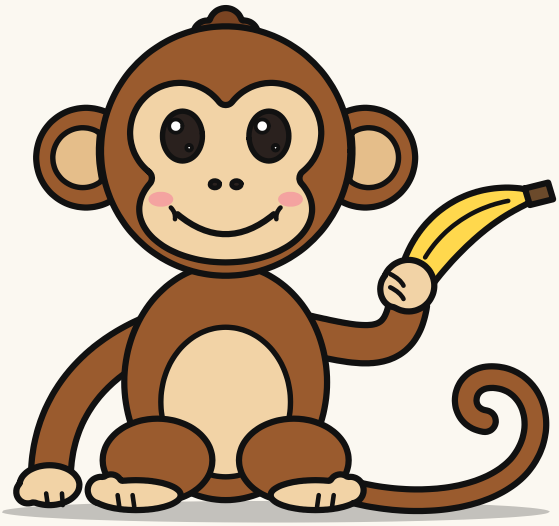
# How to Draw a Monkey

12 easy steps for beginners




## What you'll need

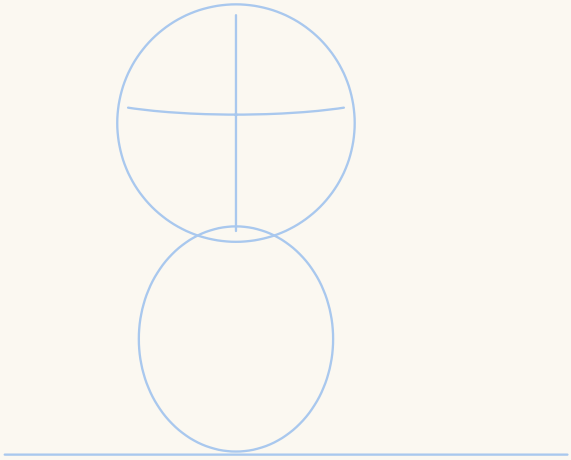
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black marker
- Brown and tan, plus yellow and pink
- Plain paper

## 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 →**

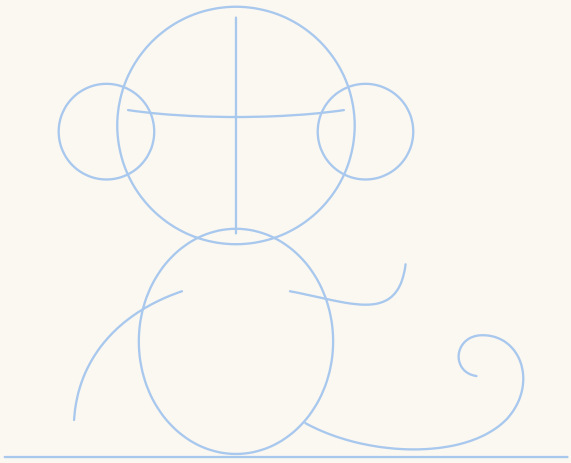
## STEP 1 Sketch a head circle and a body oval



Draw a light ground line near the bottom of your page. Just above it, sketch a tall oval for the body, then stack a large circle on top for the head. I make the circle a bit wider than the oval, because a cartoon monkey is mostly head. Add a vertical line down the middle of the circle and a gently curved line across it, slightly above center.

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

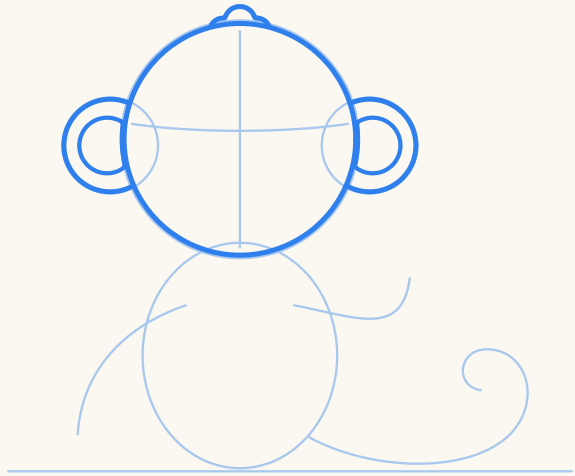
## STEP 2 Add guides for the ears, arms and tail



Put a small circle on each side of the head, sitting right on that curved cross line. Next, draw two curving lines for the arms: the left one sweeps down and out to the ground, and the right one bends out and then up like a hook. Last, sketch the tail as a long swoop from the bottom of the body that ends in a little curl.

💡 **Tip:** Monkey arms are long. If your left arm guide doesn't reach the ground line, stretch it.

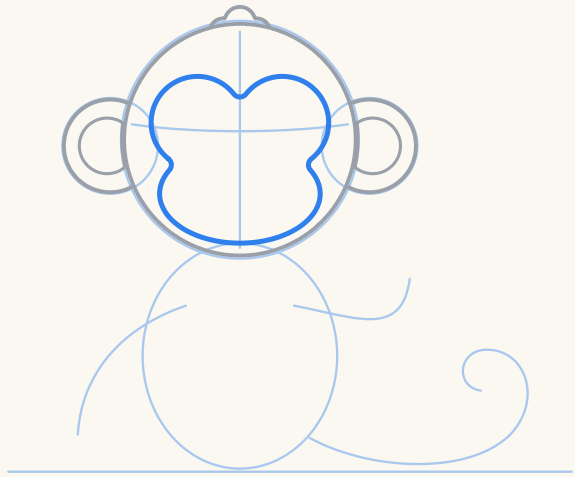
## STEP 3 Outline the round head and ears



Go over the head circle with a firm line, adding a tiny tuft of hair on top made of three small bumps. Then trace the outer edge of each ear and draw a smaller circle inside it. Skip the part of each ear hidden behind the head.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the ears level with the eyes. Ears sitting too high make the monkey look like a mouse or a bear.

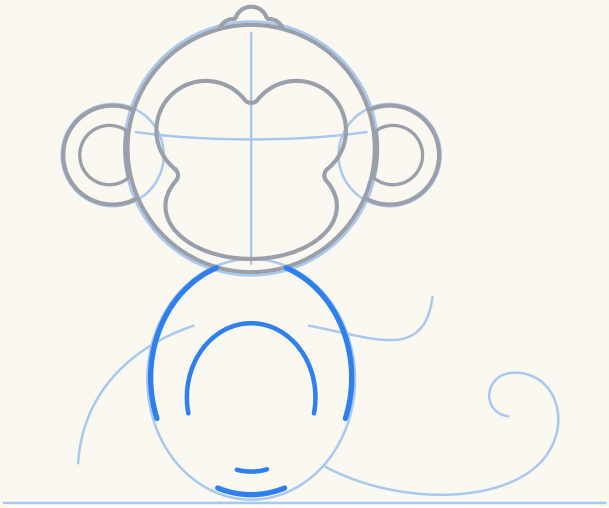
## STEP 4 Draw a heart-shaped face



This shape is what turns a brown circle into a monkey. Draw two bumps at the top, one for each eye, with a small dip between them right on the center line. From the sides of those bumps, let the line pinch in a little and then swing out into a wide rounded chin. It should look like a heart with a very round bottom.

💡 **Tip:** Leave a strip of brown head all the way around the face. If the face touches the head outline, the monkey loses its fur frame.

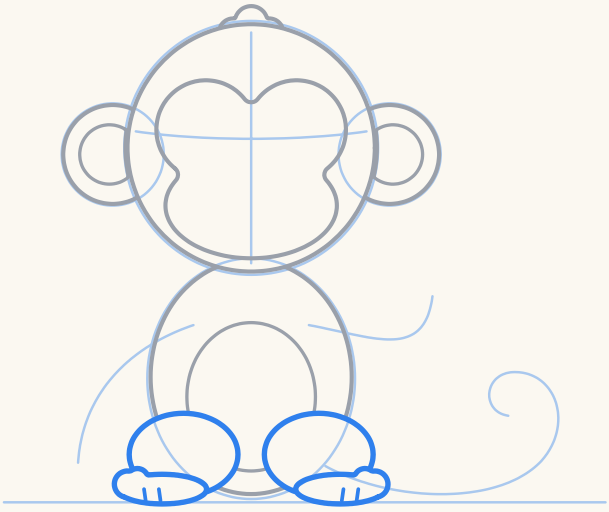
## STEP 5 Outline the body and a round belly



Follow the body oval with a smooth line, starting right under the head. Inside it, draw a smaller oval for the belly, a little lower than center. Leave the bottom open for now; the legs cover most of it next.

💡 **Tip:** Make the belly about two thirds as wide as the body. Too small and it looks like a button.

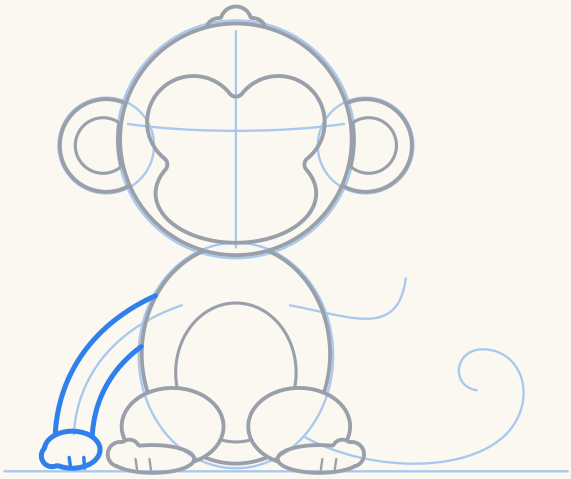
## STEP 6 Add bent legs and big feet



Draw two wide, flat ovals at the bottom of the body for the bent legs, one on each side. They overlap the belly a little. Under each one, add a long foot lying on the ground line with two small bumps for toes on the outer end, plus two short toe lines.

💡 **Tip:** I draw the feet longer than seems right. Monkeys have big grabbing feet, and long feet make the pose look steady.

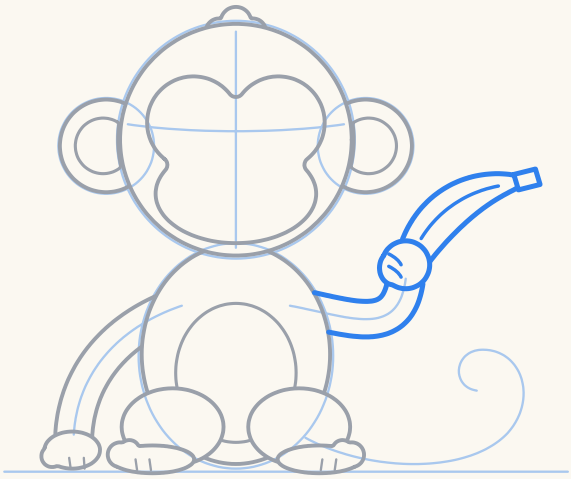
## STEP 7 Draw the long arm and its hand



Use the left arm guide as the middle of a thick tube. Draw one line on each side of it, from the shoulder at the side of the body all the way down to the ground. Finish it with a rounded hand resting on the ground, with a small thumb bump and two finger lines.

💡 **Tip:** Keep both arm lines the same distance apart the whole way down. A tube that gets thinner and thinner looks like a noodle.

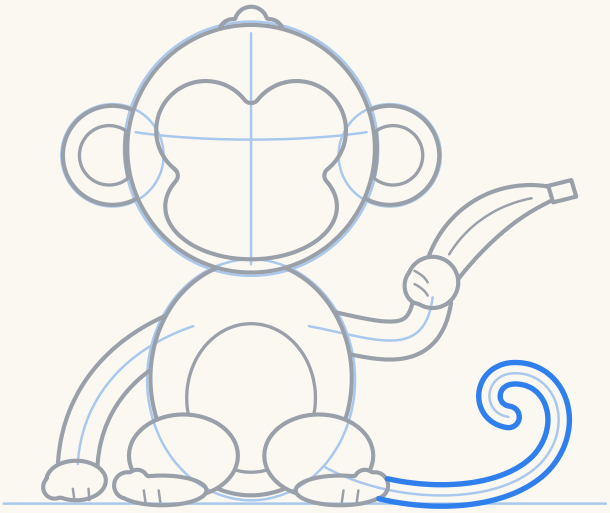
## STEP 8 Draw the other arm holding a banana



Draw the right arm as a tube that bends at the elbow and comes back up. At the top, draw a round hand with two curved finger lines. Now the banana: a long crescent coming out of the top of the hand, wide in the middle and narrow at the tip, with a small square stem at the end and one line down its length.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the hand over the banana, not the other way round. Seeing the fingers wrap around it is what makes the grip believable.

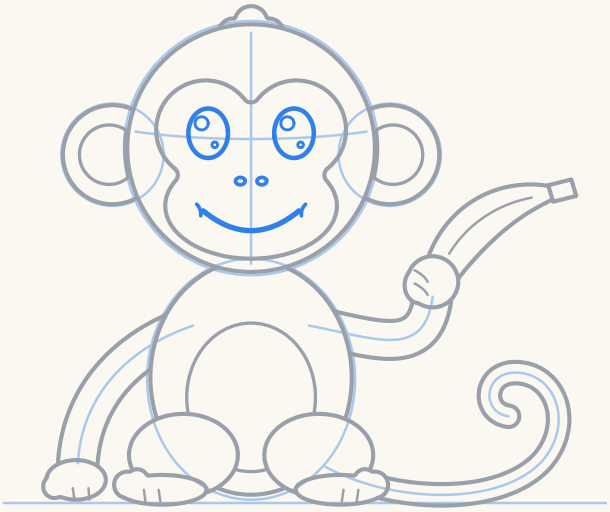
## STEP 9 Give it a long curly tail



Starting behind the right foot, draw the tail as another tube, a little thinner than the arms. It runs along the ground, rises up, and then rolls into a small curl at the end.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the outer line of the curl first, then the inner one. It's much easier to keep the width even that way.

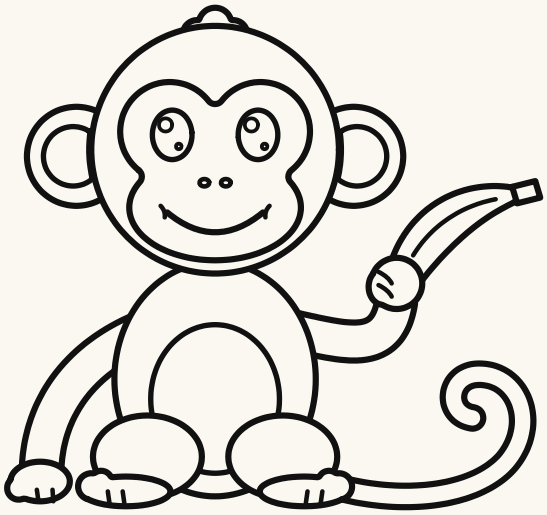
## STEP 10 Add the eyes, nose and a big smile



Place a tall oval eye inside each top bump of the face, with a white circle for the shine and a tiny dot below it. Under the eyes, add two small nostril dots close together. Then draw a wide smile curve across the lower face, with a short tick at each end for dimples.

💡 **Tip:** Put both shine dots on the same side of the eyes. If they point different ways, the monkey looks cross-eyed.

## STEP 11 Ink the lines and erase the guides

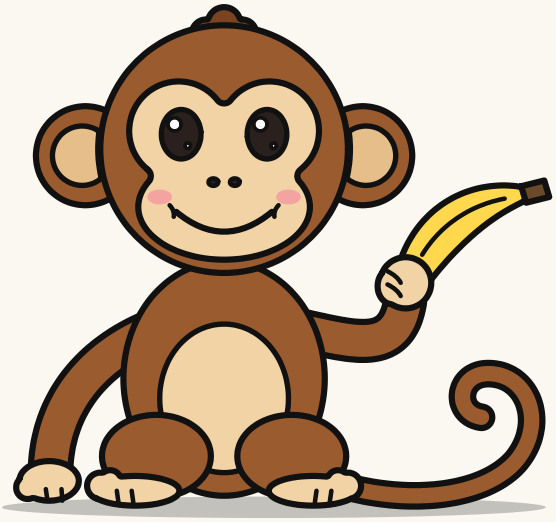


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Trace every keeper line with your black marker. Wait until the ink is dry, then erase the circle, the oval, the cross lines and all the curved guides.

💡 **Tip:** Ink the face first while your hand is fresh. Small shaky lines show most around the eyes and smile.

## STEP 12 Color your monkey



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Color all the fur brown, with a darker brown for the hair tuft. The face and belly get tan, the hands and feet too, and the inside of the ears a slightly deeper tan. Fill the banana with yellow and its stem with dark brown, then add two soft pink cheeks.

💡 **Tip:** Color the big brown areas with light, even strokes going one direction. Going over them a second time makes the color rich without streaks.