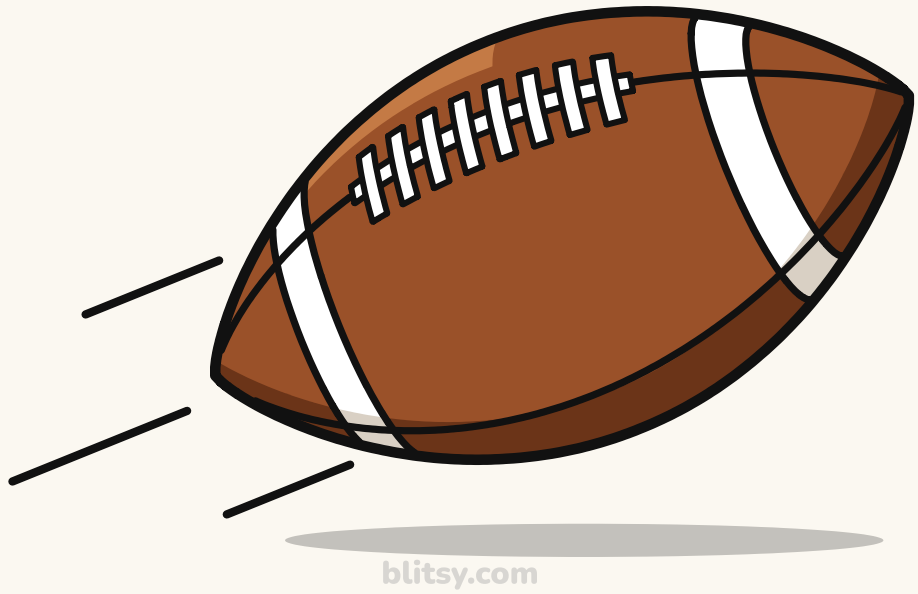
How to Draw a Football

11 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

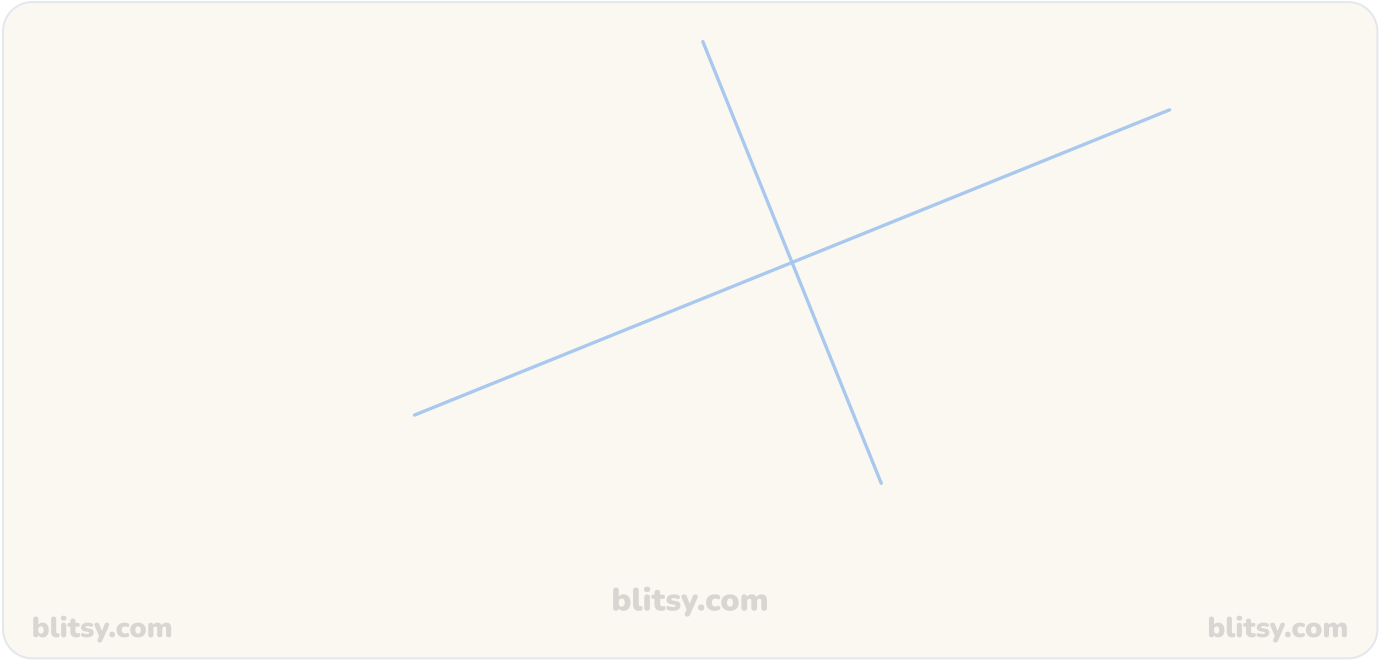
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black marker or fineliner
- Colored pencils or crayons
- Plain paper

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 →

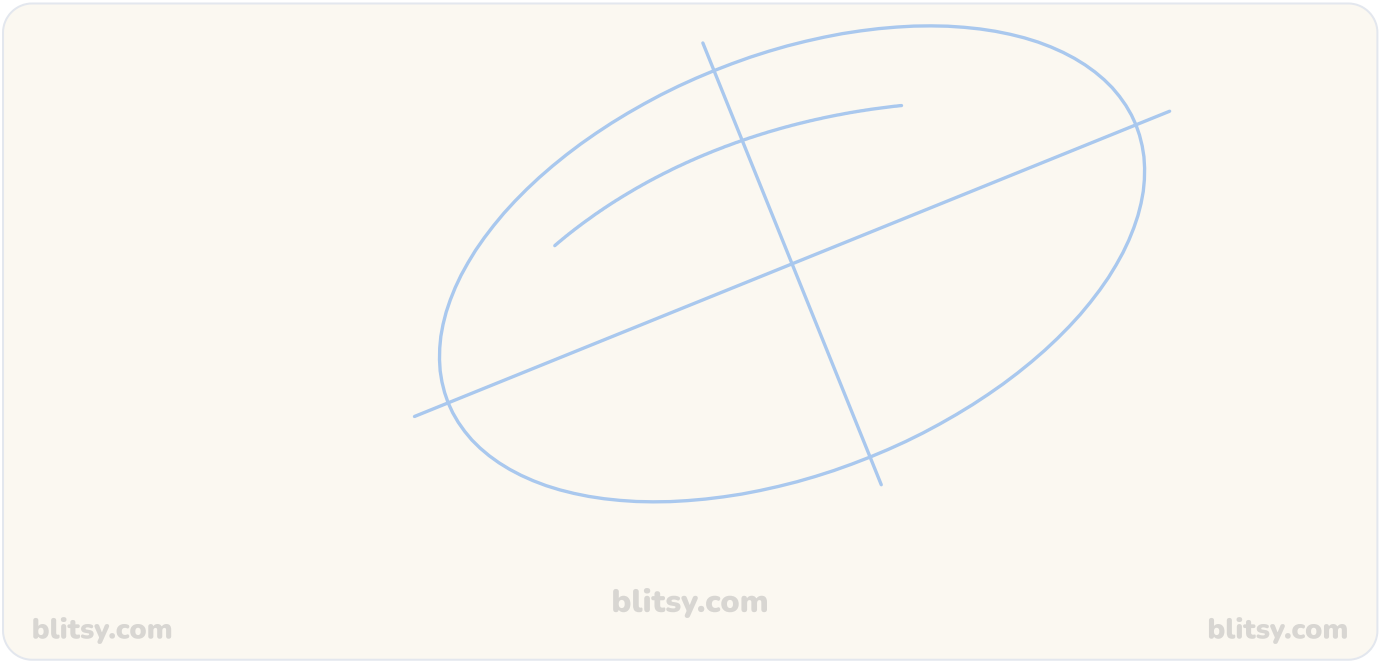
STEP 1 Draw a tilted center line



Draw one long, light line that climbs from the lower left to the upper right of your page. Leave some room on the left for speed lines later. Then cross it in the middle with a shorter line at a right angle. These two lines tell you where the ball points and where its fattest part is.

💡 **Tip:** A slant of about the angle of a clock hand at two o'clock gives the ball a nice flying feel.

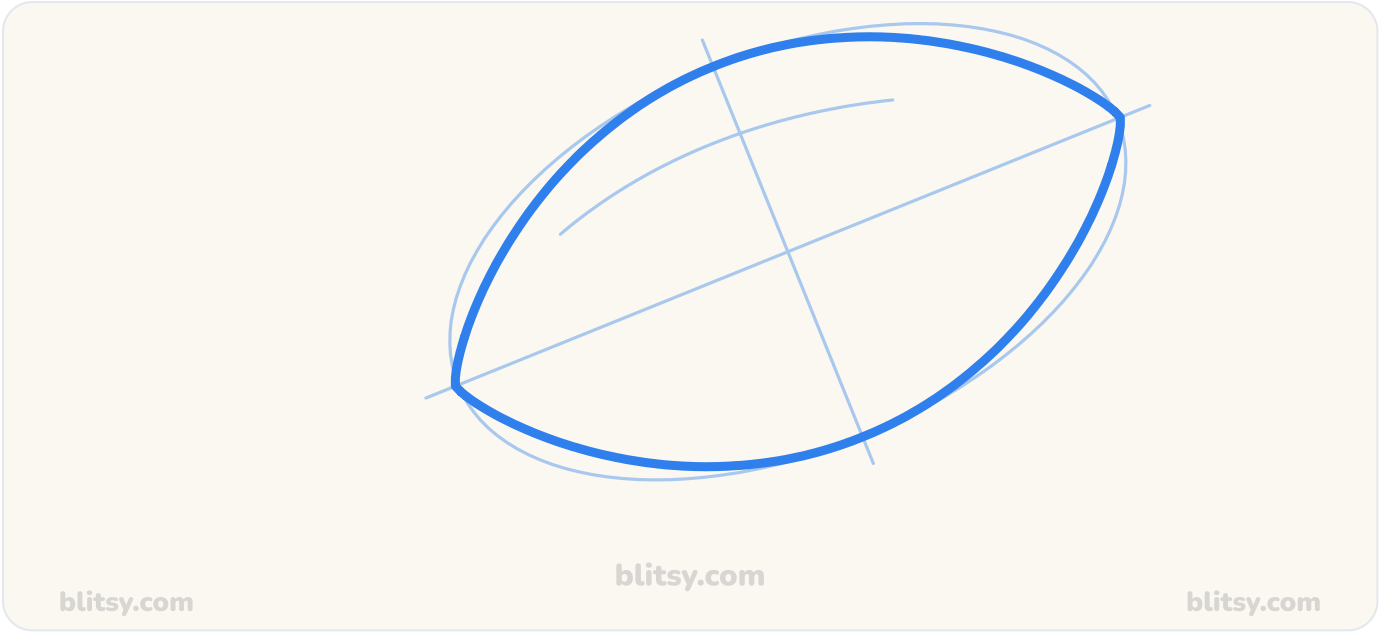
STEP 2 Sketch a light oval guide



Around the cross, sketch a long oval that follows the slanted line. It should be almost twice as long as it is tall. Inside the top half, add a gentle curved line that bends the same way as the top of the oval. That curve marks where the laces will sit.

💡 **Tip:** Keep this oval so faint you can hardly see it. Most of it gets covered or erased.

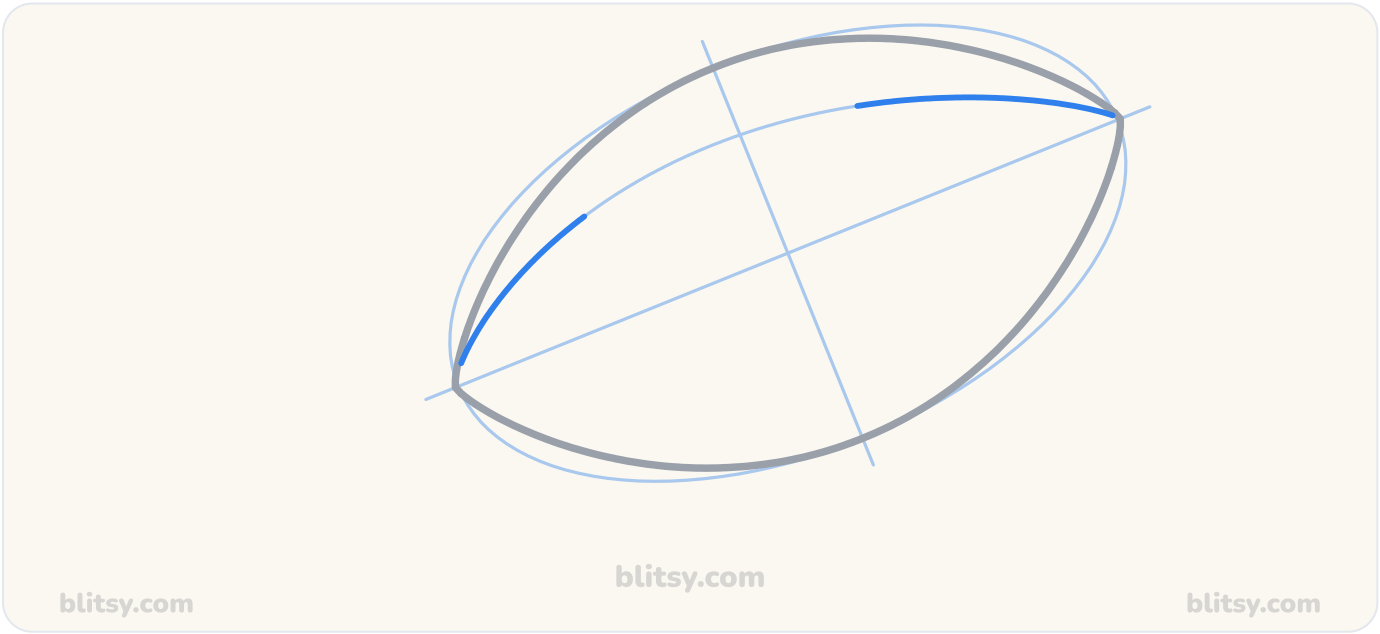
STEP 3 Draw the ball with pointed ends



Now draw the real outline. Start at the left end of the center line and sweep a curve up and over to the right end, staying just inside the oval. Do the same along the bottom. Where the two curves meet, let them form a soft point instead of a round end. Those points are what make it a football and not an egg.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the top curve and the bottom curve as two separate strokes. It's much easier to land the points that way.

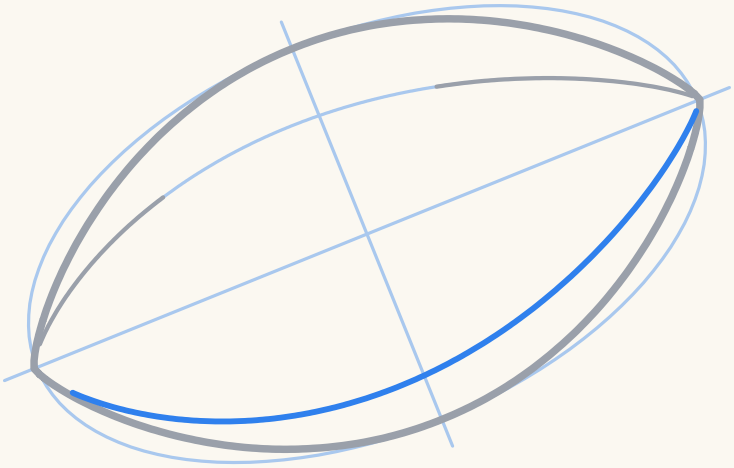
STEP 4 Add the curved center seam



Follow your lace guide curve and stretch it out until it reaches both tips, so the seam runs the full length of the ball. On the left it slips over the edge just before the tip, because that end turns slightly away from us. Leave a gap in the middle where the laces will go.

💡 **Tip:** The seam should curve like the top of the ball, never straight, or the ball looks flat.

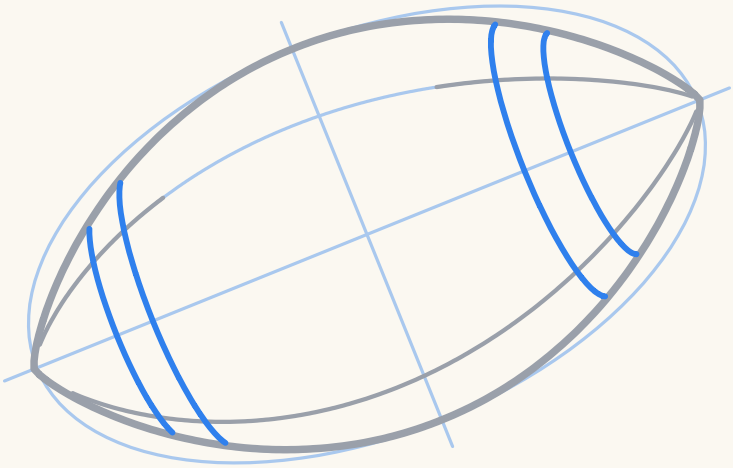
STEP 5 Draw the lower panel seam



A football is made from four leather panels, so there's another seam lower down. Draw a long curve that runs from the left tip to the right tip, close to the bottom edge. It bows down in the middle, almost like a smile that follows the belly of the ball.

💡 **Tip:** Keep a steady gap between this seam and the bottom outline. If they touch in the middle, the ball loses its roundness.

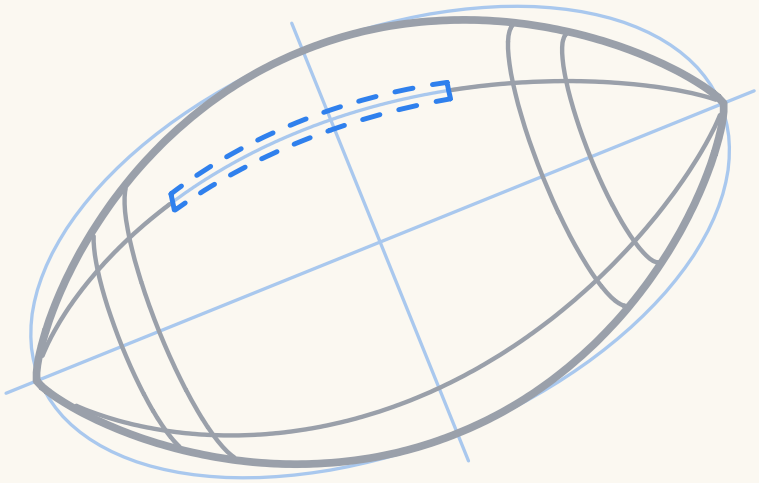
STEP 6 Add stripes near both ends



Many footballs have a white stripe around each end. Near the right tip draw two curved lines that wrap from the top edge down to the bottom edge, bending toward the tip. Do the same near the left tip, but make that stripe a bit narrower, since it's turned a little away from you.

💡 **Tip:** Curve the stripe lines like the letter C or a backwards C. Straight stripes look painted on instead of wrapped around.

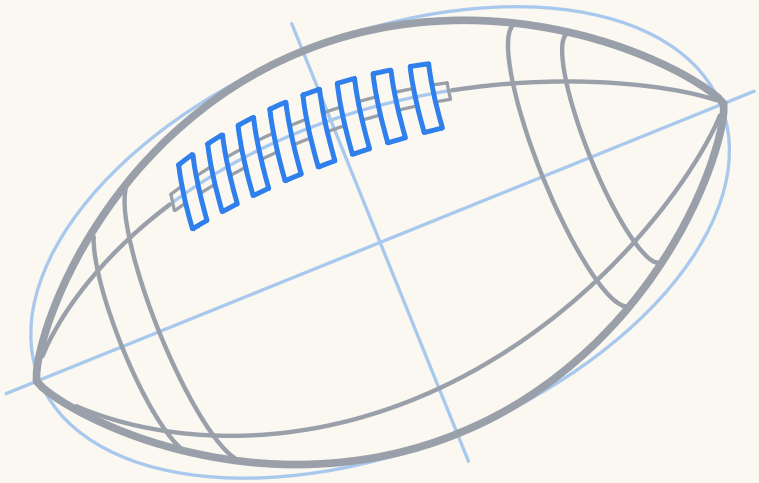
STEP 7 Draw the long lace on the seam



In the gap you left on the center seam, draw a thin, long strip with two lines very close together. Square off each end. This is the main lace that the crossings will sit on, and it only covers the middle part of the ball, about a third of its length.

💡 **Tip:** Don't press hard. The crossings will cover parts of this strip in the next step.

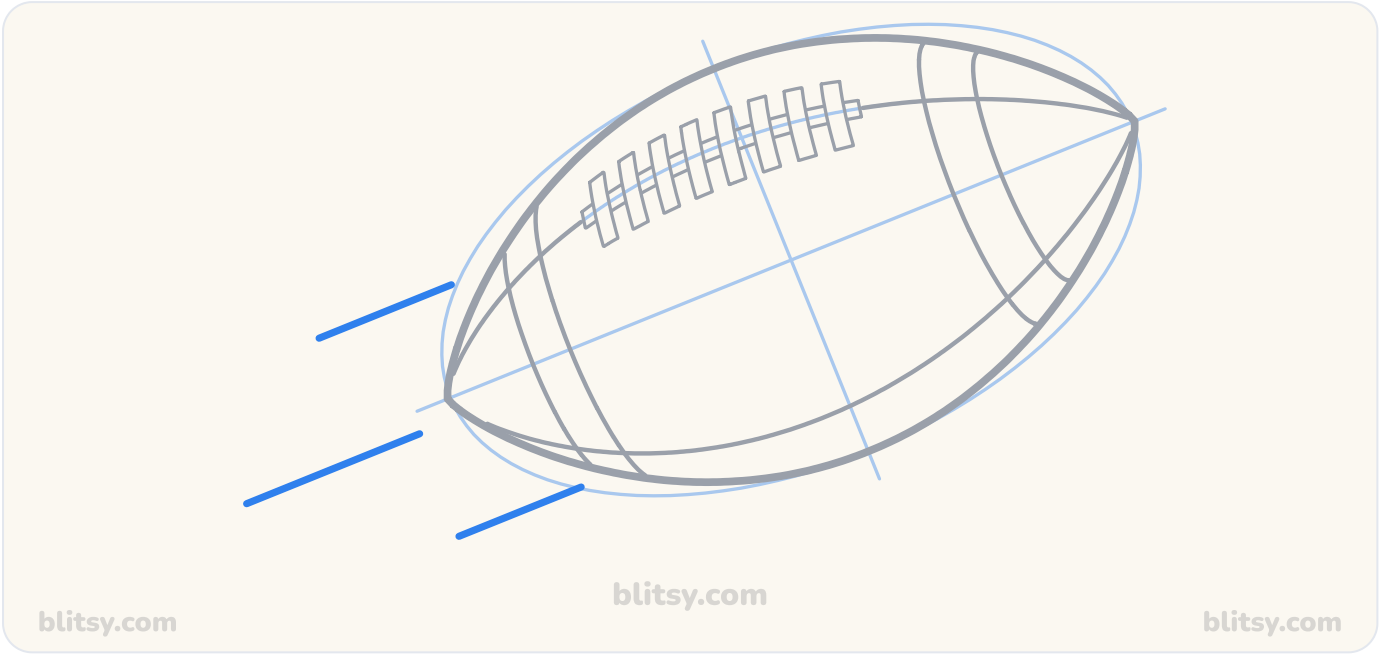
STEP 8 Add eight lace crossings



Over the long lace, draw eight small rectangles that cross it, evenly spaced from one end to the other. Each one should lean the same way, following the curve of the ball. I usually place the first and the last crossing, then the middle two, and fill in the rest between them.

💡 **Tip:** Count as you go. Eight is the classic number, and kids love checking a real ball to see it's true.

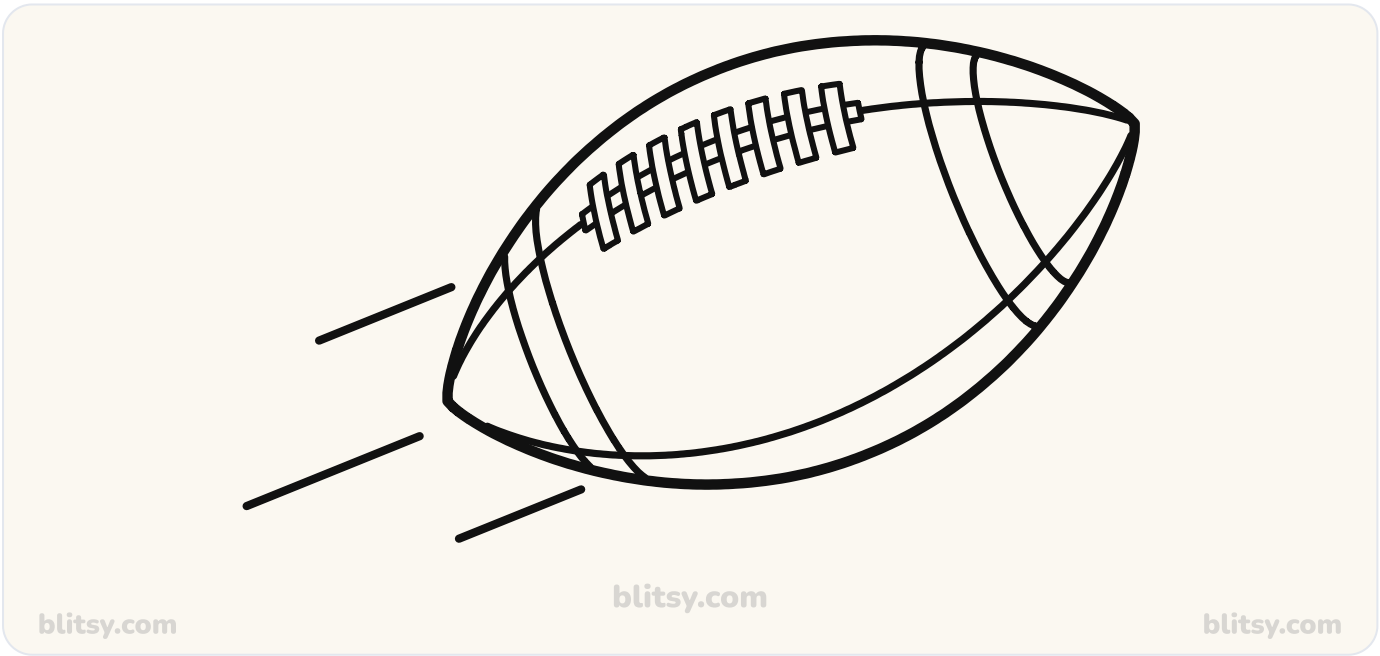
STEP 9 Add speed lines behind it



Draw three straight lines behind the lower left tip, running parallel to the slanted center line. Give them different lengths and leave a little gap between the lines and the ball. Now the football looks like it was just thrown in a tight spiral.

💡 **Tip:** Lines that touch the ball look glued on. A small gap makes the motion feel faster.

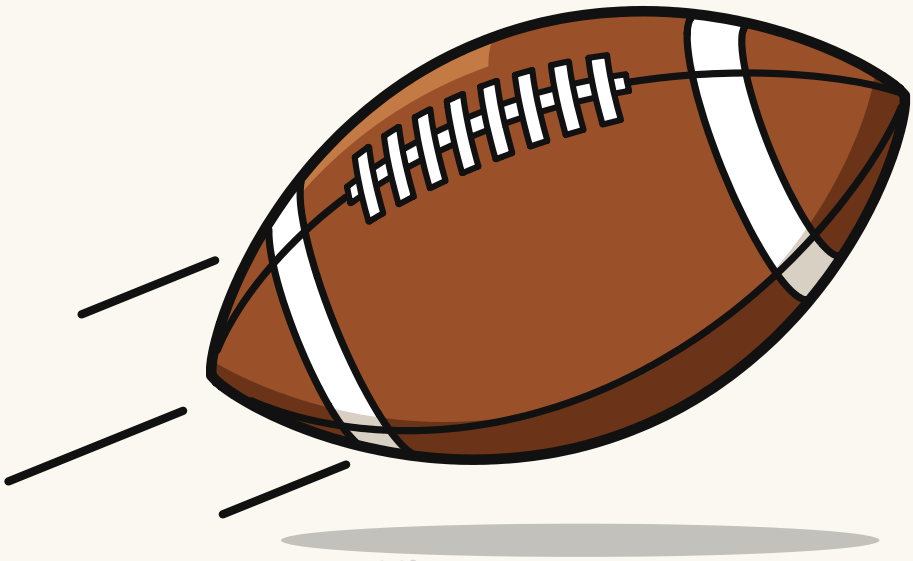
STEP 10 Ink the football and erase the guides



Trace all the keeper lines with your black marker: the outline first, then the seams, the stripes and the laces, and the speed lines last. Skip the light oval and the cross. When the ink is completely dry, erase every pencil line so only the clean drawing stays.

💡 **Tip:** Go a little thicker on the outline than on the seams. That one change makes the ball pop off the page.

STEP 11 Color your football



Color the whole ball a warm medium brown. Add a darker brown along the bottom and right edge for shade, and a lighter brown streak near the top left where light hits it. Leave the laces and stripes white, with a touch of light gray where a stripe dips into the shade. A soft gray oval under the ball is its shadow on the grass.

💡 **Tip:** Color the leather in strokes that follow the long curve of the ball, so it looks rounded.