How to Draw a Soccer Ball

10 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

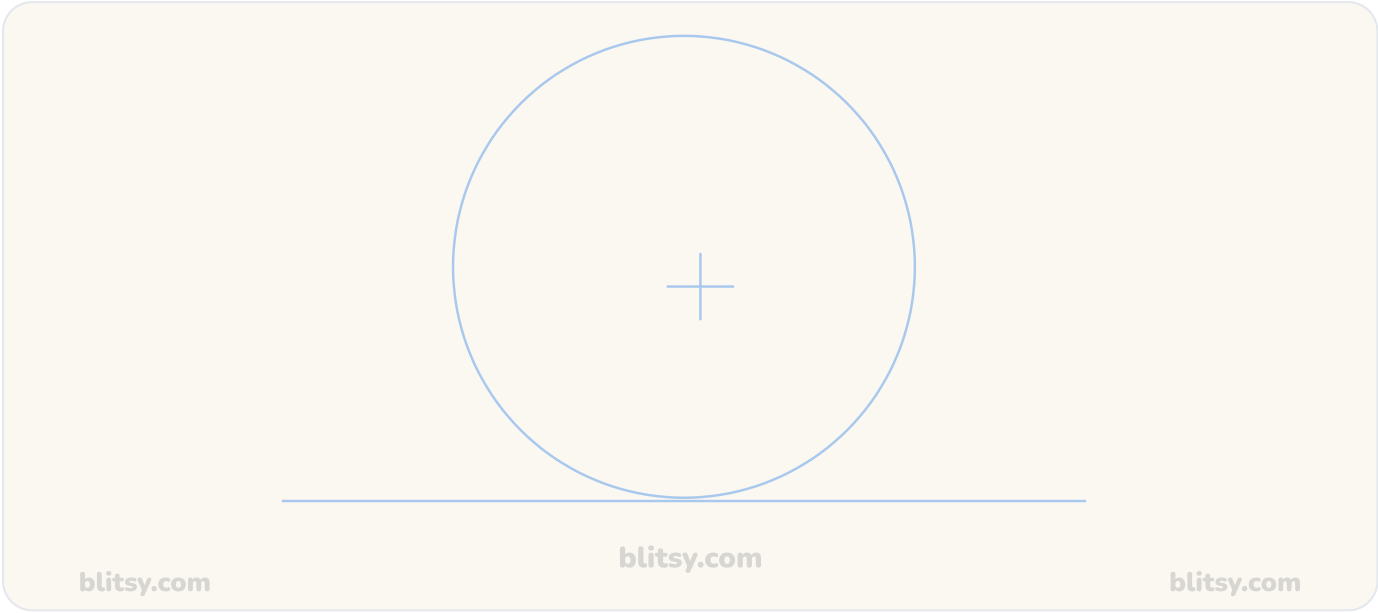
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black marker or fineliner
- Gray and green colored pencils
- Plain paper

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 →

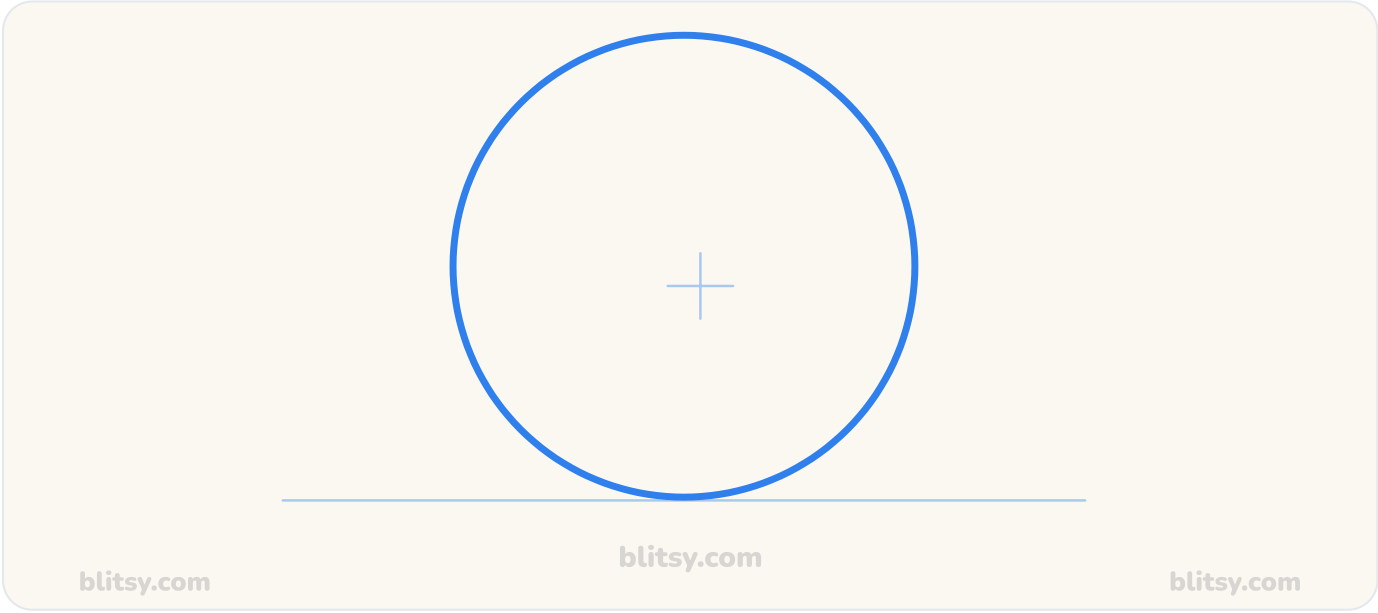
STEP 1 Draw a light circle and a ground line



Draw a straight ground line low on the page, then a big circle that just touches it. Make it large, about two thirds of the paper's height, because the patches near the edge get small and you'll want room for them. Put a small cross a little above the center of the circle. That's where the middle pentagon goes.

💡 **Tip:** Press so lightly you can barely see the circle. Light lines are easy to fix if the first try comes out egg-shaped.

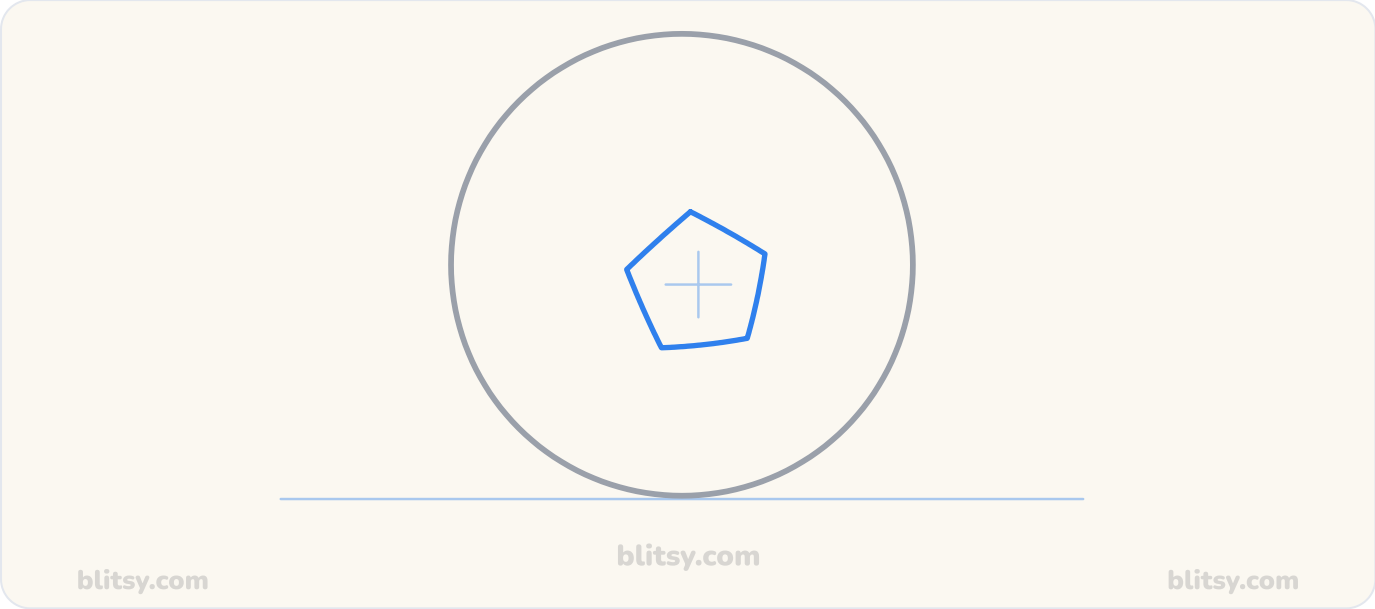
STEP 2 Trace the round outline of the ball



Go over the circle with a firm, steady line. I turn the paper a little at a time as I go, so my hand always makes the same short curve instead of reaching around. If one side looks flat, fix it now. Every seam you add later will show off a dent in the outline.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the circle in four quarter curves rather than one big sweep. The joins are easier to smooth than one long wobble.

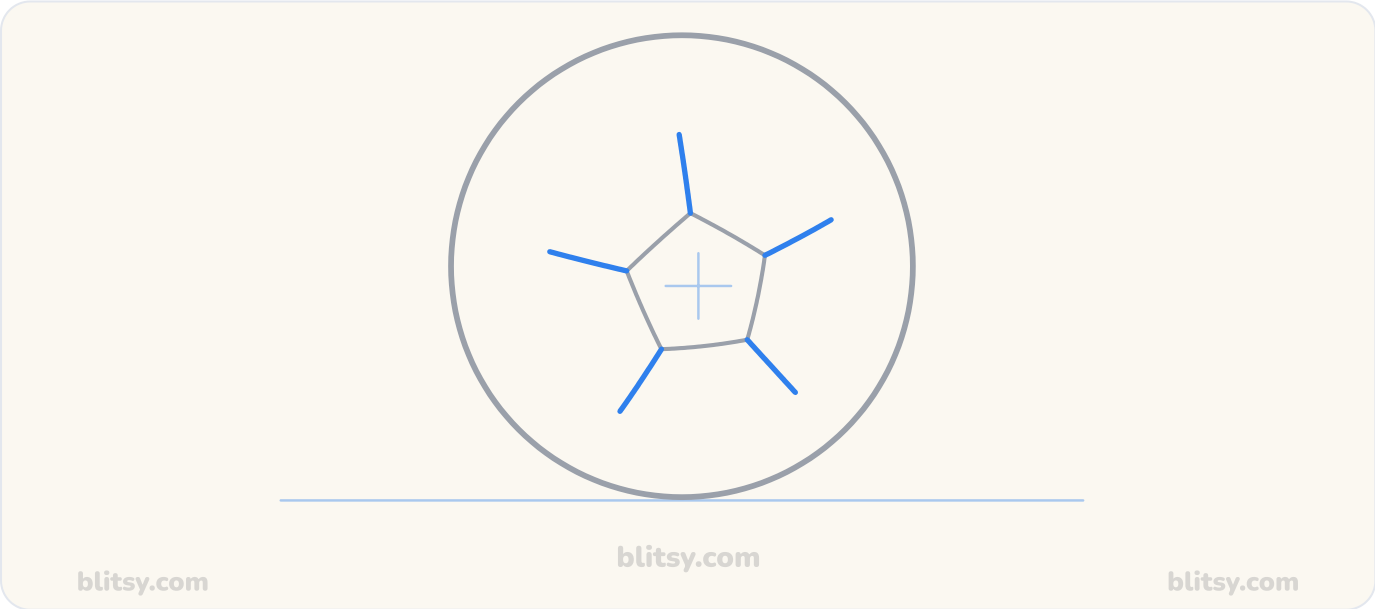
STEP 3 Draw one pentagon in the middle



Around the cross, draw a five-sided shape with one point at the top. It should be roughly as wide as a quarter of the whole ball. Keep the five sides close to the same length, but let the bottom side sag just a touch, since the ball curves away from you there. This pentagon decides how every other patch will look.

💡 **Tip:** Mark five dots first, like the points of a star, and then join them. Fixing a dot is much easier than fixing a line.

STEP 4 Add five seams from the corners



From every corner of the pentagon, draw one short line pointing straight out, away from the center. Each one is about as long as a side of the pentagon. These five lines are the seams between the white hexagons, and they show you exactly where the black patches at the edge belong.

💡 **Tip:** Point each seam away from the cross, like the spokes of a wheel. If one leans sideways, the patch at its end will slide too.

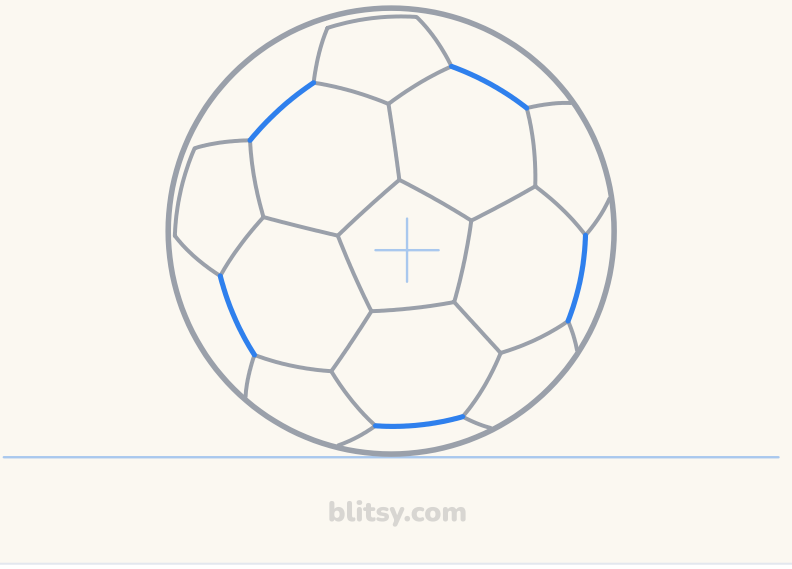
STEP 5 Draw the pentagons at the edges



At the end of each seam, draw a black patch shape that gets cut off by the outline. Start at the seam's end with two short sides that spread out, then bend them toward the edge of the ball. Because the ball curves away, these patches look squashed and only partly visible. That squashed look is what makes the ball seem round, so don't try to draw them as full pentagons.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the top one first, then the bottom two, then the sides. Working opposite pairs keeps the spacing even.

STEP 6 Join the patches into hexagons



Now link each edge patch to its neighbor with one curved seam. These lines run around the ball, roughly parallel to the outline, and they close off the white hexagons. Count the sides of each white shape as you go: the ones touching the middle pentagon should have six. If you get five or seven, a seam has wandered.

💡 **Tip:** Curve these seams the same way the outline curves. Straight lines here flatten the ball like a coin.

STEP 7 Add a shine and mark the shady side



On the top black patch, draw a small rounded streak and a dot next to it. That's the shine, as if a light is above and to the left. Then lightly sketch a curve inside the lower right of the ball, following the outline. You'll color gray outside that curve later, so it's only a guide.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the shine small and near the top. A big shine in the middle makes the ball look like glass.

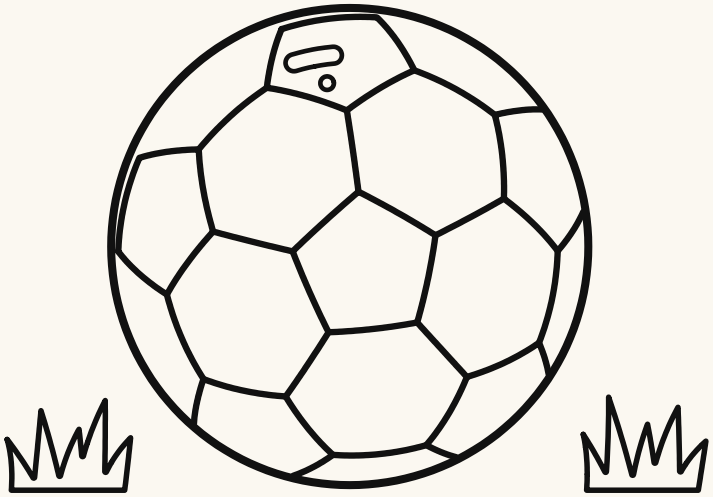
STEP 8 Draw two grass tufts on the ground



Next to the ball on each side, draw a clump of pointed grass blades growing from the ground line. Make the blades different heights and let some lean left and some lean right. Grass that is all the same height looks like a fence, so mix tall and short.

💡 **Tip:** Small kids can skip the grass and just draw a flat oval shadow under the ball. It still looks like it's sitting on the ground.

STEP 9 Ink the lines and erase the guides



Trace every keeper line with a black marker: the outline, the pentagons, the seams, the shine and the grass. Leave the cross, the ground line and the shading curve in pencil. Once the ink is fully dry, erase all the pencil so only the clean drawing is left.

💡 **Tip:** Ink the outline last. If a seam runs a hair past the edge, the thick outline covers it.

STEP 10 Color the soccer ball



Fill all six pentagon patches with black, leaving the shine streak and dot light gray. The hexagons stay white. Color a soft light gray along the lower right side of the ball, where your shading curve was, so the ball looks round instead of flat. Finish with green grass and a gray oval shadow under the ball.

💡 **Tip:** Color the black patches with a marker, not a crayon. Crayon black looks streaky on big shapes and wipes onto the white panels.