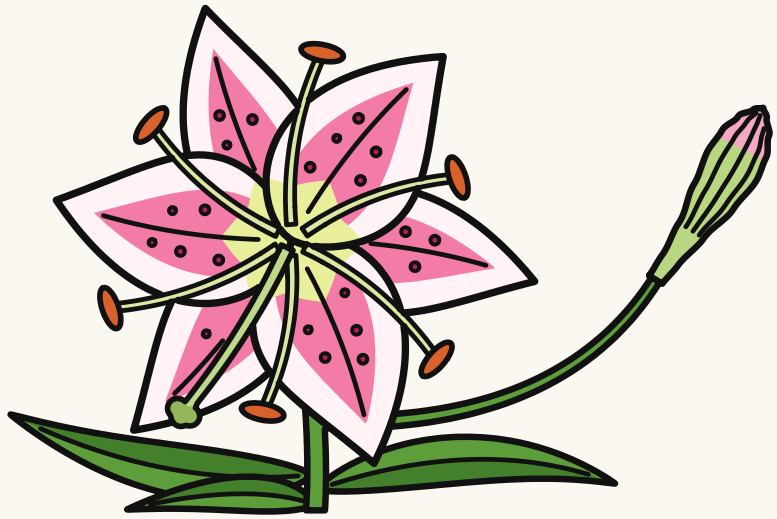
How to Draw a Lily

10 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

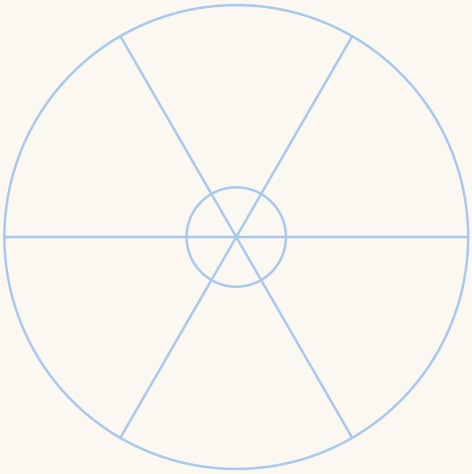
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black fineliner
- Colored pencils or markers
- Plain paper

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 →

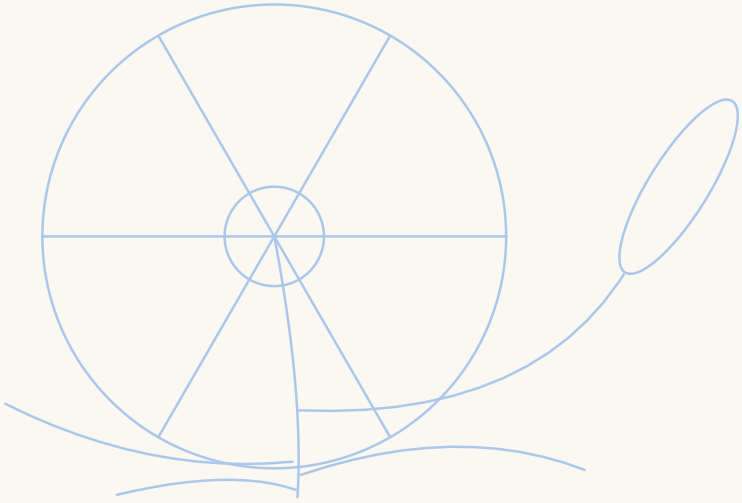
STEP 1 Draw a circle with six spokes



Draw a big light circle a little left of the middle of the page, and a small circle in its center. Then draw three straight lines through the center so they cut the circle into six even slices, like a pie. Each spoke marks where one petal will point.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the flat line across first. The other two then cross it at the same slant, one tipping each way.

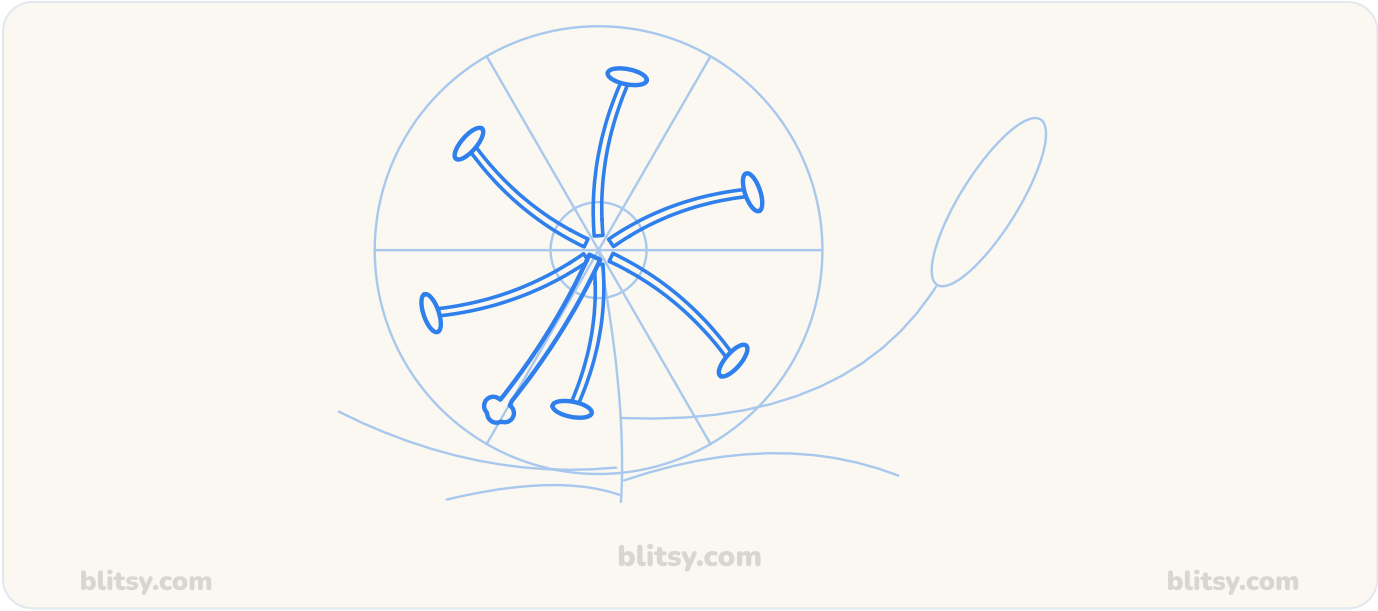
STEP 2 Sketch guides for the stem, leaves and bud



From the center, let a gently curved line run down past the circle to the bottom of the page. That's the stem. Near the bottom, draw two long sweeping lines going out to the left and right, plus a short one on the left, for the leaves. Last, curve a thinner line out of the stem toward the upper right and end it in a slim tilted oval for the bud.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the bud well away from the circle. If it touches the petals the picture feels crowded.

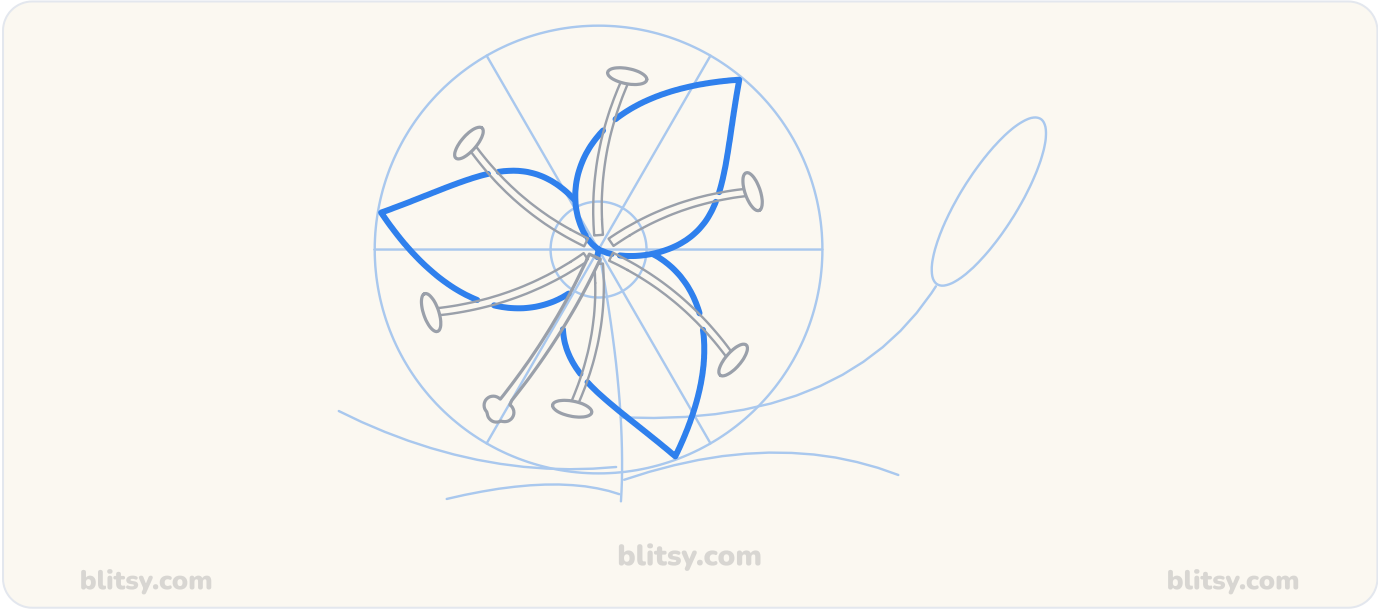
STEP 3 Draw six stamens and the pistil



Stamens go in the gaps between the spokes, not on them. Draw six long, thin stalks from the small center circle out to the edge of the big circle, curving each one slightly, and lay a small oval across the tip of each for the anther. Then add one slightly thicker stalk toward the lower left with a little three-bump knob on the end. That's the pistil. I draw these before the petals because they sit on top, so the petal lines can simply stop when they meet them.

💡 **Tip:** Draw each stalk as two close lines. One single line looks like a wire once you color it.

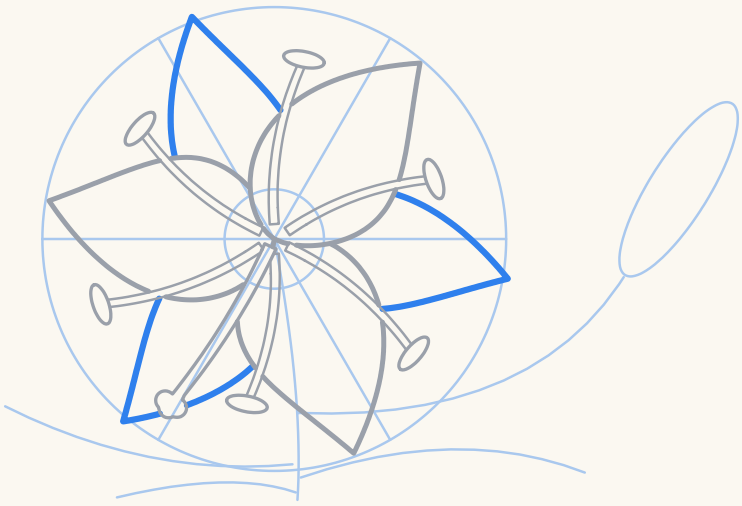
STEP 4 Add the three front petals



Pick every other spoke: the one pointing up and right, the one pointing left and the one pointing down and right. Around each, draw a long pointed petal that starts narrow at the center, gets widest about a third of the way out and ends in a sharp tip. Let the tip bend a tiny bit to the side so the petals look like they're opening. Stop the line wherever a stamen crosses it.

💡 **Tip:** Make the two sides of a petal slightly different. A perfectly even petal looks like a cut-out.

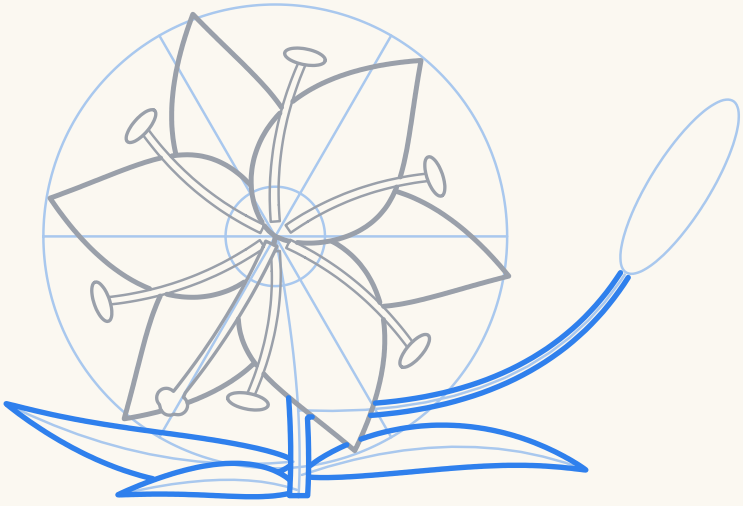
STEP 5 Draw three petals peeking behind



The three spokes that are left get the back petals. They're the same pointed shape, just a little longer and narrower. Only draw the parts you can actually see in the gaps between the front petals, which is mostly the outer half and the tip. This overlap is what gives the flower depth.

💡 **Tip:** If you're not sure where a back petal ends, sketch it whole very lightly, then erase the part hiding behind the front petal.

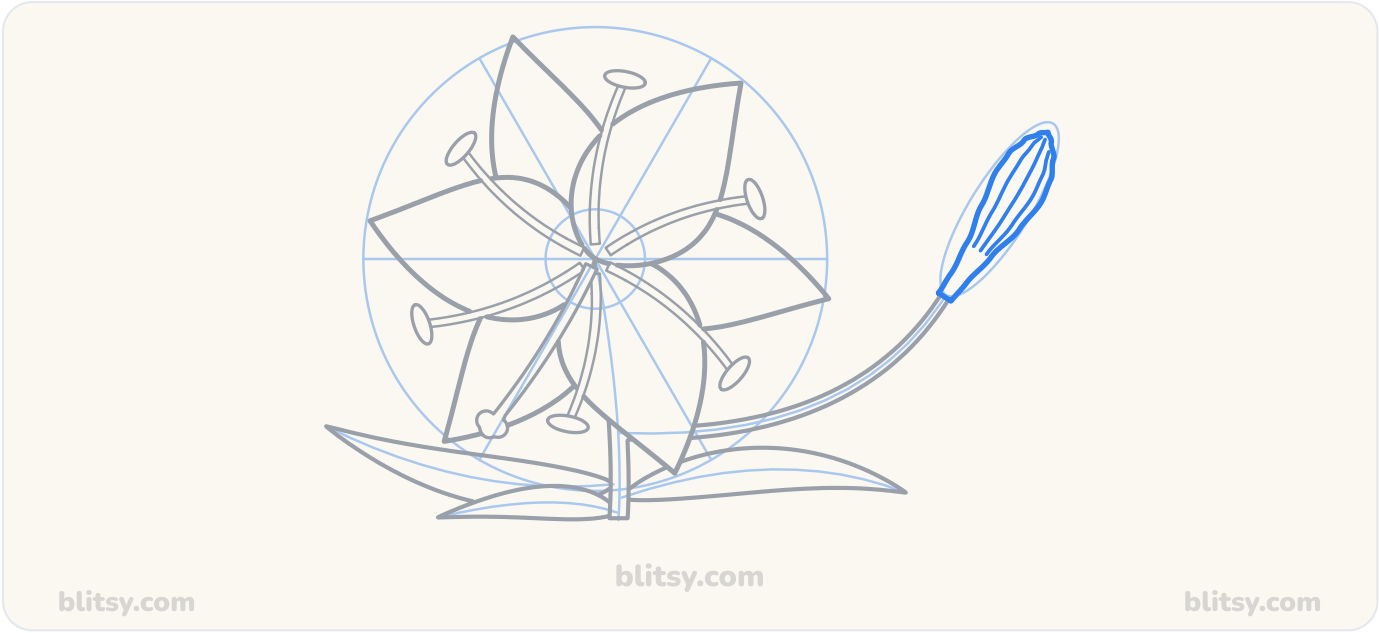
STEP 6 Draw the stem and long leaves



Follow the stem guide with two lines a finger width apart, starting where the stem shows below the petals, and cut it off flat at the bottom. Do the same along the side stem toward the bud, only thinner. Lily leaves are long and narrow, pointed at both ends, so stretch each one out along its guide and let it arch a little. Start each leaf right at the stem.

💡 **Tip:** Narrow leaves are what tell people this is a lily and not a tulip. Keep them slim.

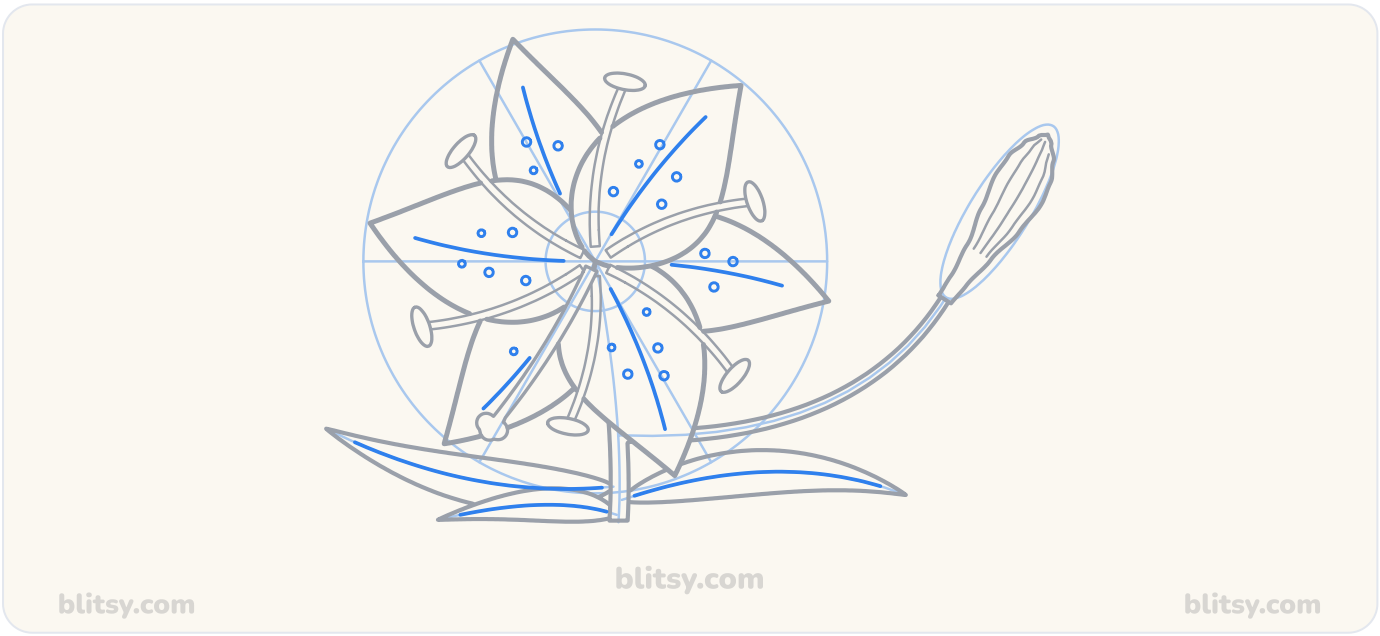
STEP 7 Add a closed bud



Over the oval at the end of the side stem, draw a bud shaped like a long club: thin where it joins the stem, swelling in the upper half, then closing to a point. Add three lines running along its length. Those are the edges of petals still folded tight.

💡 **Tip:** Let the bud lean the same way the side stem curves, so it looks like it grew there.

STEP 8 Draw center lines and speckles



Run a thin line down the middle of each petal, starting near the center and stopping before the tip. Then sprinkle small dots on the inner half of every petal, a few on each side of the line. Stargazers have their spots near the middle, so leave the outer part of the petals clean. Finish with one center line in each leaf.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the dots tiny and a little uneven in spacing. Big round dots in neat rows look like polka dots, not a flower.

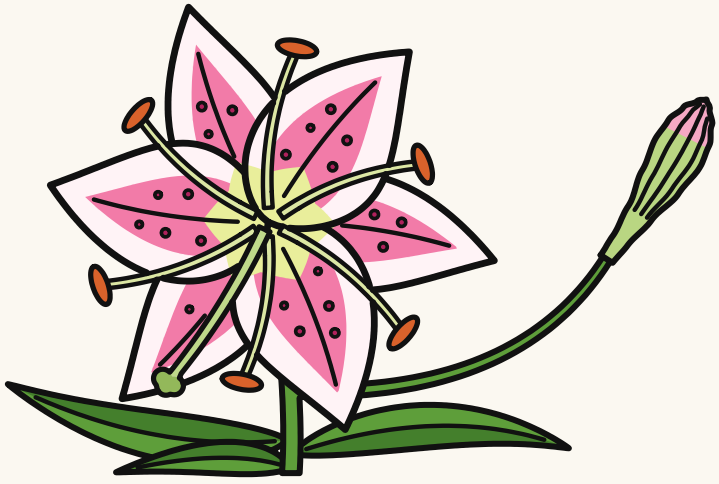
STEP 9 Ink the lily and erase the guides



Trace every keeper line with the fineliner. I start with the stamens while my hand is steady and work outward to the petals, leaving the stem and leaves for last. Skip the circle, the spokes and the guide curves. Wait a minute for the ink to dry, then erase all the pencil.

💡 **Tip:** Go over the speckles last with a light tap of the pen. Dragging it makes commas instead of dots.

STEP 10 Color your lily



Color a pink stripe down the middle of each petal and leave a white rim around it. Make the speckles dark pink and the very center a pale yellow-green. Use light green on the stamens and the bud (the pistil too), orange on the anthers, and the bud gets a pink blush at its tip. Use green for the stem and leaves, with a darker green on one half of each leaf.

💡 **Tip:** Color the pink from the center outward and press lighter as you near the white rim, so the two blend softly.