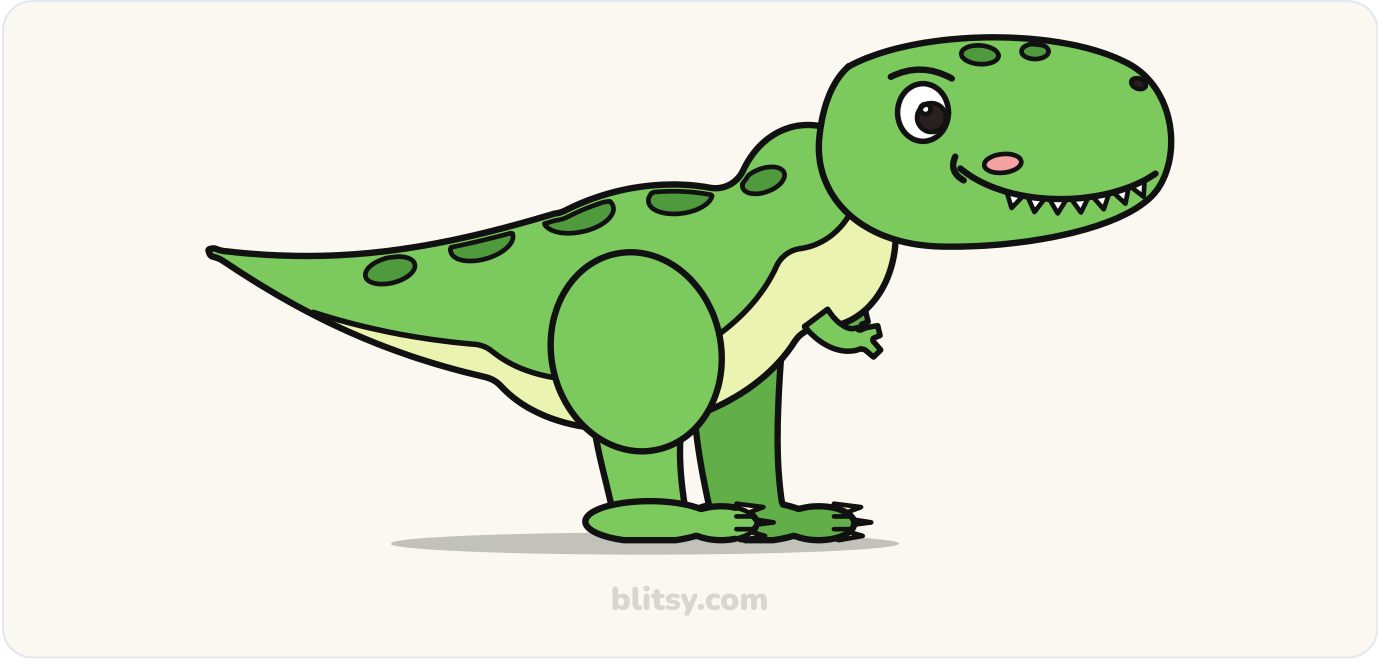
How to Draw a T-Rex

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

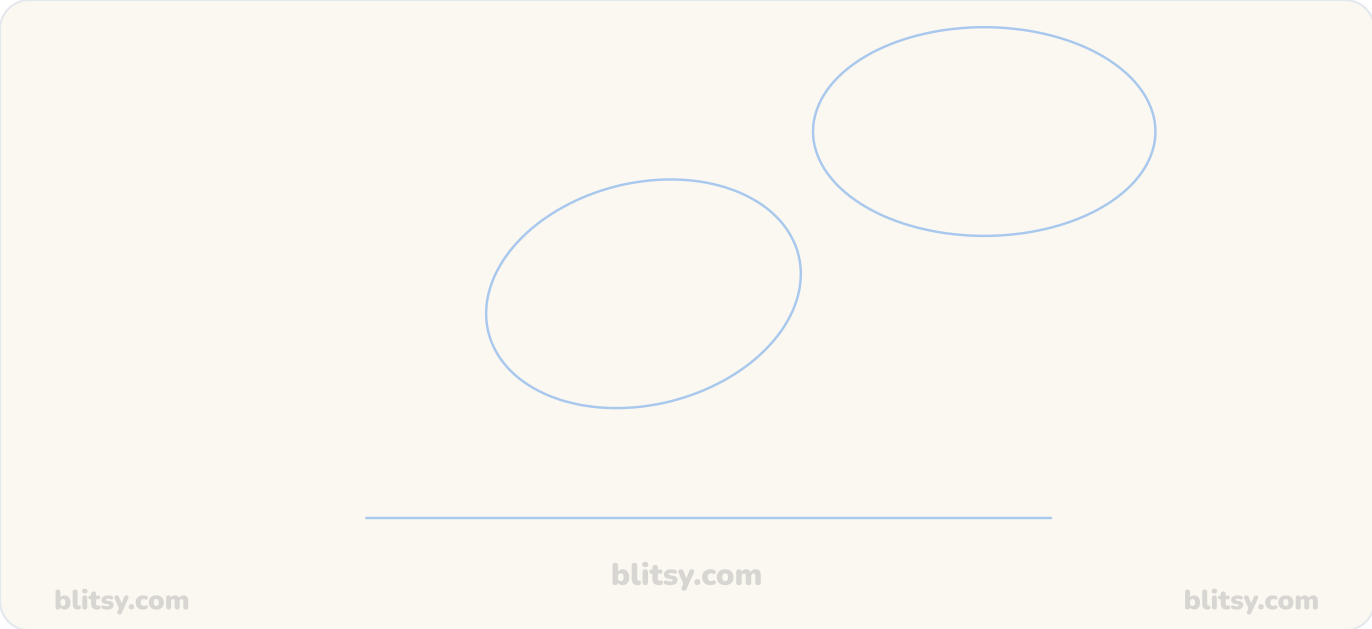
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black marker
- Green crayons plus yellow and pink
- Plain paper

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 →

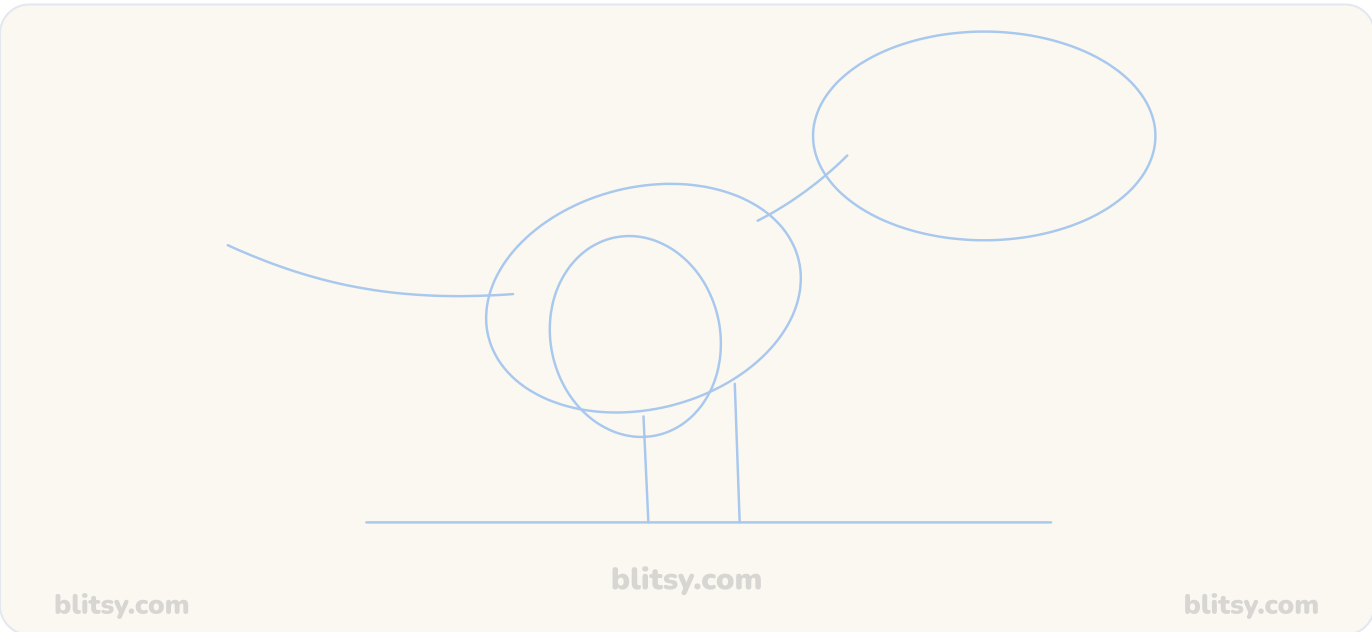
STEP 1 Sketch a head oval and a body oval



Draw a light ground line near the bottom of the page. Put a wide oval up on the right for the head, then a bigger, slightly tilted oval for the body below and to the left of it. The two ovals should almost touch.

💡 **Tip:** Make the head oval nearly as wide as the body oval. It feels too big, and that's exactly right for a T-Rex.

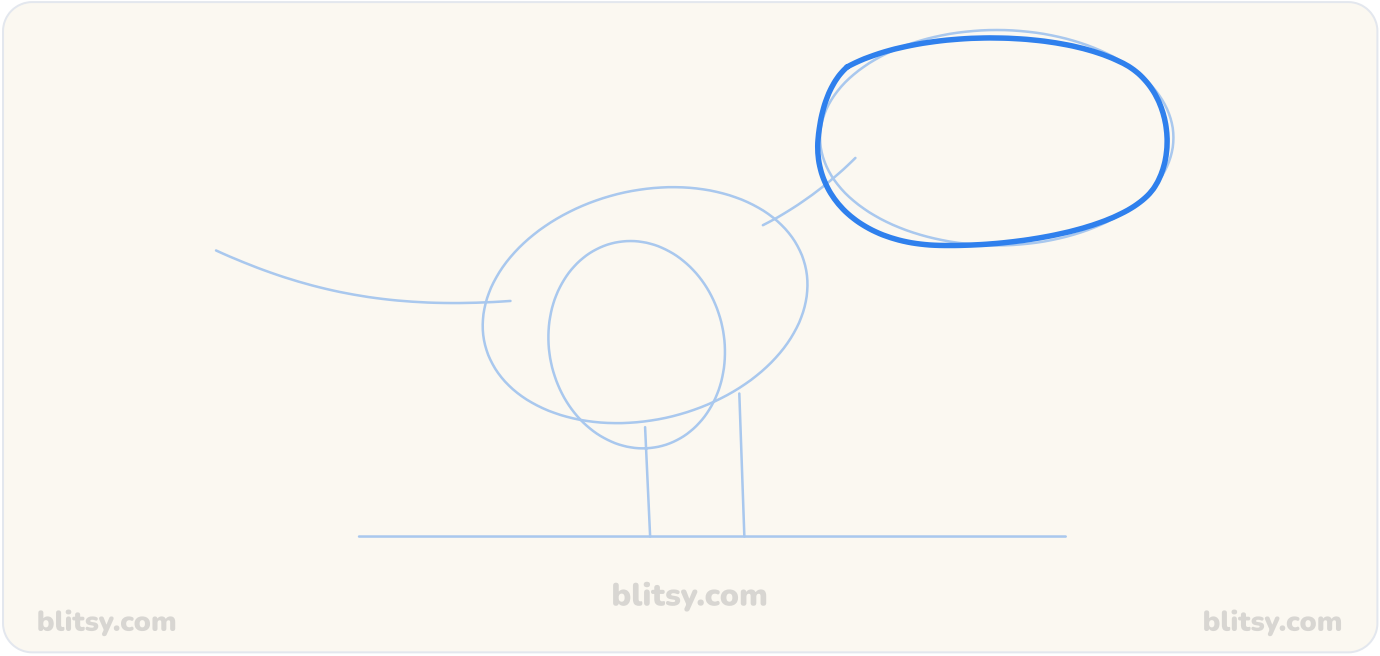
STEP 2 Add guides for the neck, tail and legs



Join the ovals with a short curve for the neck. From the back of the body, swing one long curved line out to the left for the tail, ending a little higher than it started. Then add a circle for the thigh and two lines down to the ground for the legs.

💡 **Tip:** Let the tail line rise at the end. A tail that droops to the floor makes the dinosaur look tired.

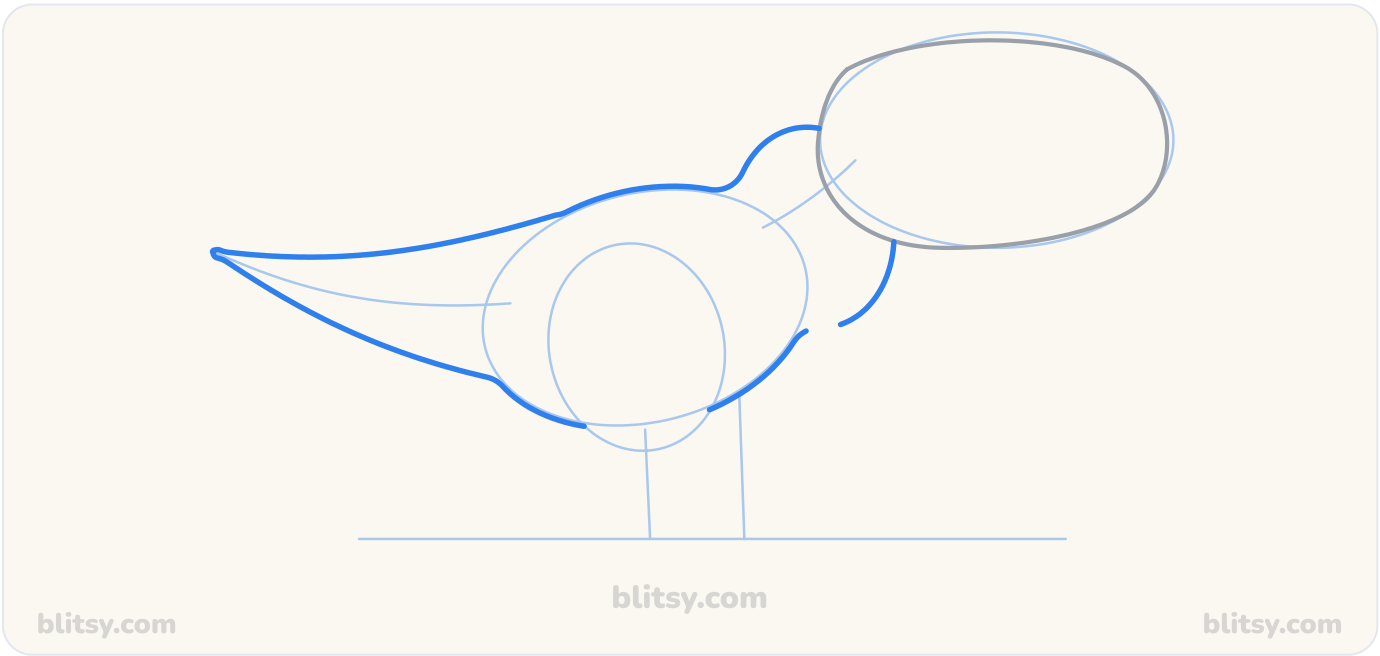
STEP 3 Outline the big rounded head



Trace around the head oval with one confident line. Keep the top of the skull fairly flat, round off the snout at the front, and let the jaw curve back toward the neck. The back of the head dips in a little where the neck will join.

💡 **Tip:** Square up the snout just slightly. A perfectly round head starts to look like a frog.

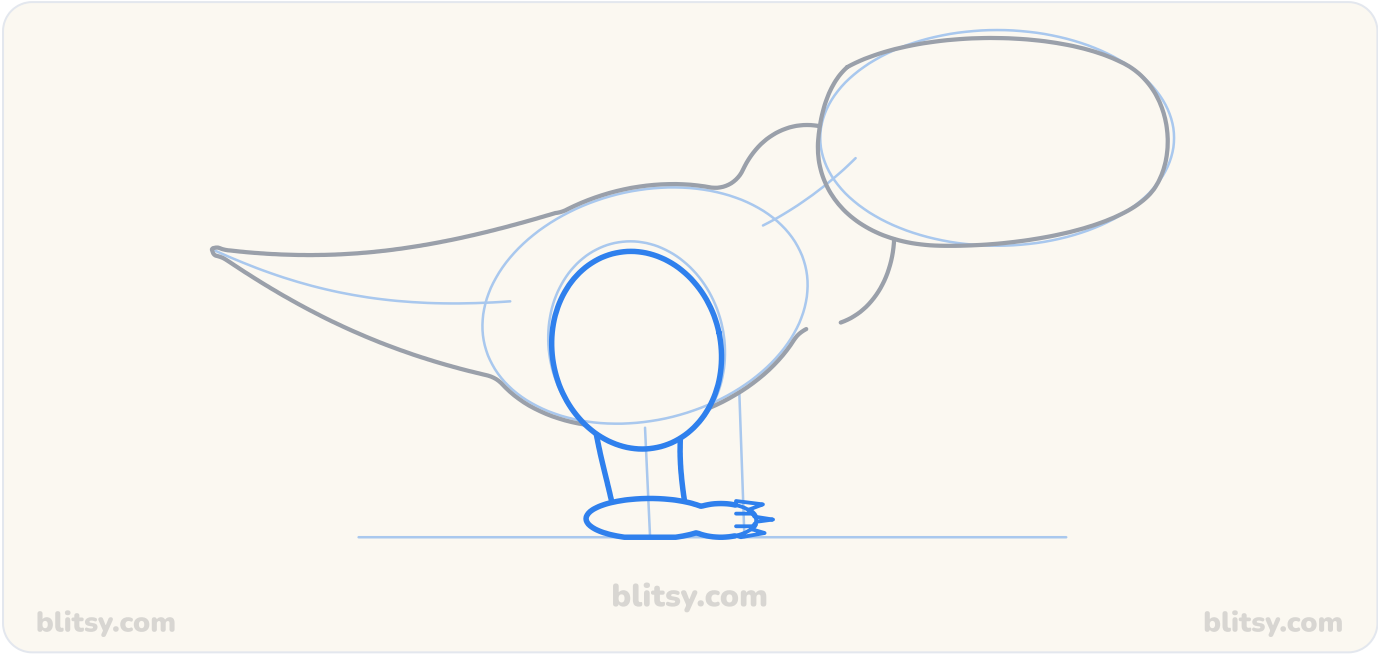
STEP 4 Join the body and the long tail



Now connect everything into one smooth shape. Start under the jaw, run down the chest and belly, then follow the tail guide to a point on the left. Come back along the top of the tail, over the back and up the thick neck to the back of the head.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the tail thick where it leaves the body. It should taper slowly, like a carrot, not snap thin right away.

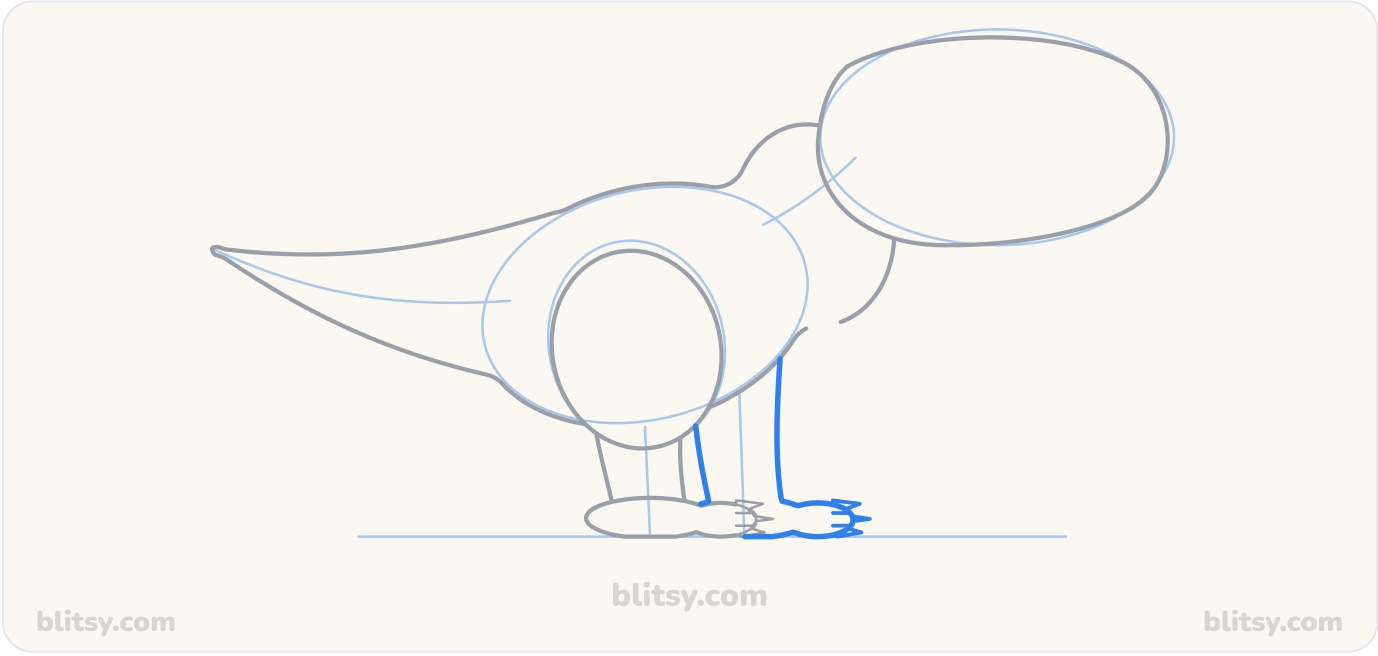
STEP 5 Add a strong back leg



The near leg is the T-Rex's powerhouse. Draw a big oval thigh over the lower body, then a shorter, sturdy shin coming down from it. At the bottom, add a long foot with three rounded toes pointing forward and a small claw on each.

💡 **Tip:** I make the thigh bigger than looks real. Chunky legs are what make this dinosaur look strong enough to hold that head up.

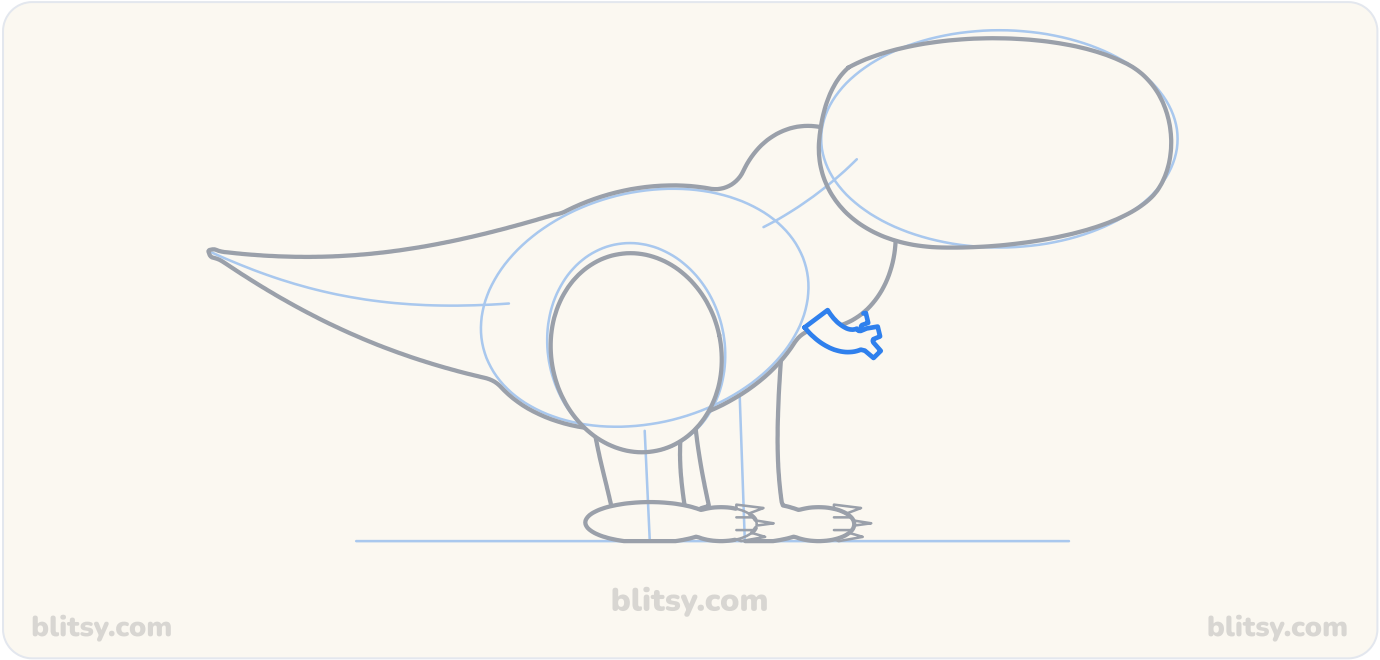
STEP 6 Draw the far leg stepping ahead



The second leg steps forward, a little to the right of the first one. You only see the shin and the foot, because the body hides its thigh. Give it the same three toes and claws so the pair matches.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the far foot on the same ground line. If it floats higher, the T-Rex looks like it's hopping.

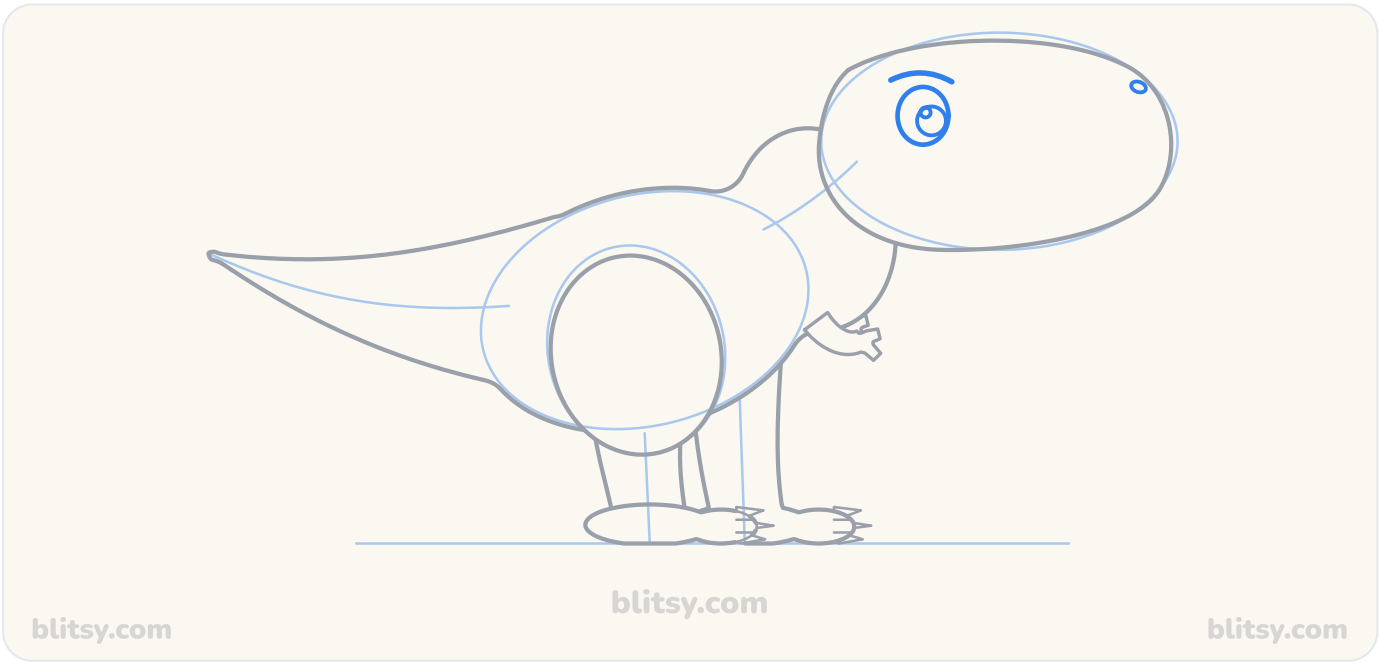
STEP 7 Give it two tiny arms



Here's the famous part. Just below the neck, draw a small bent arm with two little fingers at the end. Tuck a second arm just behind it and slightly higher, so only part of it peeks out.

💡 **Tip:** Measure the arm against the head: it should be shorter than the eye is from the nose. Long arms turn it into a different dinosaur.

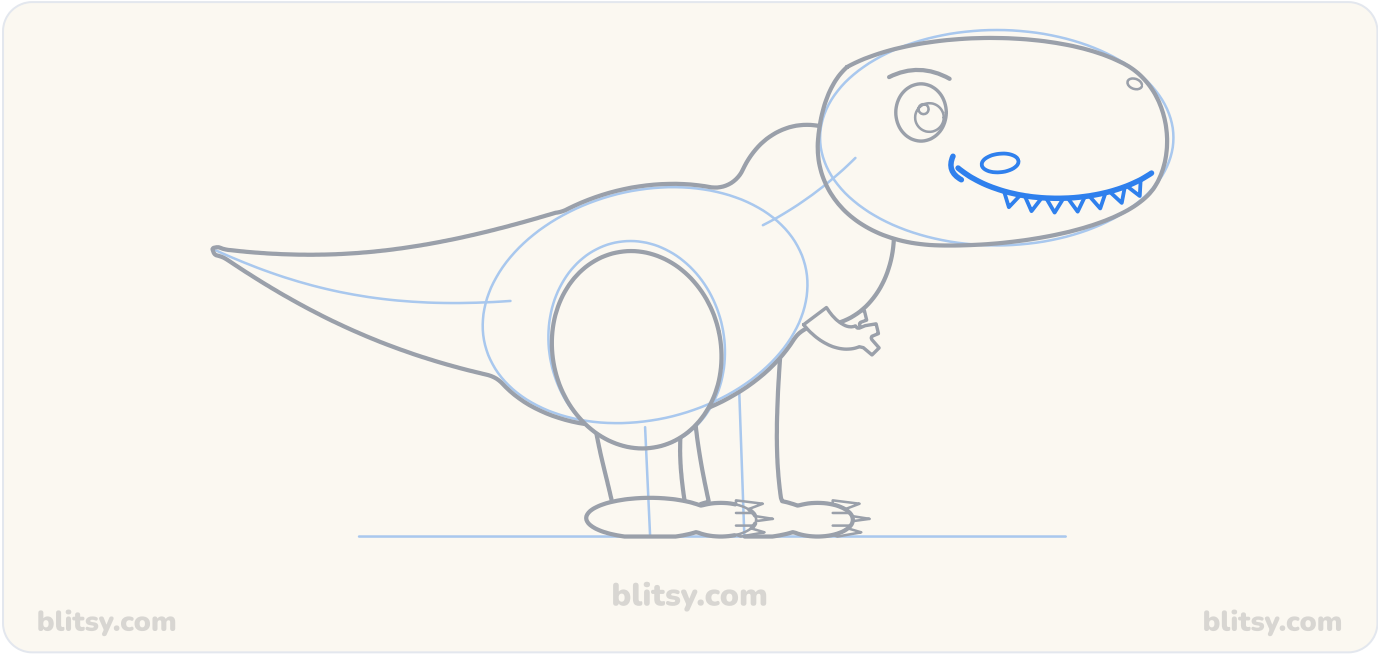
STEP 8 Draw the eye with a brow and a nostril



Place a big oval eye in the back half of the head, closer to the top than the jaw. Inside it, draw a round pupil looking forward with a small shine circle. Add a curved brow above the eye and a tiny nostril at the tip of the snout.

💡 **Tip:** That bump of a brow is what makes it look like a T-Rex instead of a lizard, so don't skip it.

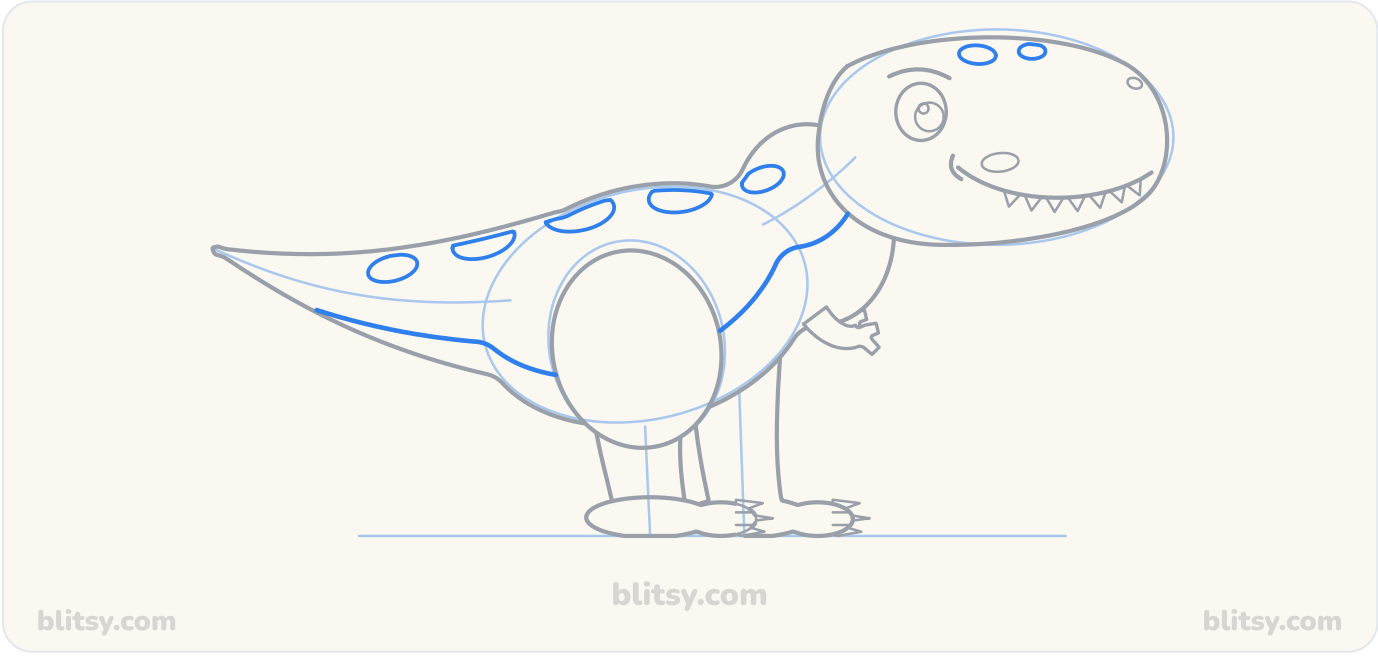
STEP 9 Add a wide smile with small teeth



Draw a long, curved smile from under the eye almost to the end of the snout, with a little hook at the back corner. Hang a row of small triangle teeth just under the line. Then add an oval cheek near the corner of the mouth.

💡 **Tip:** Keep every tooth small and about the same size. Big pointed fangs make it scary, and we want friendly.

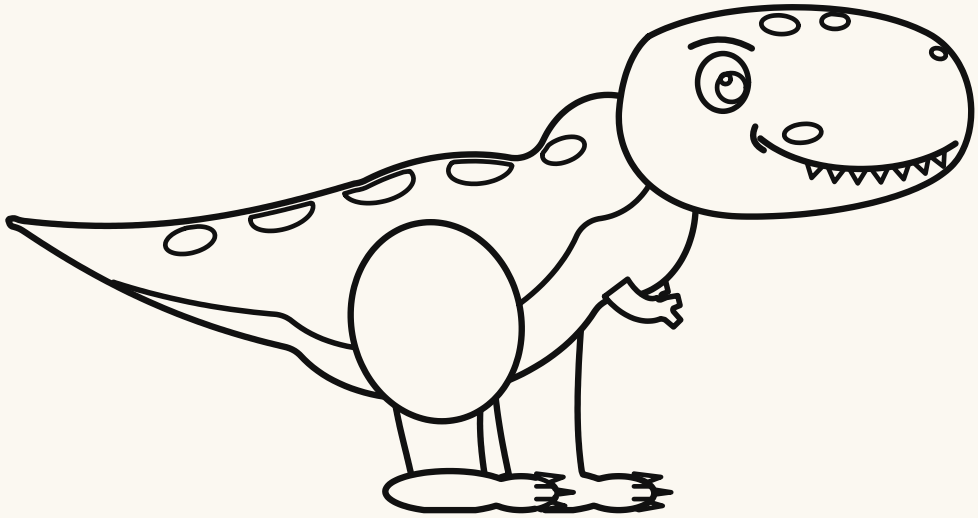
STEP 10 Draw the belly line and back spots



Draw one curved line parallel to the underside, from the throat down the chest, along the belly and a short way under the tail. That marks the pale belly. Then add a row of flat oval spots along the back and two small ones on top of the head.

💡 **Tip:** Make the spots smaller toward the tail. It helps the tail look like it's getting farther away.

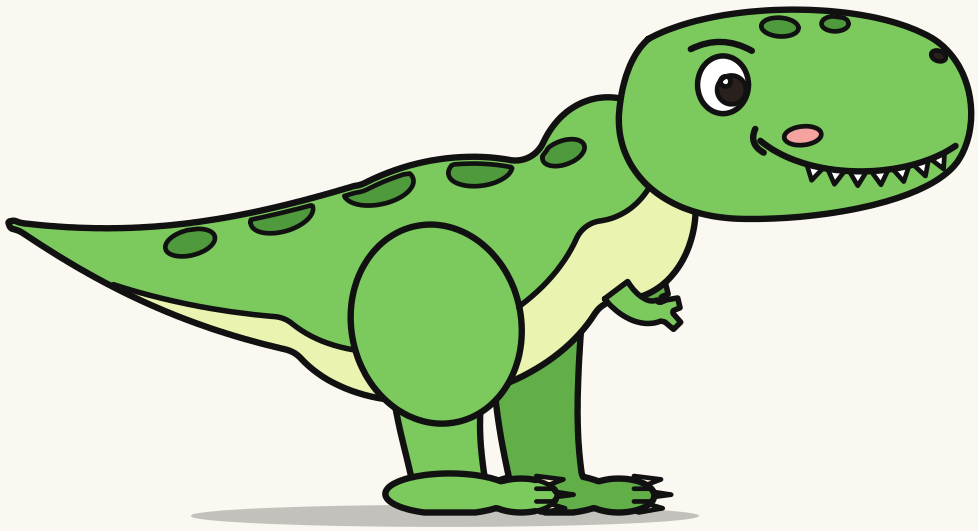
STEP 11 Ink your T-Rex and erase the guides



Trace all the keeper lines with your black marker. I go around the teeth slowly, since that's where the line wobbles most. When the ink is dry, erase the ovals, the tail curve and the leg lines.

💡 **Tip:** Give the ink a full minute before erasing. Smudged teeth are hard to fix.

STEP 12 Color your T-Rex



Color the head, body, tail, near leg and arms with a bright green. Use a slightly darker green for the far leg and far arm so they sit back. The spots get dark green, the belly pale yellow, the claws cream and the cheek pink. Leave the teeth and the eye white.

💡 **Tip:** Orange with a yellow belly works just as well if you'd like a different dinosaur. Keep the spots one shade darker than the body.