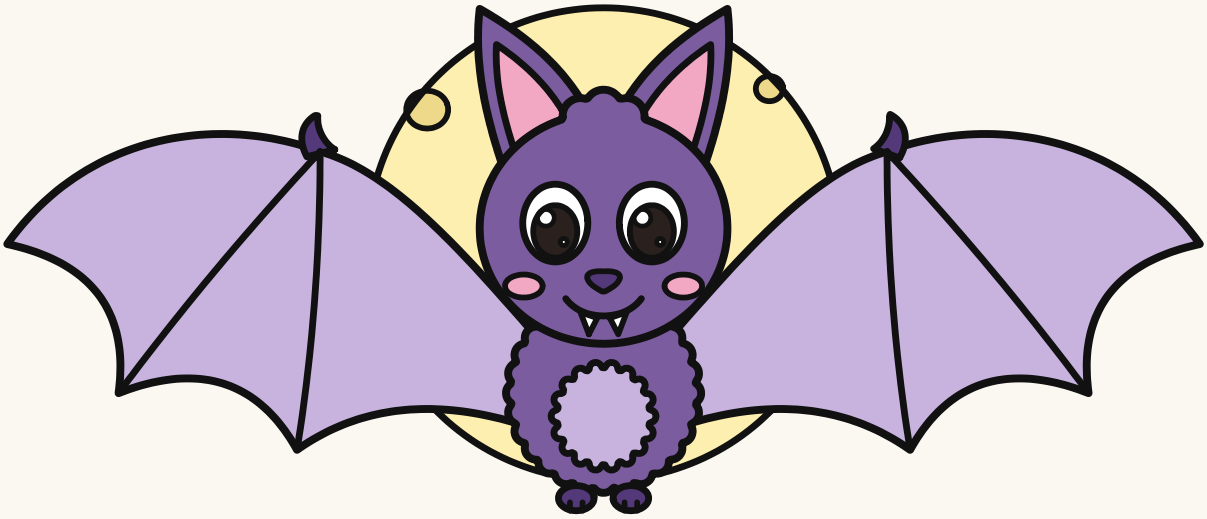
How to Draw a Bat

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

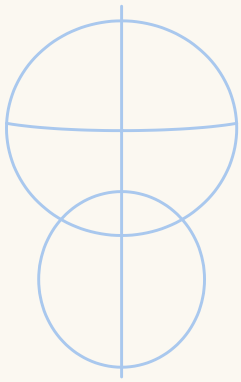
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black marker or fineliner
- Colored pencils or crayons
- Plain paper

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 →

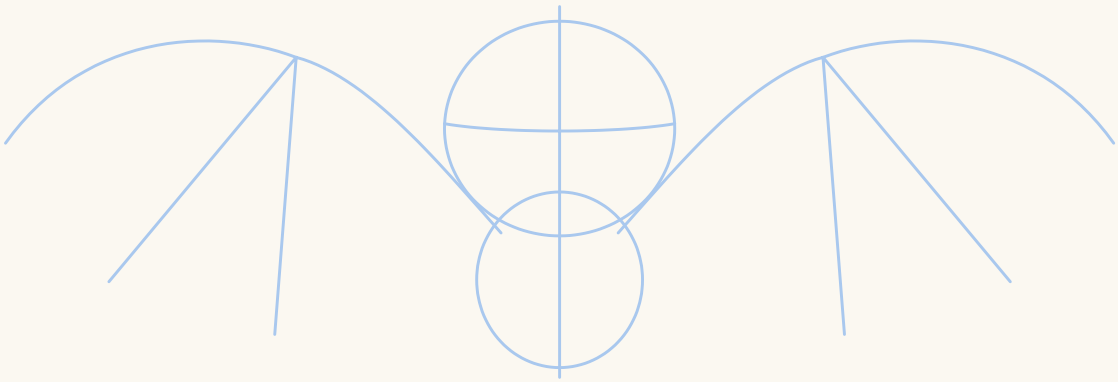
STEP 1 Sketch the head and body circles



Near the middle of your page, draw a big circle for the head. Under it, overlapping a little, draw a smaller oval for the body. Add a line straight down through both, and a gentle curve across the head just above its middle. The eyes will sit on that curve.

💡 **Tip:** The head should be clearly bigger than the body. That big-head look is what makes a cartoon bat cute instead of creepy.

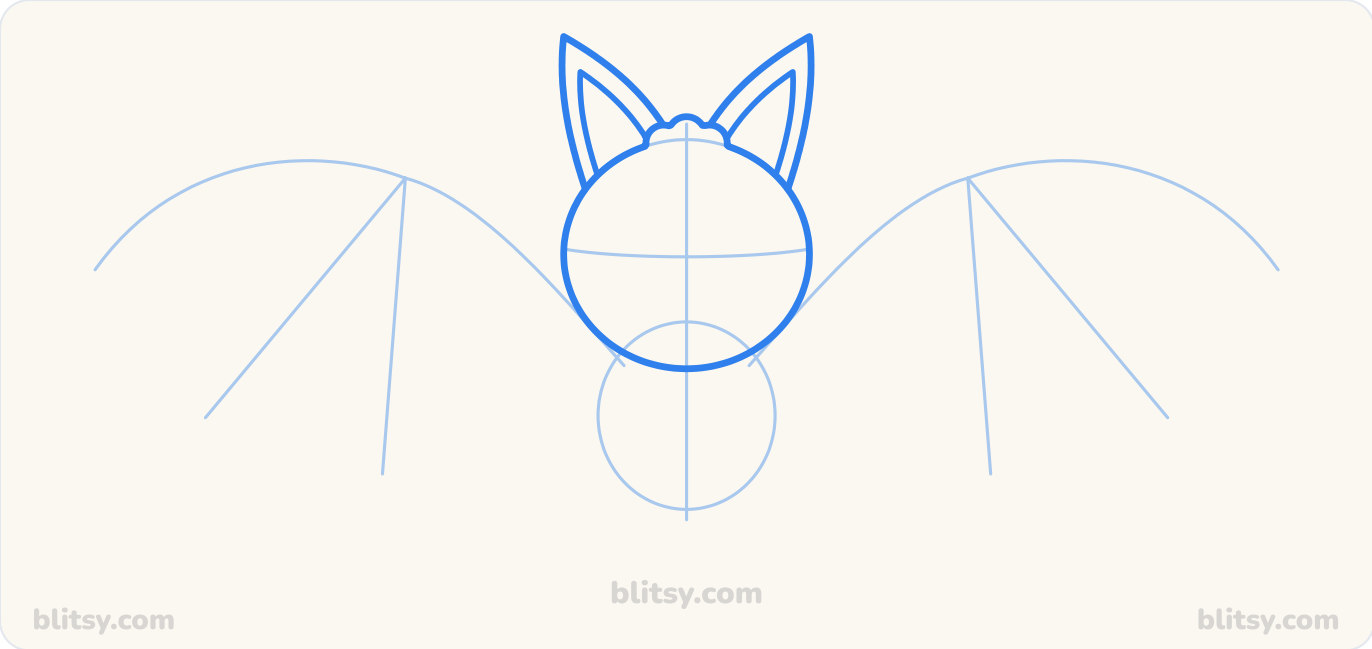
STEP 2 Add wing guide lines



From the side of the body, draw a curved line up and out to a point, then keep going in a wide arch down to the wing tip. That bent line is the bat's arm. From the bend, where the wrist is, draw two straight lines fanning down. Do the same on the other side so both wings match. I usually draw the left wing, then the right one while glancing back at the first.

💡 **Tip:** Put both wrists at the same height. Compare them before you move on, since uneven wings are hard to fix later.

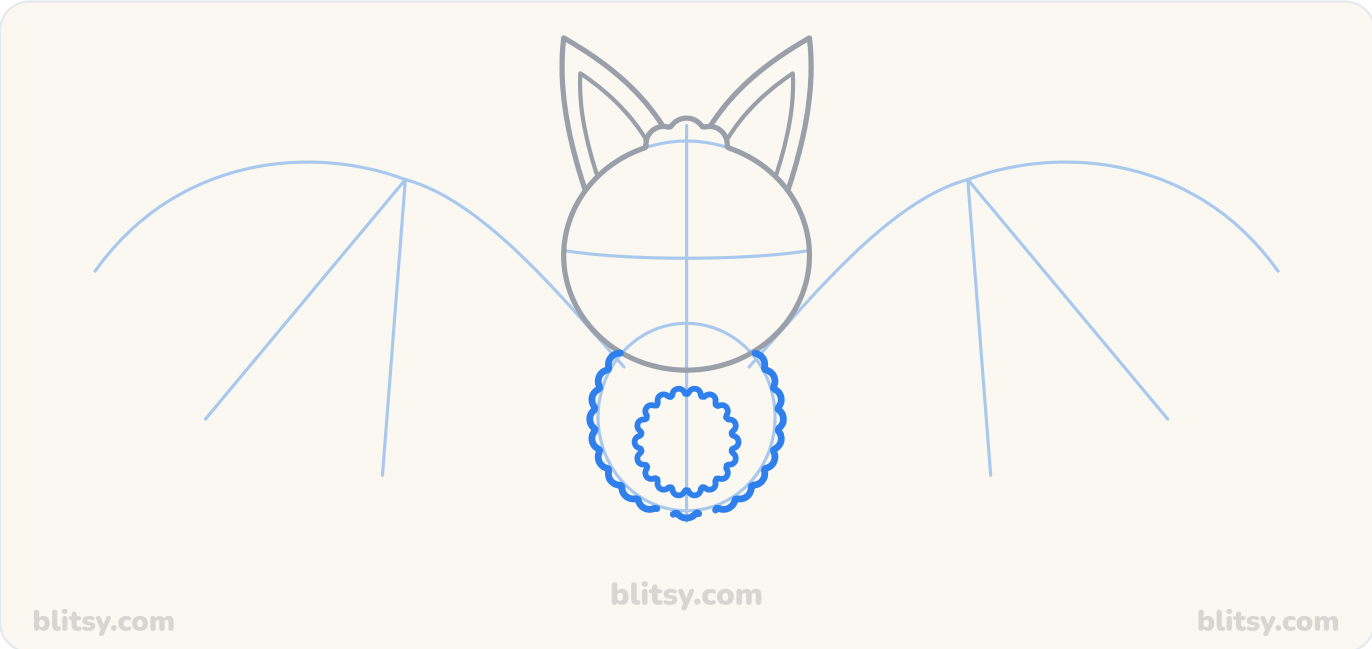
STEP 3 Draw a fluffy head and big pointy ears



Trace the head circle with a firm line, adding three small bumps at the top for a tuft of fur. Then draw two tall ears that lean outward, with sharp tips and wide bases tucked behind the head. Inside each ear, draw a smaller copy of the same shape.

💡 **Tip:** Make the ears tall. Bats hear their way around in the dark, and big ears tell everyone what animal this is.

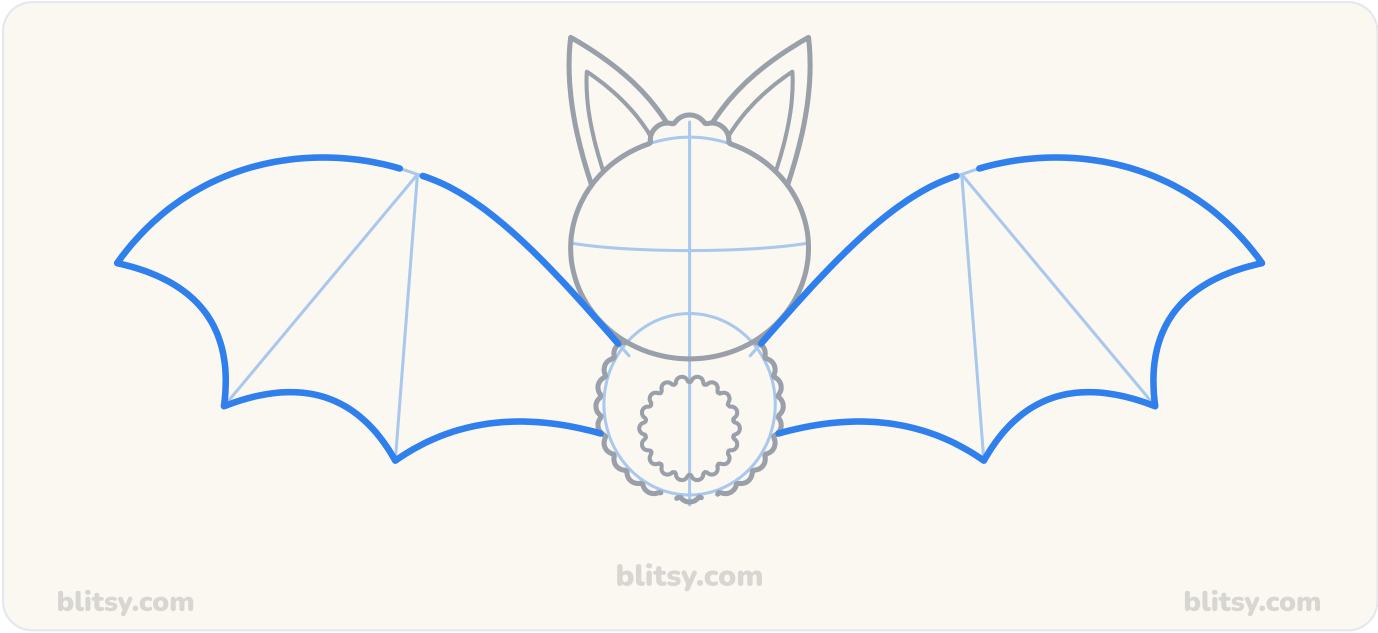
STEP 4 Outline the furry body and belly



Go around the body oval with lots of small bumps so it looks fuzzy, and stop where it meets the head. In the lower middle, draw a smaller round patch with tinier bumps. That's the light belly fur. I keep the bumps small on purpose, since big ones start to look like a sheep.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the bumps in short, quick strokes. Slow strokes make them wobbly and uneven.

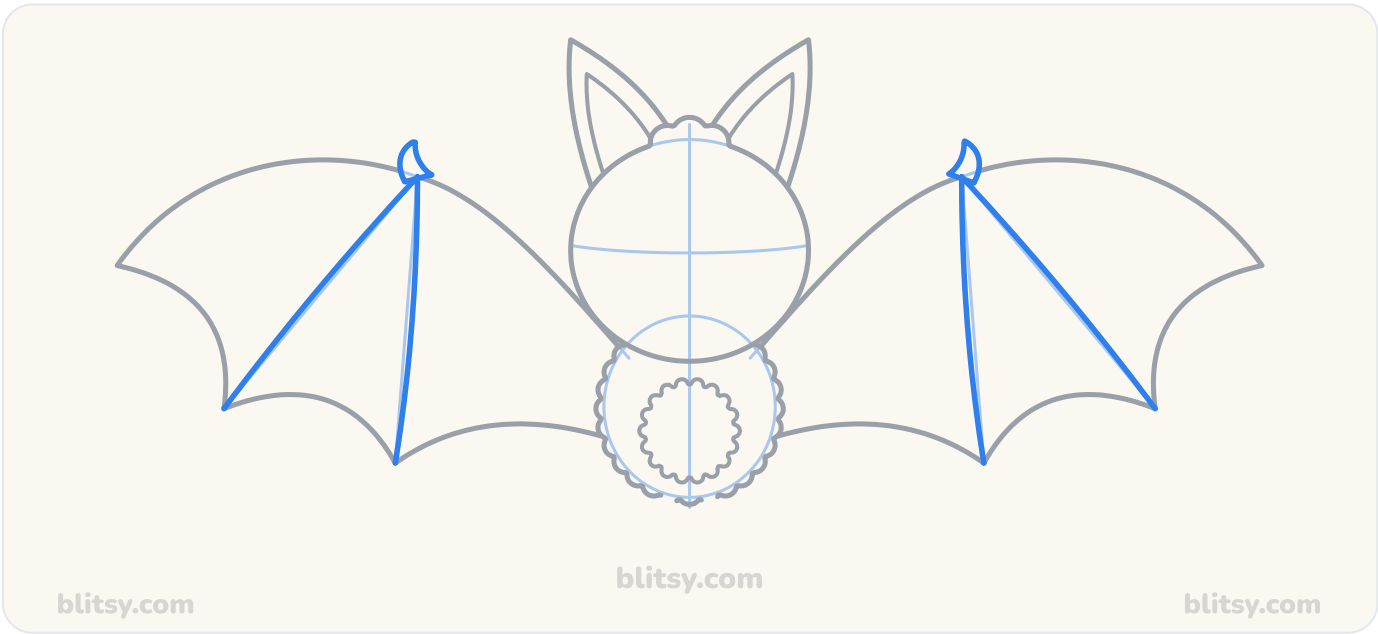
STEP 5 Draw the scalloped wing edges



Go over the arm guide with a firm line, from the body to the wrist and out to the tip. Now connect the wing tip to the ends of your two guide lines, and then back to the body, with curves that dip inward like the bottom of a bowl. You end up with three scoops on each wing.

💡 **Tip:** Every scoop should curve toward the wrist. If one bulges outward, the wing looks like a leaf.

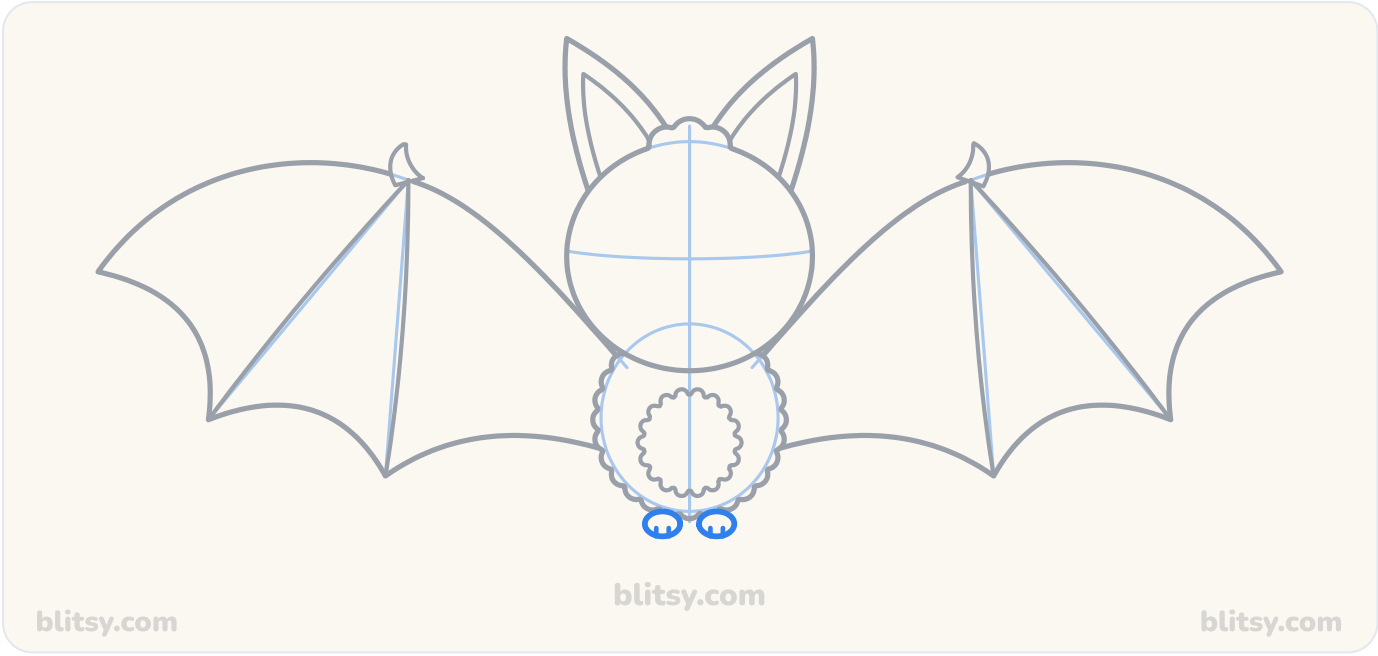
STEP 6 Add finger bones and thumbs



Trace the two fanned guide lines from the wrist down to the points between the scoops. These are the finger bones that hold the wing open, and I find kids love learning that a bat wing is really a hand. On top of each wrist, draw a tiny hooked thumb. Real bats have a little claw there, and it's a nice detail that takes two seconds.

💡 **Tip:** Bend the bone lines very slightly. Perfectly straight lines look stiff, like a kite frame.

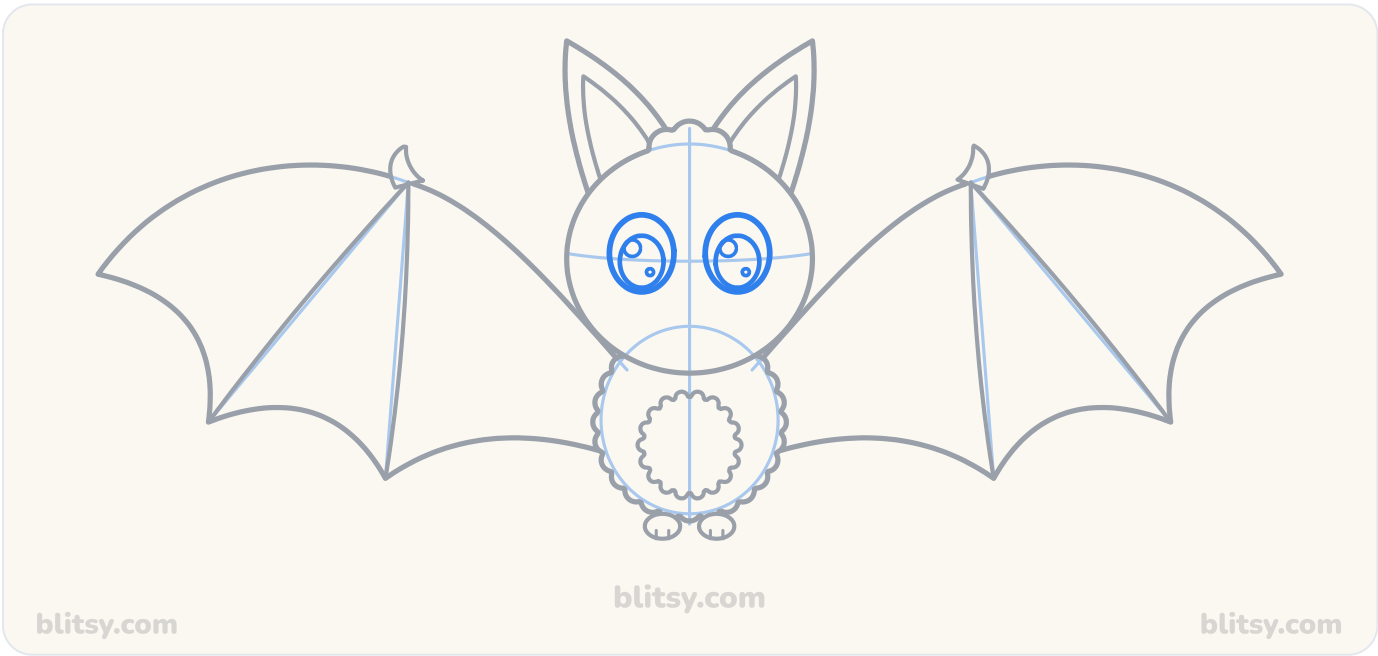
STEP 7 Give it two tiny feet



Under the furry body, draw two small ovals side by side and add two short toe lines on each. Keep them close together and small. A bat's feet are tiny compared to its wings, and that contrast looks right.

💡 **Tip:** Overlap the tops of the feet with the fur a little so they look attached.

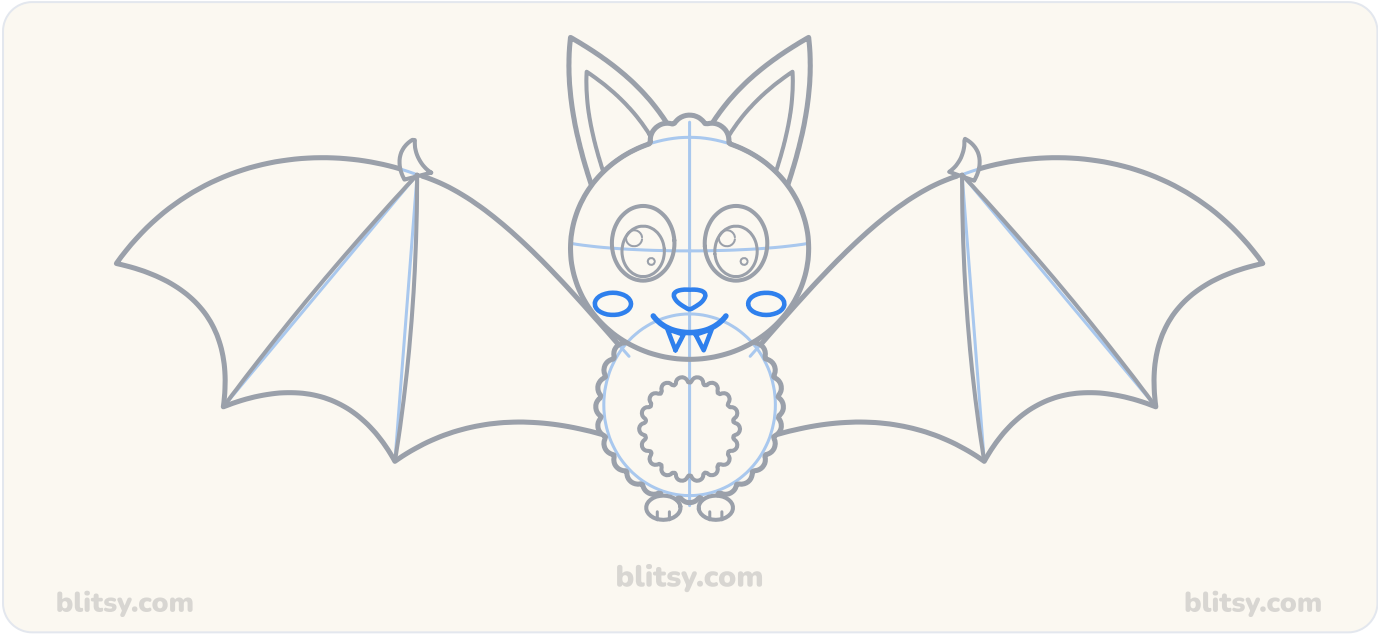
STEP 8 Draw big friendly eyes



When I teach this, I always point out that the eyes do most of the work. Sitting on the curved guide line, draw two tall ovals with a small gap between them. Inside each one, draw a big dark pupil that fills most of the oval, then two shine circles in the upper left of each pupil, one big and one small.

💡 **Tip:** Put the shine on the same side in both eyes. It makes the eyes look like they're catching moonlight.

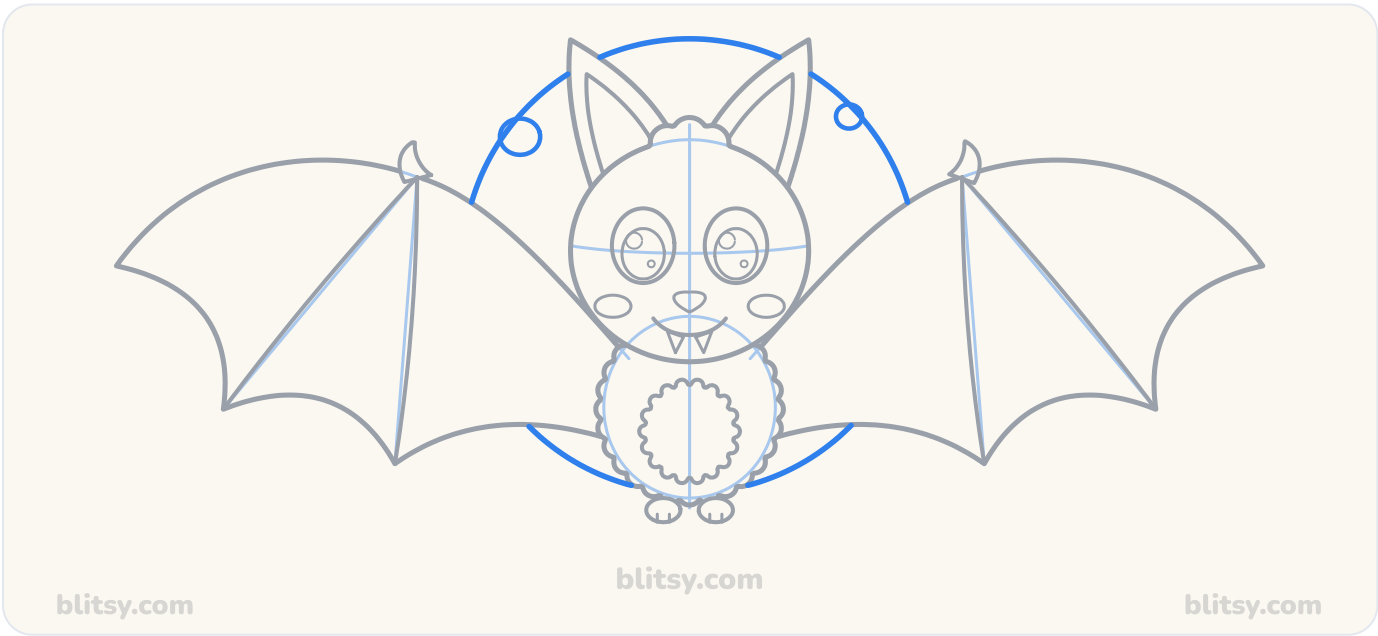
STEP 9 Add the nose, smile and fangs



Below the eyes, draw a small rounded triangle for the nose. Under it, a wide curved smile. Hang two tiny triangle fangs from the smile, one on each side of the middle. Finish with a small oval on each cheek for blush.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the fangs small and short. Little fangs read as playful, while long ones turn the bat into a vampire.

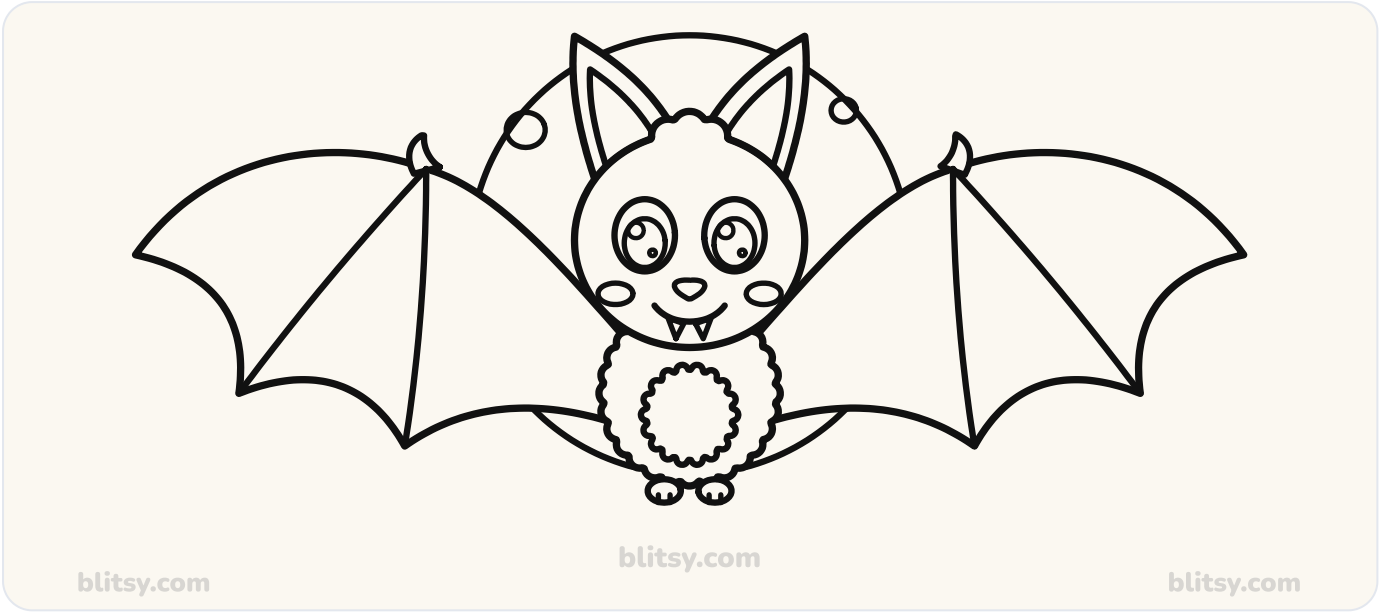
STEP 10 Draw a full moon behind it



I like to add the moon last, after the bat is done. Draw a big circle behind the bat, centered on its body, so it peeks out between the ears and above the wings. Only draw the parts you can see and stop wherever the bat is in front. Add two or three small circles in the open moon areas for craters.

💡 **Tip:** You can skip the moon if you want a plain bat, but it frames the ears and makes the picture feel finished.

STEP 11 Ink the lines and erase the guides



Trace every keeper line with a black marker or fineliner. Wait a minute for the ink to dry, then erase all the light pencil guides, including the cross lines on the head and the old circles. Your bat should look clean and crisp now.

💡 **Tip:** Ink the wings with long smooth strokes, turning the paper so your hand always pulls toward you.

STEP 12 Color your bat



I color the whole head and body purple first. Then use light purple for the wings and belly, so the body stands out against them. The small dark parts (feet, thumbs, nose) get dark purple. Pink goes inside the ears and on the cheeks, and the moon is pale yellow. Leave the eye shines and fangs white.

💡 **Tip:** Color the light wings first, then the darker body. Dark color smudges into light much more easily than the other way round.