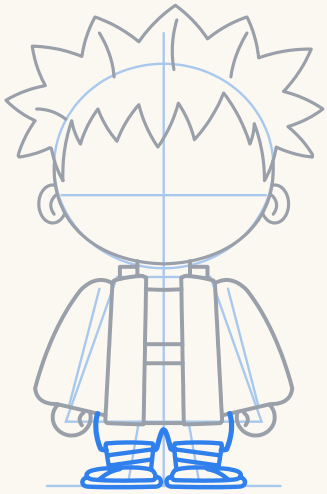


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Between the sleeves, draw two narrow front panels of the haori hanging straight down, with a gap in the middle. Inside that gap you can see his dark uniform, so add the top of a stand-up collar under the chin and a white belt as a short band at the waist. Close both panels with a flat hem.

💡 **Tip:** Leave the opening slightly wider at the bottom than at the top.

STEP 7 Add the pants, leg wraps and sandals



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Under the hem, sketch two short, baggy trouser legs with a small notch between them. Each leg ends in a white wrap that covers the shin, which you show with two slanted lines across it. Finish with rounded feet in white socks sitting on thin sandal soles, toes turned out a little so he stands firmly.

💡 **Tip:** Spread the feet apart; a wide stance makes him look confident.

STEP 8 Draw big kind eyes and brows



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Place two tall, rounded eyes on the eye line with about one eye's width between them. A thick upper lid line over each eye gives that anime look. Inside, draw a large iris, a small pupil and two shine circles in the same corner of both eyes. Short brows sit just under the bangs, almost flat, which keeps his expression gentle.

💡 **Tip:** If he looks grumpy, lift the brows a little higher above the eyes.

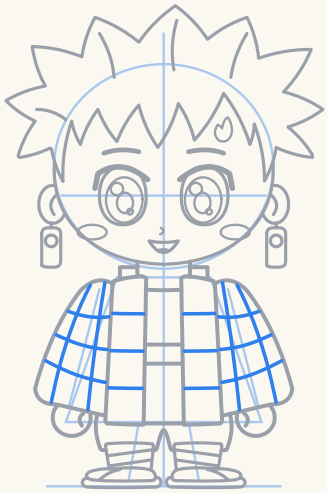
STEP 9 Add the smile, the mark and the earrings



A tiny curve makes the nose, and a small open smile with a little tongue goes right under it. Oval blush marks sit on the cheeks. In the gap of the bangs, draw a small flame-like mark; keep it simple and soft. Then hang a short string from each ear with a white rectangle and a circle near its top for the sun.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the smile narrower than the space between the eyes.

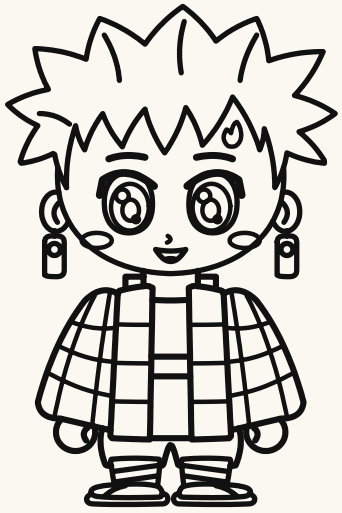
STEP 10 Draw the checkered grid on the haori



This is the step that makes the drawing say Tanjiro. On each front panel, draw three lines across to split it into four boxes. On the sleeves, add two lines running down the sleeve and three across. Here's the trick: the lines near the outside of each sleeve sit closer together and the cross lines curve slightly, because the cloth wraps around a round arm.

💡 **Tip:** Curve the cross lines gently downward in the middle, like a soft smile.

STEP 11 Ink the lines and erase the guides



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Go over every keeper line with your black pen, including all the grid lines. Leave out the guide circle, the trapezoid and the stick limbs. I ink the face first, while my hand is steady. Wait until the ink is completely dry, then erase all the pencil underneath.

💡 **Tip:** Turn the paper so you always pull the pen toward yourself.

STEP 12 Color your Tanjiro



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Color the hair dark red and give each spike tip a brighter red. On the haori, pick a starting square and fill it black, then skip one and fill the next, so no two black squares share a side; the rest are green. The uniform and pants are dark blue. Leave the belt white, along with the wraps and socks; the eyes are red-brown and the sandals light brown.

💡 **Tip:** Fill the black squares first; green is easier to keep clean around them.