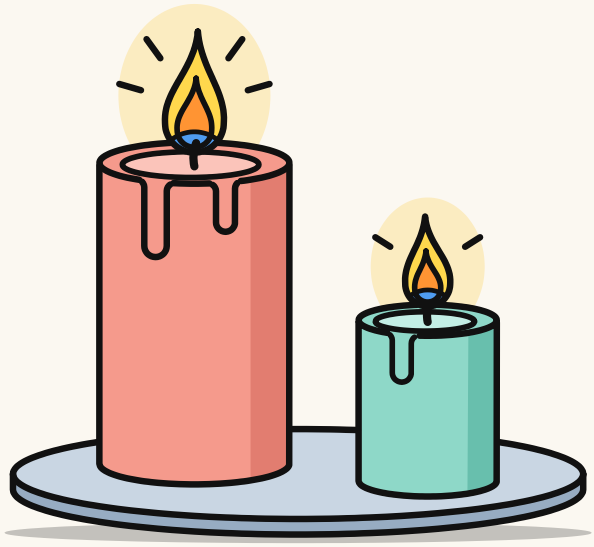
How to Draw a Candle

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

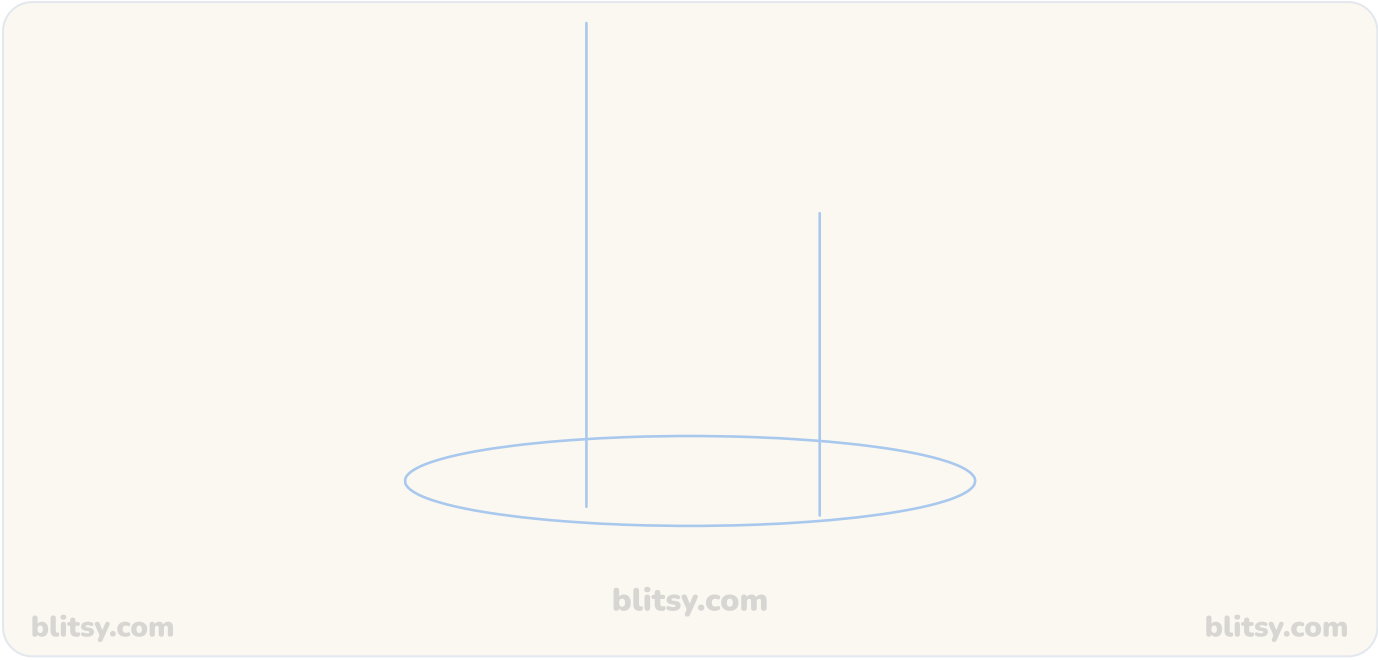
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black marker or fineliner
- Colored pencils or crayons
- Plain paper

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 →

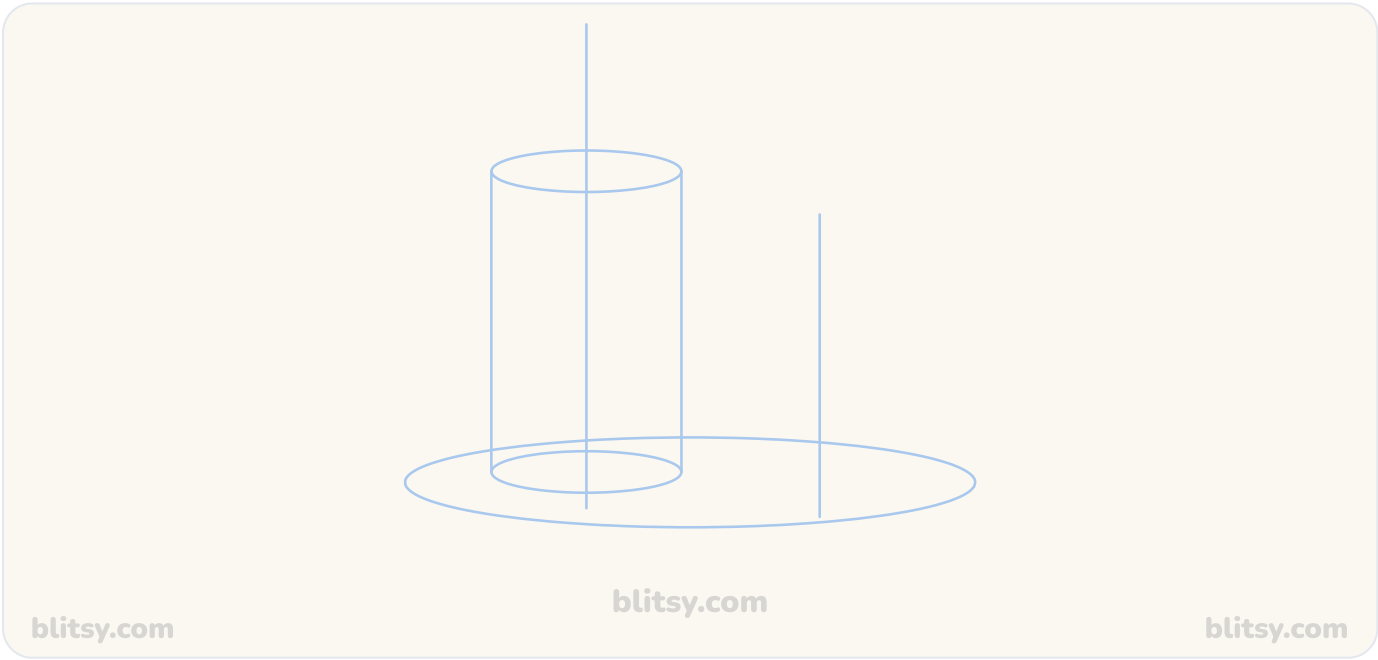
STEP 1 Draw the plate oval and two center lines



Near the bottom of the page, draw a wide, flat oval for the plate, about three times as wide as it is tall. Add two light vertical lines rising out of it: a long one left of center for the tall candle and a shorter one on the right for the small candle.

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

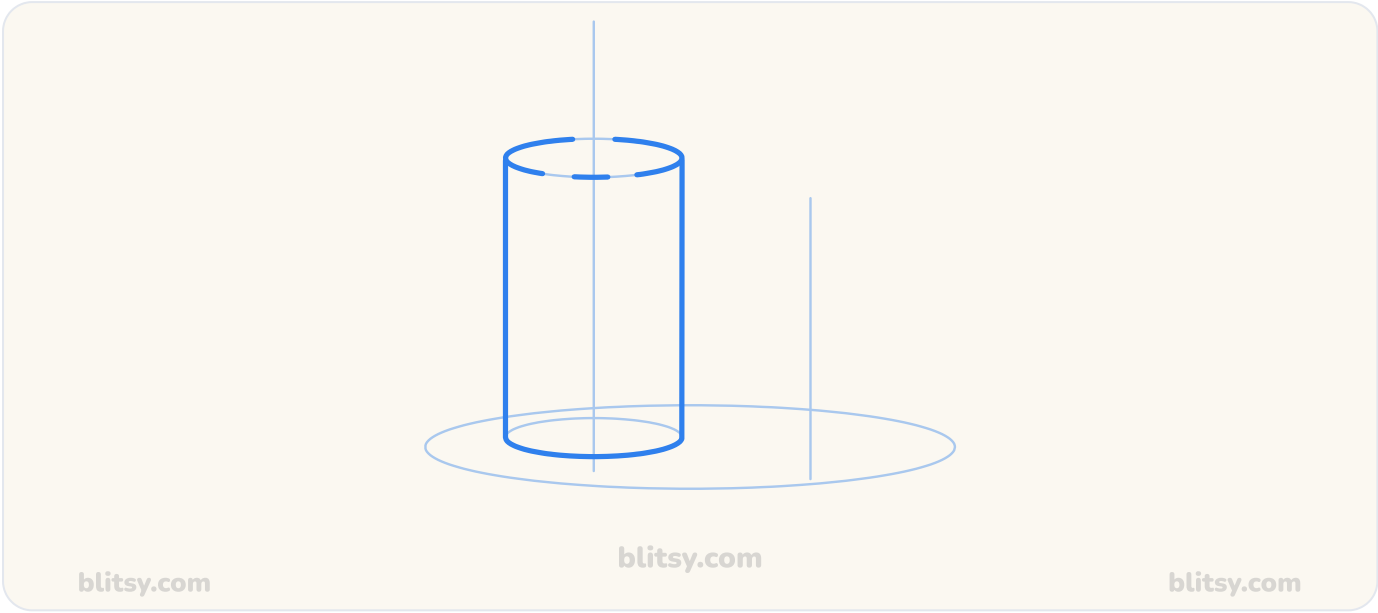
STEP 2 Add two ellipses and the sides of a cylinder



On the left center line, draw a small flat ellipse high up for the top of the tall candle and a matching one just above the plate for its bottom. Join their left and right ends with two straight lines. That's a cylinder. Both ellipses should be the same width, or the candle will look like it leans.

💡 **Tip:** Draw each ellipse in one smooth, quick motion. Slow ellipses get pointy ends.

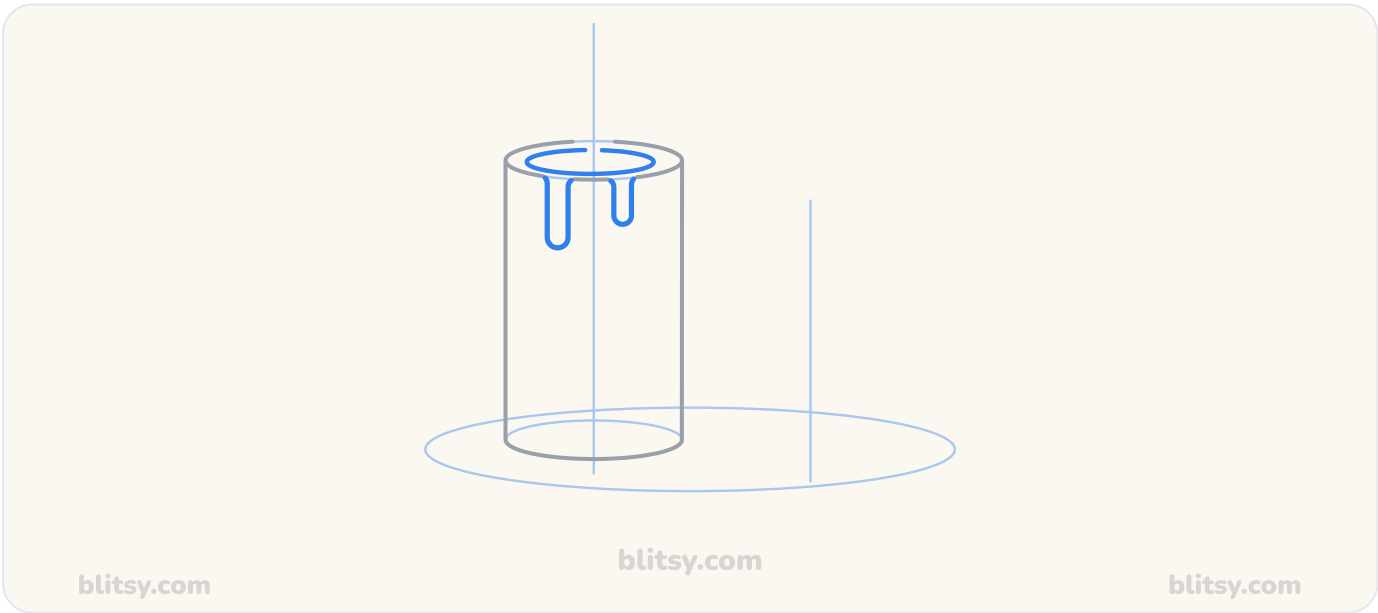
STEP 3 Trace the tall pillar candle



Go over the two side lines and the lower half of the bottom ellipse with a firmer line. The back half of the bottom ellipse is hidden, so skip it. Trace the top ellipse, but leave two small gaps in its front edge. The wax drips will hang from those gaps.

💡 **Tip:** The bottom curve of a candle always bends downward, like a smile. A flat edge at the bottom makes it look cut off.

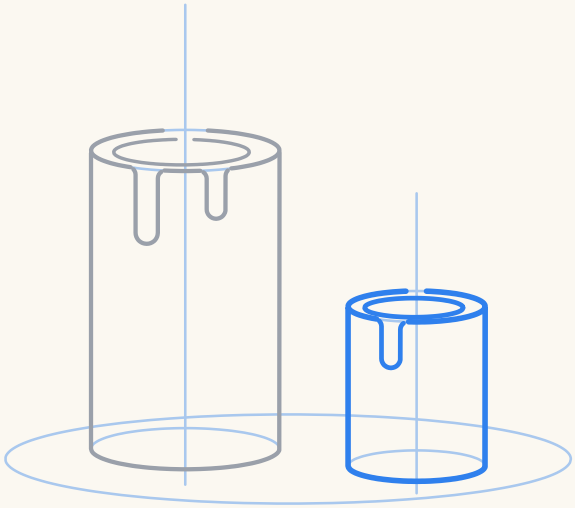
STEP 4 Draw the wax pool and two drips



Inside the top ellipse, draw a smaller ellipse for the pool of melted wax, leaving an even ring around it. From each gap in the rim, draw a drip: two lines running down side by side with a round end, like a little finger. I make the left drip longer than the right one, because two equal drips look stiff and planned.

💡 **Tip:** Widen each drip slightly where it leaves the rim. That small curve makes the wax look soft.

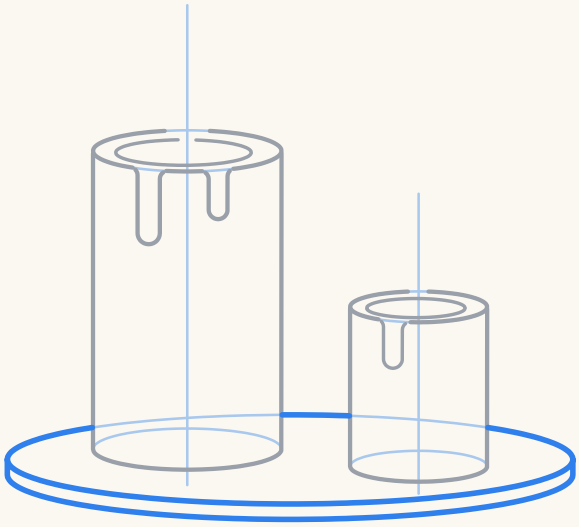
STEP 5 Add a shorter second candle



Repeat the cylinder on the right line, but smaller. Its top starts at about half the tall candle's height, and it's a bit narrower. Its bottom sits a little lower on the plate, which puts it slightly closer to you. Add its wax pool and one short drip.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the small candle's ellipses a touch flatter than the big one's. It looks more natural that way.

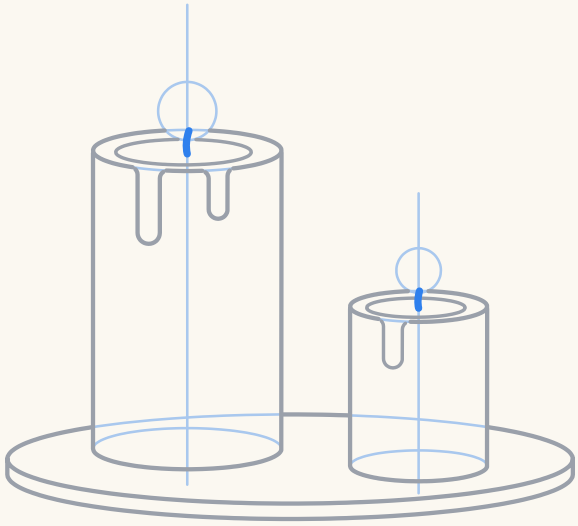
STEP 6 Outline the round plate with a rim



Now trace the plate oval, stopping where it disappears behind each candle. Under its front half, draw a second curve just below it, the same shape, and close the ends. That thin band is the rim, and it's what makes the plate look like a real dish instead of a flat sticker.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the rim thin. A thick band turns the plate into a cake stand or a drum.

STEP 7 Draw the wicks and flame circles



In the center of each wax pool, draw a short, slightly bent wick. Above each wick, sketch a light circle. The circle sets the round bottom of the flame, so its lower edge should sit just above the top of the candle. The tall candle gets the bigger circle.

💡 **Tip:** Bend the wick a little to one side. A perfectly straight wick looks like a nail.

STEP 8 Shape two teardrop flames



Trace around the bottom of each circle, then let both sides sweep upward and meet in a sharp point well above it, about one circle width higher. That's the teardrop flame. Let the tip lean a hair to one side so it looks like it's flickering.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the bottom round and only the top pointed. If both ends are pointy, the flame turns into a leaf.

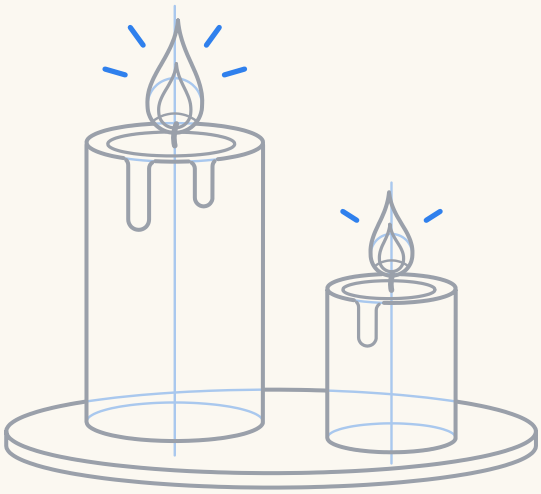
STEP 9 Add the inner flame and a blue base



Inside each flame, draw a smaller teardrop that sits low, closer to the wick. This becomes the orange heart of the flame. Then draw one curved line across the very bottom of the flame, bowing upward. The small cup shape under it is the blue part that real candle flames have right above the wick.

💡 **Tip:** Leave a clear gap between the inner and outer flame. The yellow band needs room to show.

STEP 10 Draw little glow lines



Around the tall flame, add four short straight lines pointing away from it, two on each side, and two more around the small flame. Leave space between the lines and the flame so they float. They show the light without any shading.

💡 **Tip:** Skip the line straight above the flame tip. It crowds the point and makes it look like an antenna.

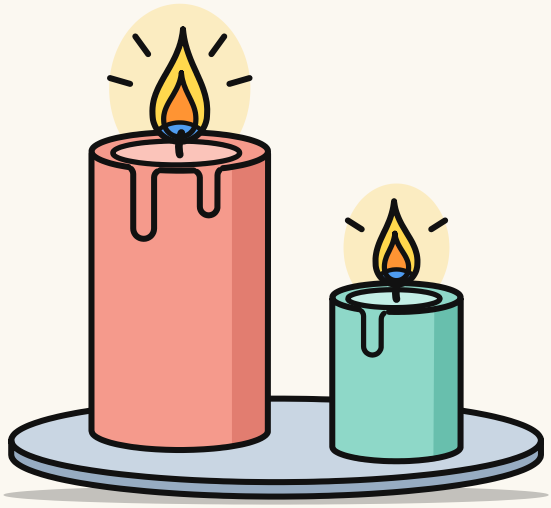
STEP 11 Ink the candles and erase the guides



Go over every keeper line with the black marker. I ink the flames first while my hand is steady, since their tips are the hardest part. Let the ink dry fully, then erase the center lines, the guide ellipses and the flame circles.

💡 **Tip:** Ink the ellipses in two half strokes that meet at the sides. Your hand stays in control and the curve stays even.

STEP 12 Color your candles



Color the tall candle coral pink and the short one mint green, pressing a little harder on the right side of each for a soft shadow. The wax pools get a lighter shade. Flames are yellow outside, orange inside and blue at the base. Make the plate light blue gray and add a pale yellow glow behind each flame.

💡 **Tip:** Color the glow very lightly and fade it out at the edges. A dark yellow circle looks like a sticker behind the flame.