How to Draw a Zombie

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

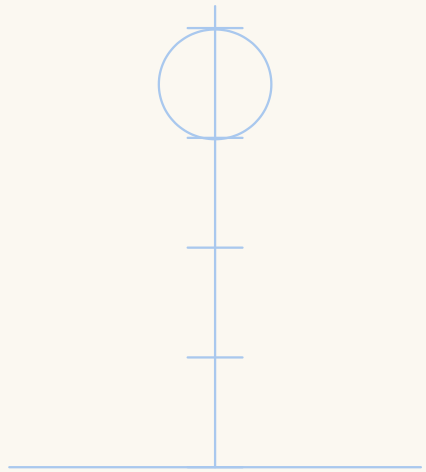
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black marker or fineliner
- Colored pencils or markers
- Plain paper

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 →

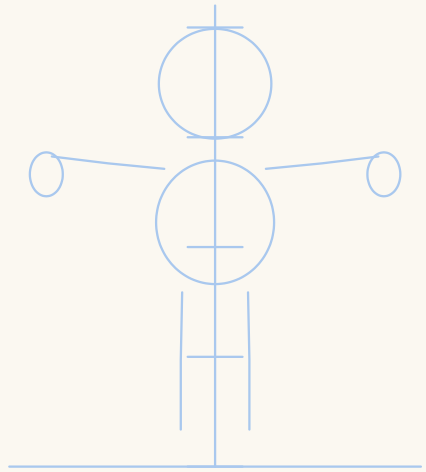
STEP 1 Draw a center line and the head circle



Draw a light ground line near the bottom of the page and a straight line up the middle. At the top, draw a circle for the head. Then add short marks down the center line, each one a head height apart, until you reach the ground. I stop at four head heights, which keeps him cartoony instead of creepy.

💡 **Tip:** Make the circle a bit bigger than feels right. A big head is what makes a cartoon look friendly.

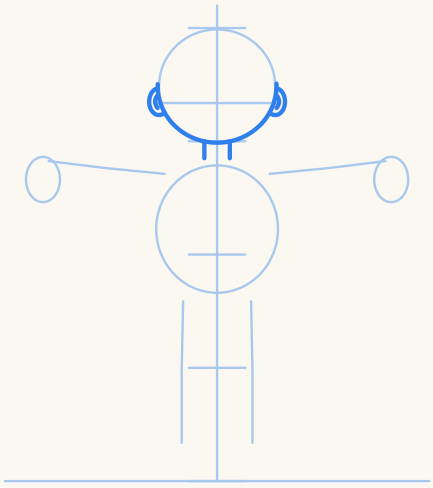
STEP 2 Add a body oval and reaching arm lines



Under the head, sketch an oval for the chest and tummy. From the top corners of the oval, draw two arm lines that go straight out to the sides and tilt up a little. This is the classic zombie reach. Bring two leg lines down to the ground, and put an oval at the end of each arm for the hands.

💡 **Tip:** Keep both arms level with each other. If one dips, he looks like he's waving instead of shuffling.

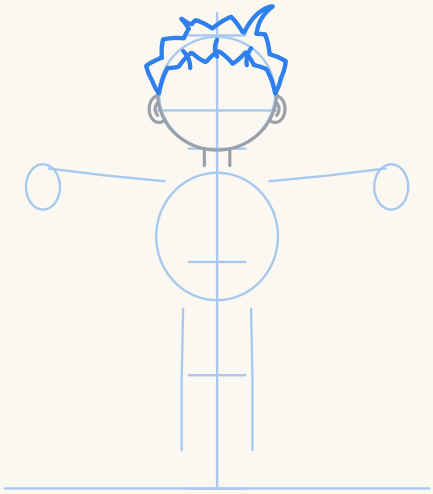
STEP 3 Outline the head and add ears plus a neck



Trace the head circle with a firmer line, slightly wider than tall. Draw a light line across the middle for the eyes, then a small C-shaped ear on each side right on that line. Finish with a short, wide neck under the chin. It should be almost as wide as the gap between the eyes, so the head sits on it naturally.

💡 **Tip:** Ears go level with the eyes. Put them higher and the head starts to look like a mouse.

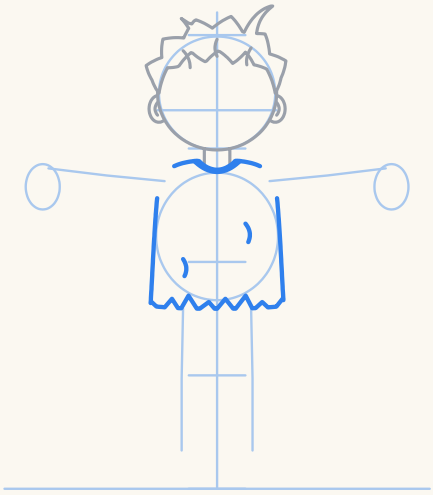
STEP 4 Give him messy, spiky hair



Zombie hair never gets combed, so I make it as messy as I can. Draw a bumpy cap of hair over the top third of the head, with uneven clumps sticking out on both sides. Add two spikes on top that lean away from each other, then a few short curved lines inside the hair for texture. Leave the forehead clear, because the stitches go there later.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the bumps different sizes on purpose. Even bumps look like a neat haircut.

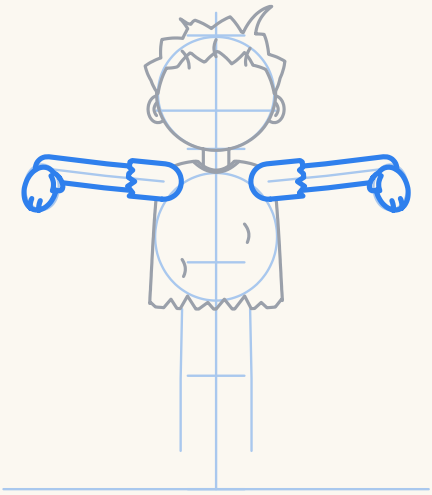
STEP 5 Draw a shirt with a torn hem



Starting at the neck, draw the shoulders sloping out, then the sides of the shirt down past the body oval. Instead of a straight bottom edge, zigzag across with small uneven points. In my experience that torn hem says zombie faster than anything else. Add a curved collar and two small tear lines.

💡 **Tip:** Mix big and small points along the hem. A perfect zigzag looks like a crown, not a rip.

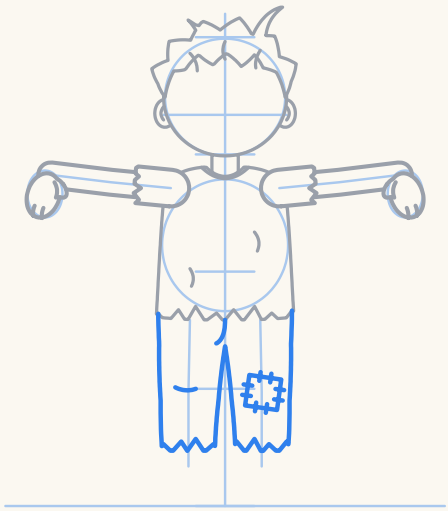
STEP 6 Add the arms, torn sleeves and droopy hands



Draw a short sleeve at each shoulder with a ragged end. Follow each arm line out with two lines about a thumb's width apart, so the arms have real thickness and aren't sticks. At the end, the hands hang down like wet mittens. Draw a rounded mitten shape below each wrist, a little thumb bump on the side nearest the body, and two short finger lines.

💡 **Tip:** Let the hands droop down from the wrist. Hands pointing straight out look like he's swimming.

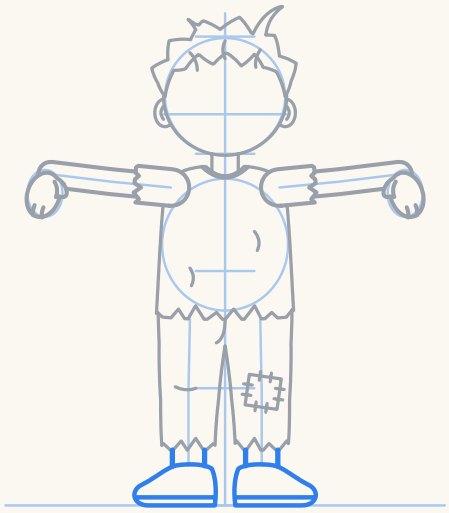
STEP 7 Draw ragged pants and a knee patch



From under the shirt, bring the pants down the leg lines. Leave a small gap between the legs so he doesn't look like he's wearing a sack. Stop a little above the ground and zigzag the bottom of each leg. On one knee, draw a slightly tilted square patch with short stitch marks across its edges.

💡 **Tip:** Tilt the patch a little. A straight patch looks printed on, a crooked one looks sewn on in a hurry.

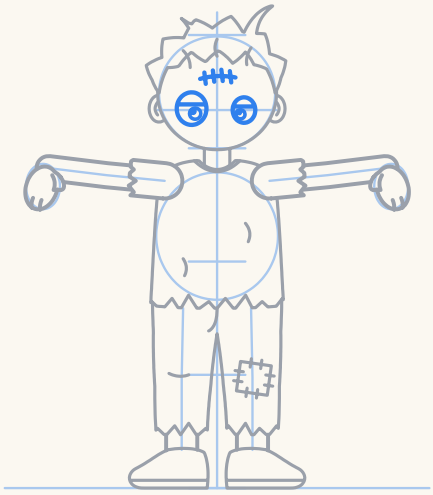
STEP 8 Add bare ankles and old shoes



Below each ragged hem, draw two short lines for the ankles. Because the pants are too short, a bit of green skin shows, and that's part of the joke. Then draw a rounded shoe on each foot, toes turned slightly out, with a line along the bottom for the sole.

💡 **Tip:** Turn the toes out a little. It makes the zombie look like he's waddling, which is funnier.

STEP 9 Draw sleepy eyes and forehead stitches



Draw two eyes on the eye line, the left one bigger than the right. A heavy eyelid line cuts across the top of each eye, so he looks half asleep. Add a round pupil in each, pointing in slightly different directions for a dopey look. On the forehead, draw a curved line with a few short ticks across it for stitches.

💡 **Tip:** Uneven eyes are the secret. Matching eyes make him look like an ordinary kid.

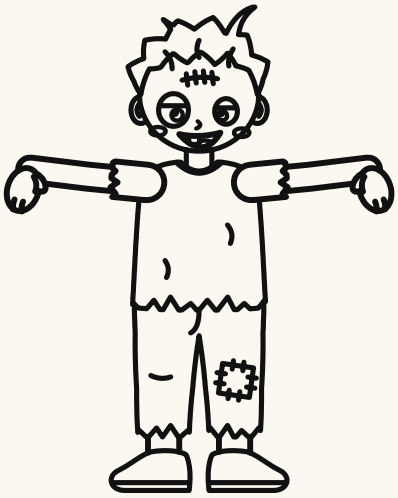
STEP 10 Draw the goofy braaains smile



Add a small hooked nose between the eyes. Below it, draw a wide open smile that's a little lopsided, with one square tooth sticking down from the top and a small tongue at the bottom. Finish with an oval on each cheek. I keep the mouth fairly small, because a huge dark mouth turns funny into scary fast.

💡 **Tip:** Ask your kids to say braaains while they draw the mouth. It always gets a laugh.

STEP 11 Ink the lines and erase the guides



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Go over every keeper line with a black marker or fineliner. I slow down on the zigzag edges so each point stays clear. Wait a minute for the ink to dry, then erase the center line, the head marks, the oval and the arm and leg lines.

💡 **Tip:** Erase in one direction with light strokes. Scrubbing back and forth can tear the paper or smear the ink.

STEP 12 Color your zombie



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All the skin parts get light green, and shade the top of the eyelids a slightly darker green. Use dark gray for the hair, purple for the shirt, blue for the pants and yellow for the patch. The shoes are brown, the tongue pink, and the eyes stay white with black pupils.

💡 **Tip:** Press harder on the side of the shirt and pants to make a darker stripe. It looks like a shadow.