How to Draw a Hamster

11 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

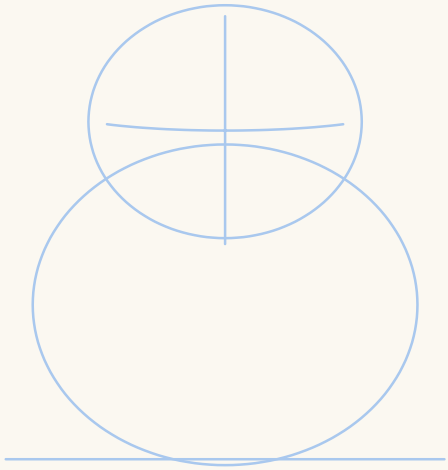
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black fineliner
- Colored pencils or markers
- Plain paper

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 →

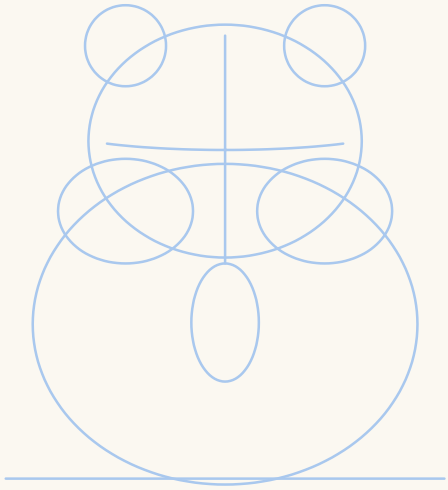
STEP 1 Sketch the head and body circles



When I teach this, I start with a short ground line near the bottom. On it, sketch a big oval for the body, a bit wider than it is tall. Overlap it with a smaller oval for the head, so the two shapes share a good chunk of space. Add a vertical center line and a gently curved line across the head where the eyes will sit.

💡 **Tip:** Press so lightly that you can barely see the lines. They're only a map.

STEP 2 Add guides for the cheeks, ears and seed



Place two ovals at the bottom corners of the head, poking out past its sides. These are the cheek pouches, and they're the single feature that tells people this is a hamster and not a mouse. Next come two small circles on top for the ears. Finish with a tall oval in the middle of the chest, where the sunflower seed will go.

💡 **Tip:** Make both cheek ovals the same size. Uneven cheeks make the face look lopsided.

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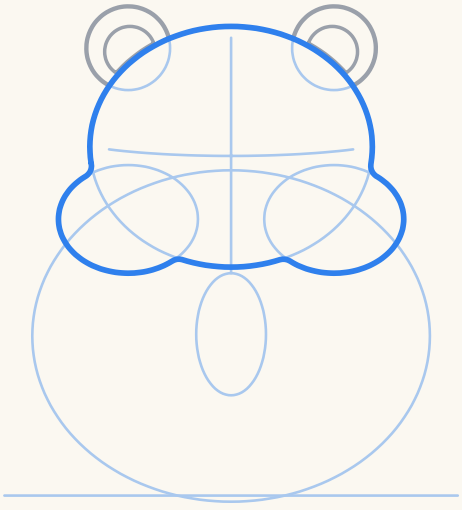
STEP 3 Draw two round ears



Trace the ear circles, but stop where they meet the head, because the head sits in front. Inside each one, draw a smaller curve for the pink inner ear. Hamster ears are small compared with a mouse's, so resist the urge to make them bigger.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the inner ear a little lower than the middle of the outer one. It looks more natural.

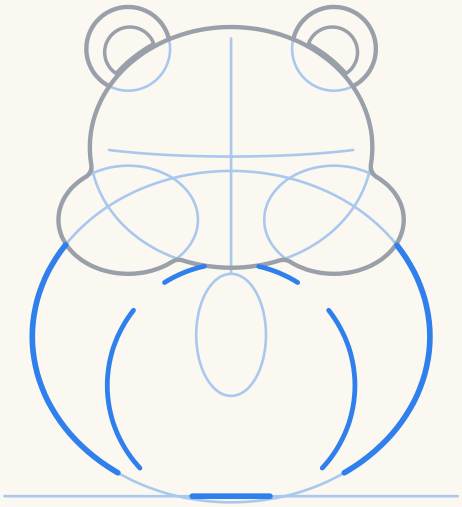
STEP 4 Outline the head with puffy cheeks



Now go around the head circle and both cheek ovals in one smooth line, so they melt into a single shape. At the top it's a gentle dome; at each side it swells out over the cheek and then tucks back in under the chin. I like to draw this line slowly, because a wobbly cheek is the hardest thing to fix later.

💡 **Tip:** Round every corner where the cheek meets the head. Sharp dents look like a mask.

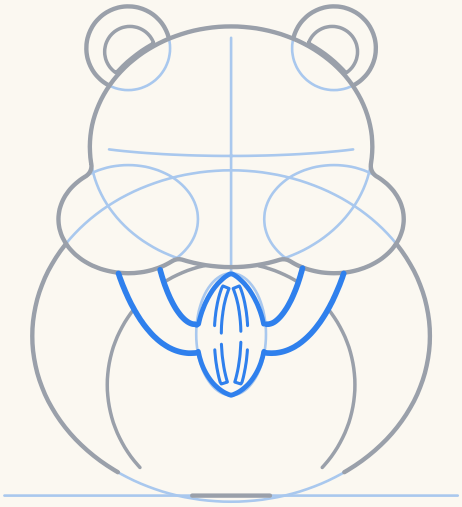
STEP 5 Draw the chubby body and belly



Follow the big body oval from under the cheeks down to the ground on both sides, and flatten it where it touches the ground line. Inside, draw a large rounded shape for the white belly. It should start under the chin and reach almost to the bottom. Leave gaps where the arms and feet will cover the lines.

💡 **Tip:** A wide, heavy bottom makes the hamster look comfy. Don't pinch the waist.

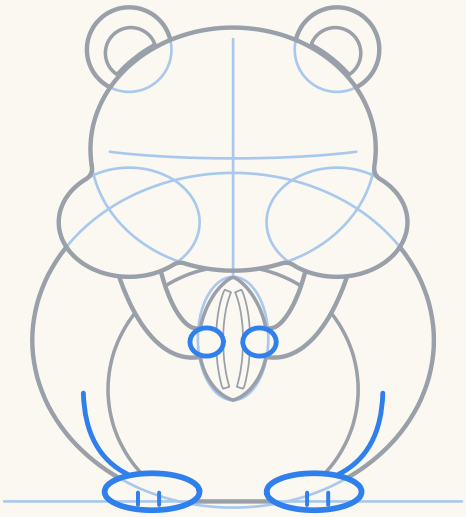
STEP 6 Add short arms and a sunflower seed



I draw the seed before the arms: a tall, pointy oval like a teardrop, using the seed guide. Add two thin stripes along its length, a little in from each edge. Then bring a short, thick arm down from under each cheek toward the seed. Each arm bends inward and ends right at the side of the seed.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the arms short and chunky. Long thin arms turn the hamster into a monkey.

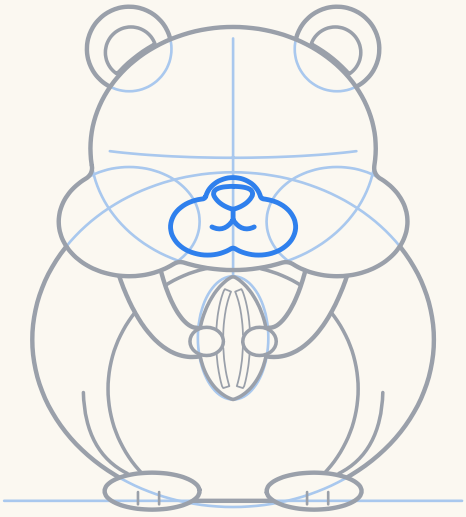
STEP 7 Draw tiny paws and small feet



At the end of each arm, draw a small oval paw that overlaps the seed's edge, which makes it look gripped. Down at the ground, add two flat ovals for the feet poking out in front, with two short toe lines on each. A soft curved line on each side of the body shows the back legs tucked underneath.

💡 **Tip:** Feet that stick out only a little make the hamster look small and cozy.

STEP 8 Add the muzzle, nose and mouth



Right on the center line, below the eye line, draw a soft cloud shape for the white muzzle. It has two round bumps at the bottom, one on each side. Put a small rounded triangle near its top for the nose. Under the nose, draw a short line down that splits into two little curves, like a wide letter w.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the nose tiny. A big nose takes over the whole face.

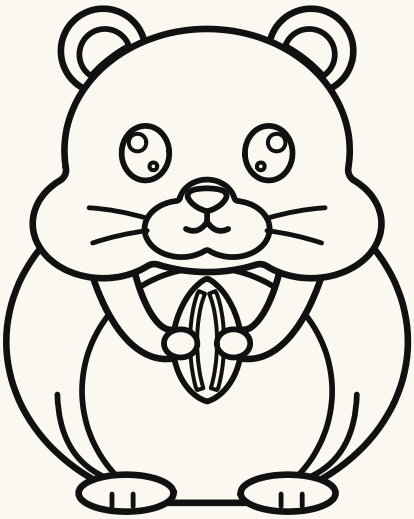
STEP 9 Draw shiny eyes and whiskers



Place two big oval eyes on the eye line, spaced wide apart with the muzzle between them. Inside each, draw one large circle and one tiny circle for the shine; these stay white later. Finish the face with two curved whiskers on each side, coming out of the muzzle and resting on the cheeks.

💡 **Tip:** Put both shines on the same side of each eye, so the light seems to come from one place.

STEP 10 Ink the lines and erase the guides



Trace every line you want to keep with the black pen, including the stripes on the seed and the whiskers. Let the ink dry for a minute. Then erase all the pencil guides, the circles and the center line. Most beginners rush this part, and the smear isn't worth it.

💡 **Tip:** I always ink the face first, while my hand is steadiest.

STEP 11 Color your hamster



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Color the whole head and body golden orange, ears and arms included. Add a darker orange along the right side of the body for shading. Leave the muzzle and belly white, or give them a whisper of cream. Pink goes in the inner ears and on the paws and feet, a deeper pink on the nose, and a soft pink oval on each cheek. Fill the eyes black around the white shines, and color the seed dark gray with light gray stripes.

💡 **Tip:** Color the orange with small circles instead of back-and-forth strokes. It looks more like fur.