How to Draw a Volleyball

11 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

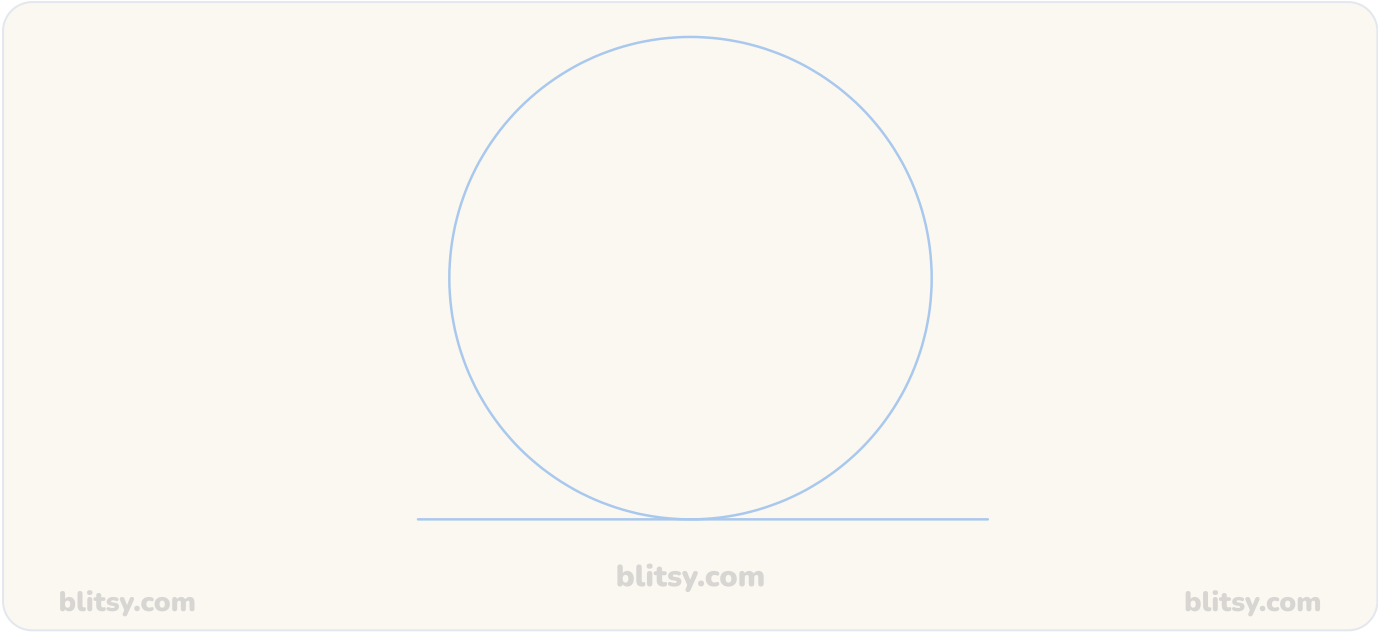
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black marker or fineliner
- Yellow, blue and gray pencils
- Plain paper

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 →

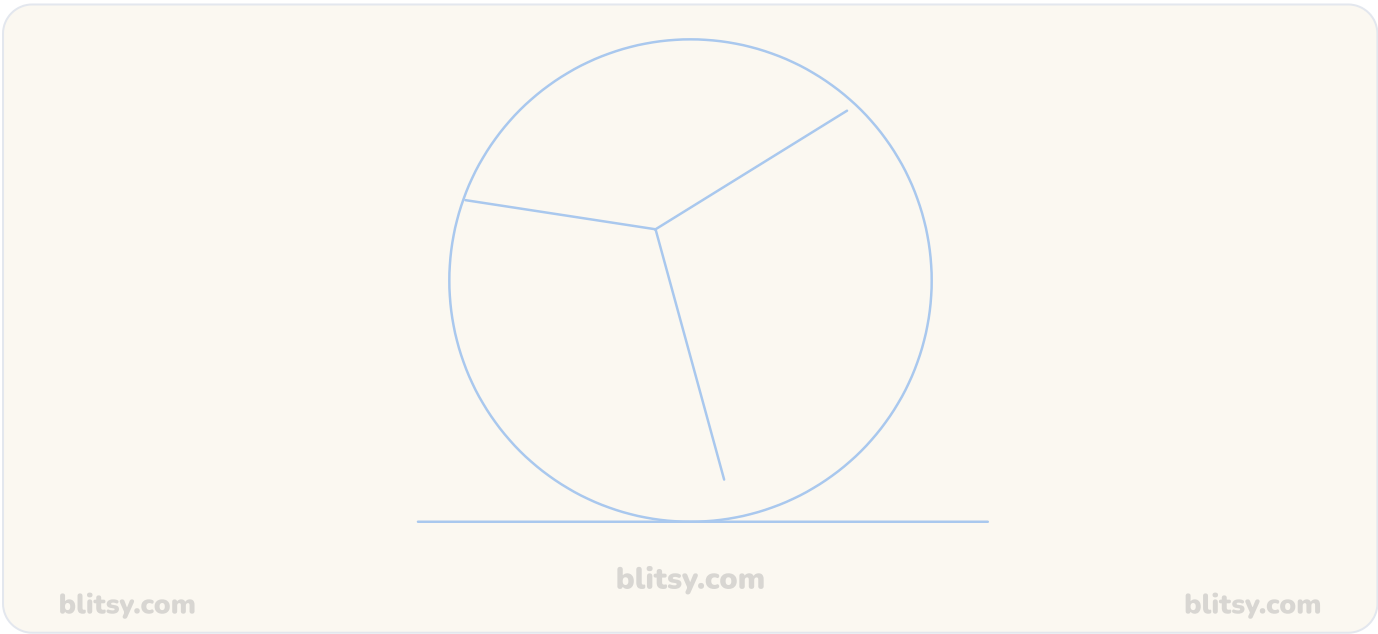
STEP 1 Draw a ground line and a big circle



Draw a light flat line across the lower part of the page. Sit a big circle on top of it so the bottom of the circle just kisses the line. Make the circle large, about two thirds of the page height, because the strips get narrow near the edge and you want room for them.

💡 **Tip:** If your circle comes out a little lumpy, trace a cup or a roll of tape instead. Nobody will know.

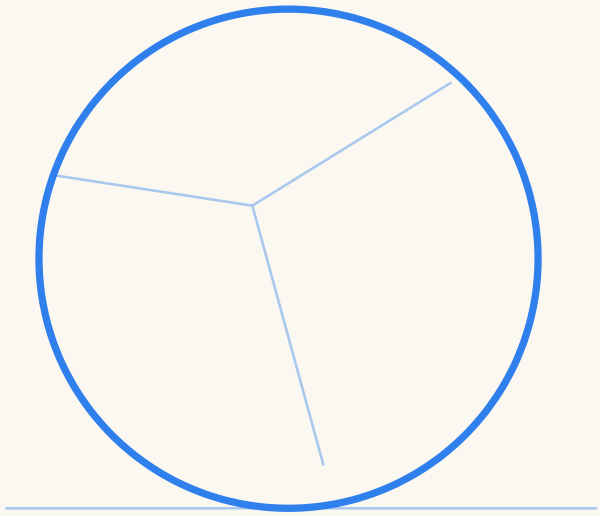
STEP 2 Sketch a light Y guide



Put a small dot slightly above and to the left of the circle's center. From that dot, draw three straight lines out to the edge: one to the left, one up and to the right, and one almost straight down. Together they look like a tilted Y. I keep the three lines roughly the same length from the dot, so the three groups end up a similar size.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the dot off center. A Y right in the middle makes the ball look flat, like a peace sign.

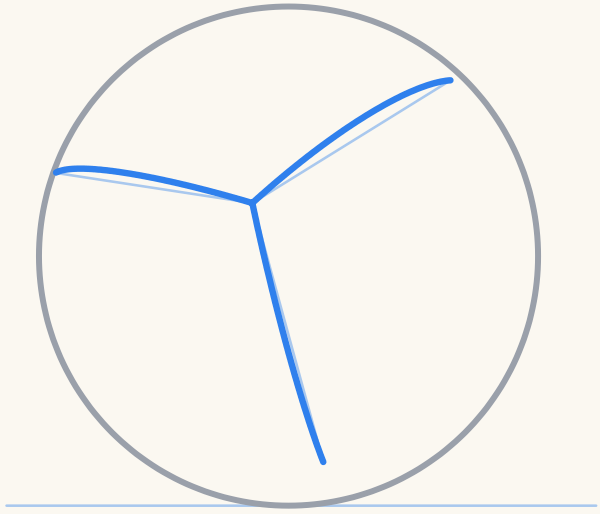
STEP 3 Go over the ball outline



Trace the circle again with a steady, slightly darker line. This is the outline you'll ink later, so take your time and turn the paper as you go. The Y guide stays light underneath it for now.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the outline in four quarter-arcs instead of one long sweep. Short strokes wobble less.

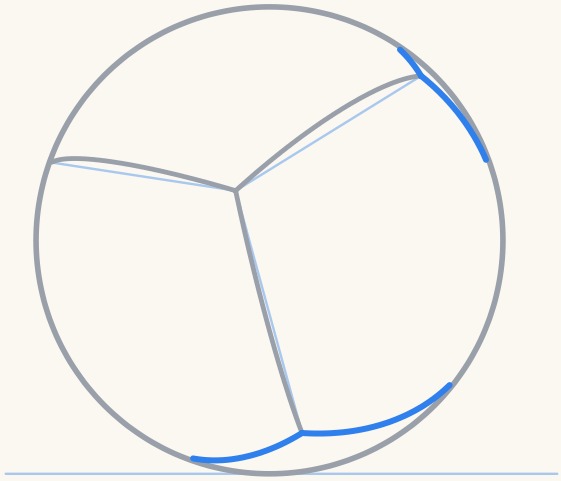
STEP 4 Curve the three Y seams



Now turn each straight Y line into a seam that bends with the ball. The arm going left bows upward a little, the arm going up and right swings out in a gentle arc, and the lower arm stays almost straight. Curving them is what tells the eye this is a round ball and not a flat circle with lines on it.

💡 **Tip:** Picture the lines as rubber bands stretched over the ball. They always bend toward the edge, never away from it.

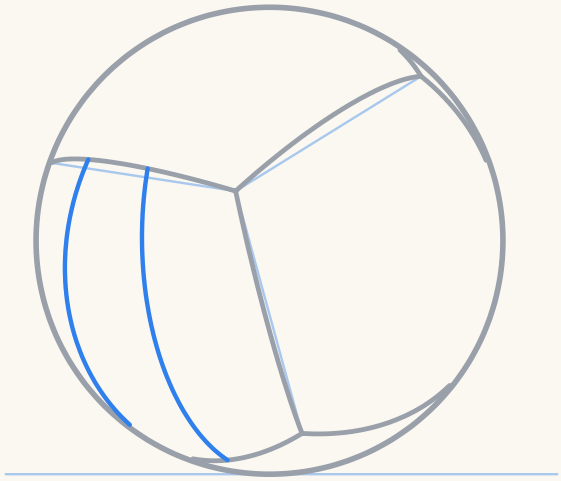
STEP 5 Add the outer group seams



Each group of strips is a rounded square, so it has edges farther out too. From the end of the lower Y arm, draw two short curves: one down to the bottom of the ball and one up to the right edge. Near the top right, add a short curve close to the outline.

💡 **Tip:** The outer seams are short and sit close to the rim. If yours reach the middle of the ball, they're too long.

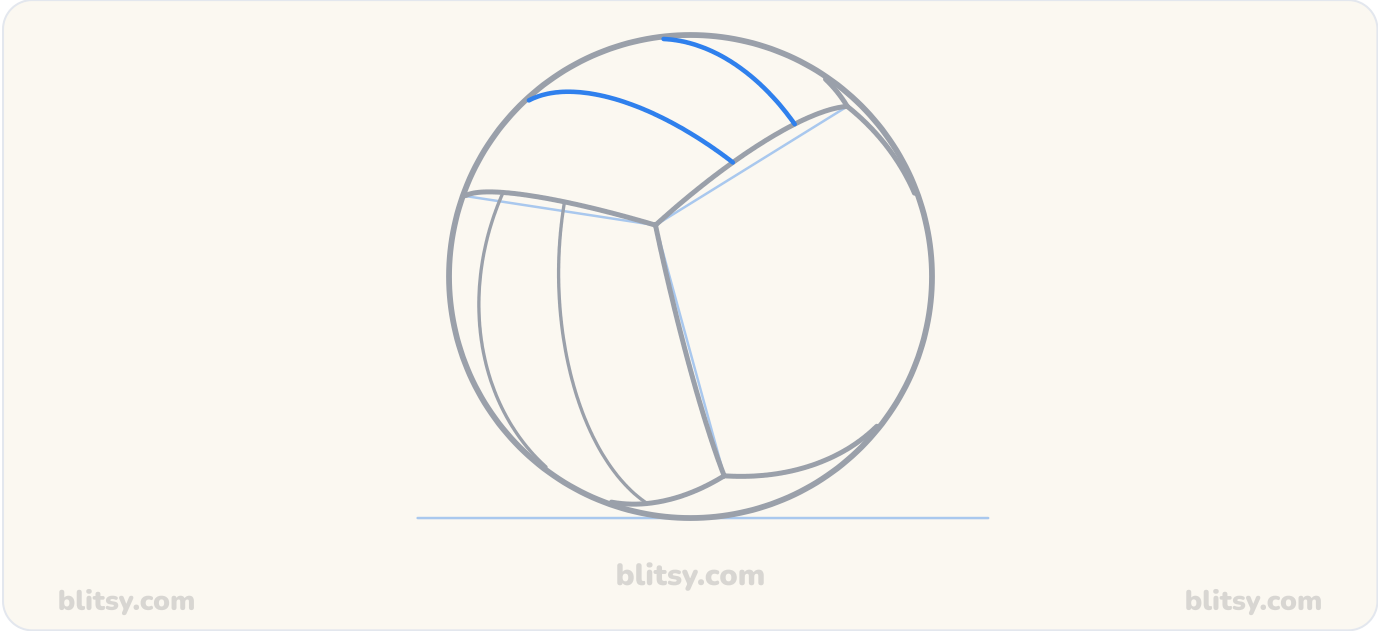
STEP 6 Draw the strips in the left group



The left group is the big shape between the left arm and the lower arm of the Y. Split it into three strips with two long curves that run from the left Y arm down to the bottom edge. They follow the direction of the lower Y seam, and the one nearest the edge bends the most. The strip next to the lower seam faces you, so it's the widest, while the strip by the rim looks thin.

💡 **Tip:** Strips near the edge always look skinnier than strips in the middle. That squeeze is what makes the ball look round.

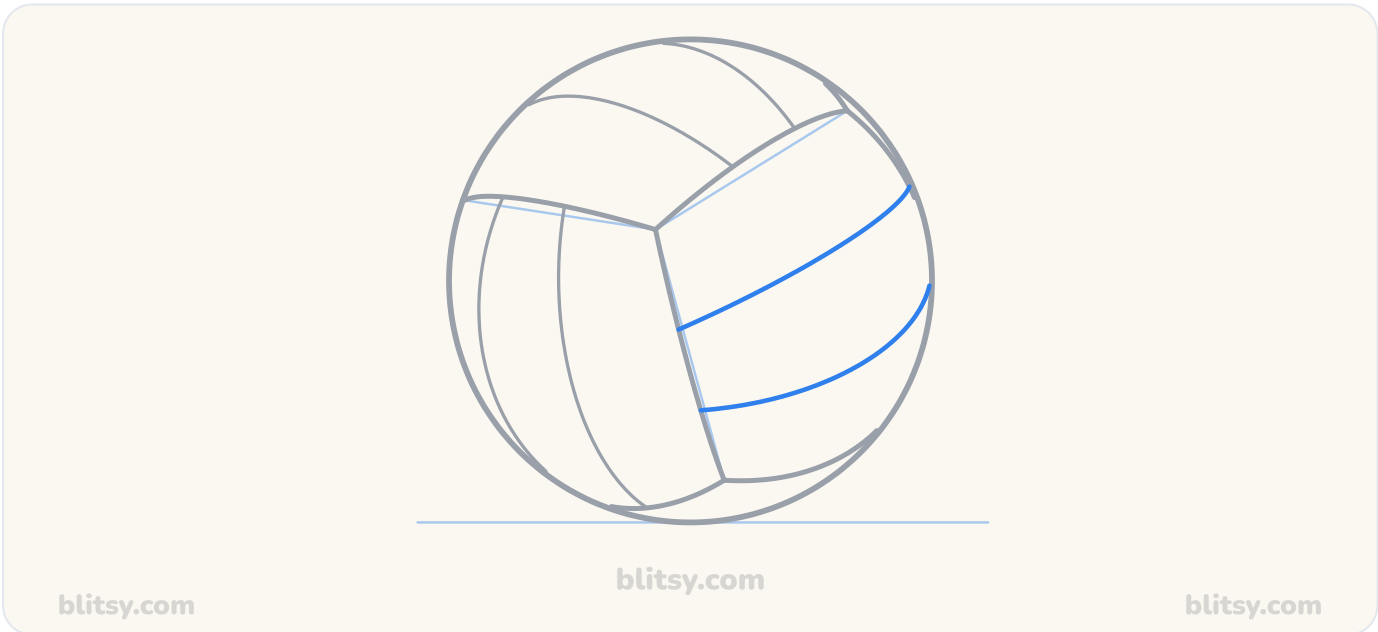
STEP 7 Draw the strips in the top group



Move to the top group, the shape between the left arm and the upper arm of the Y. Its strips run the other way: draw two curves across it from the left edge toward the upper right, each one arching up like a rainbow. The top strip is thin and squeezed against the outline, and the lowest one is wide.

💡 **Tip:** Turn your paper so the arches go the way your hand likes to move. It's easier than twisting your wrist.

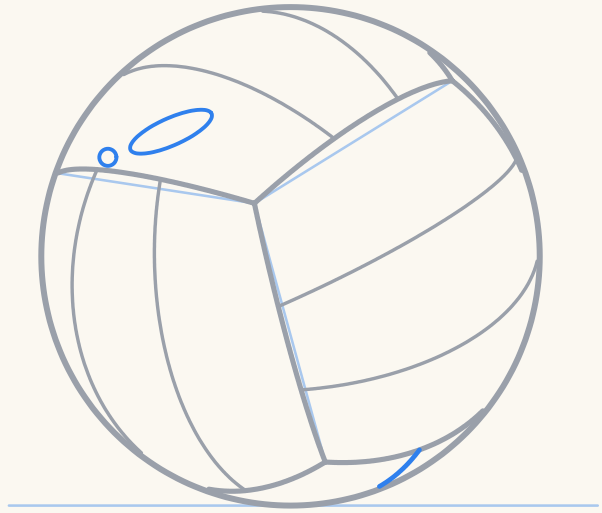
STEP 8 Draw the strips in the right group



The last group sits on the right, between the upper arm and the lower arm of the Y. Draw two long curves from the lower Y arm out to the right edge, rising gently as they go. Space them so the three strips look about even, with the outer one a little thinner.

💡 **Tip:** Check that each group's strips run at a right angle to its neighbour's strips. That crossing pattern is the real volleyball look.

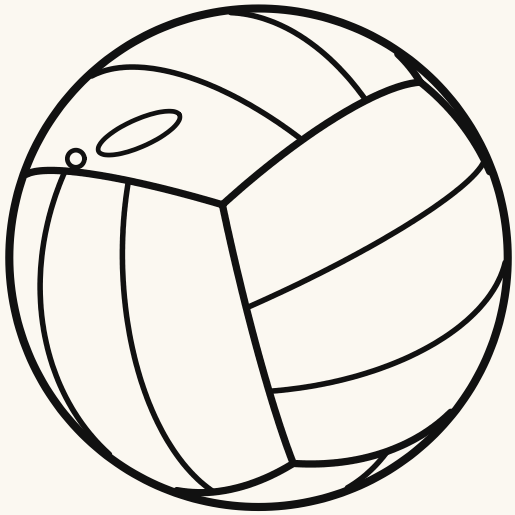
STEP 9 Add the edge pieces and a shine



Look along the outline at the bottom of the ball. A small piece of a group on the back side peeks out there, so add the short curve you see in the picture. Then draw a long, thin oval tilted on the upper left yellow strip, with a tiny circle beside it. That's the shine from the light.

💡 **Tip:** Put the shine on the same side every time you draw balls. The light should come from one direction.

STEP 10 Ink the lines and erase the guides



Go over the outline, the seams, the strips and the shine with a black marker. Use a slightly thicker line for the outline so the ball stands out. Wait until the ink is completely dry, then erase the pencil circle, the Y guide and the ground line.

💡 **Tip:** Ink the long seams in one smooth pull. Stopping halfway leaves a little blob.

STEP 11 Color your volleyball



blitsy.com
blitsy.com
blitsy.com

In each group, color one outer strip yellow and the other one blue, and leave the middle strip white. Keep the shine white too. For shading, add light gray along the lower right edge of the ball, then a soft gray oval on the ground under it. I go lightly with the gray, because a heavy shadow makes the white strips look dirty.

💡 **Tip:** Color every strip in the same direction as its seams. The strokes then curve with the ball and add to the round look.