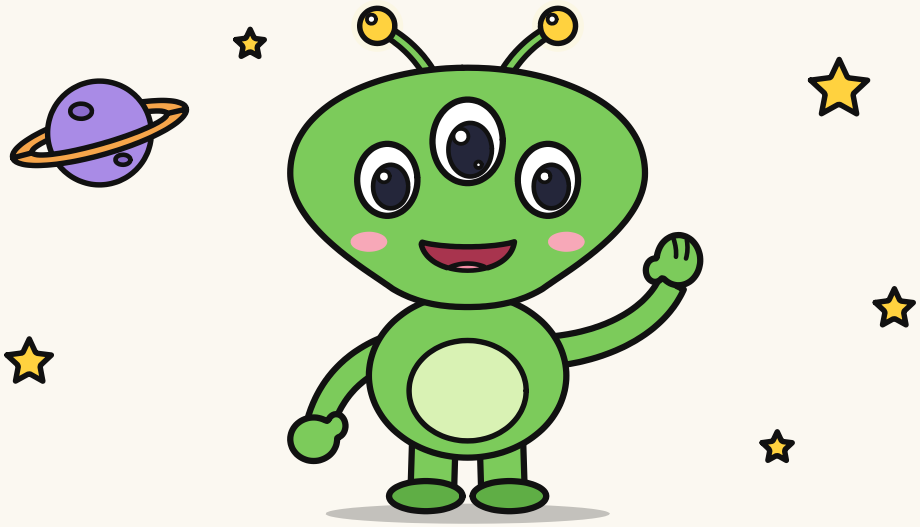
How to Draw an Alien

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

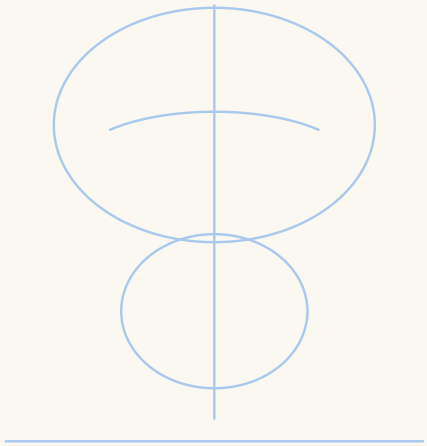
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black marker or fineliner
- Colored pencils or crayons
- Plain paper

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 →

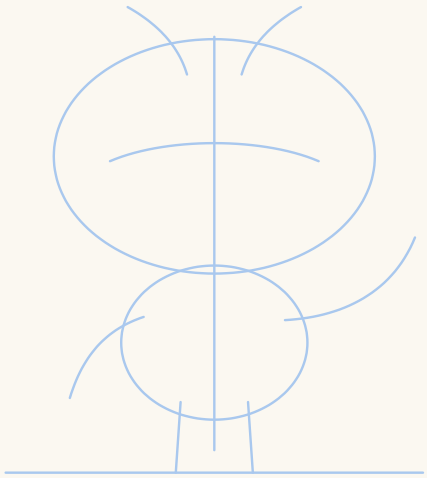
STEP 1 Sketch the head and body guides



Draw a light ground line near the bottom of the page. Above it, sketch a wide oval for the head, then a smaller oval below it for the body, overlapping the head a little. Add a straight line down the middle and a soft curve across the head, just above its center. The eyes will sit on that curve.

💡 **Tip:** Make the head oval clearly bigger than the body. A big head is what makes a cartoon alien look cute and young.

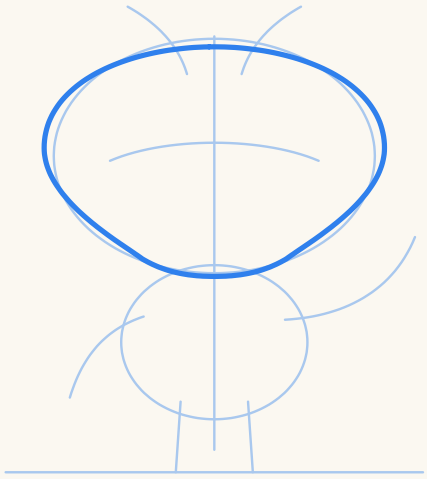
STEP 2 Add guide lines for the limbs and antennae



Two short curves rise from the top of the head and lean outward. Those are the antennae. On the left, a curve drops down and away from the body for a relaxed arm. On the right, a longer curve sweeps up past the head for the waving arm. Finish with two short, straight lines from the body to the ground for the legs.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the leg lines short. Stubby legs suit a round little body much better than long ones.

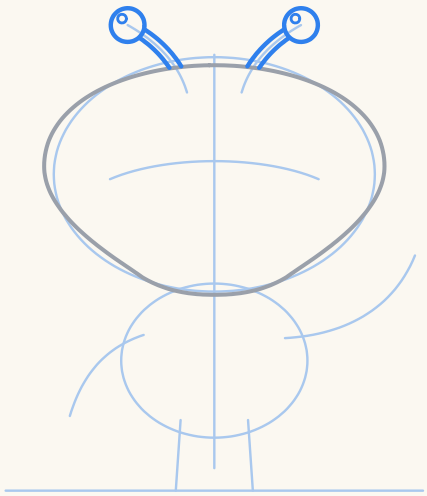
STEP 3 Draw a big bulb head



Now trace the head with a firmer line. Follow the guide around the wide top, then let the sides curve inward toward a narrower, rounded chin, a bit like an upside-down light bulb. That narrow chin is what makes the head read as alien.

💡 **Tip:** Turn your paper so your hand always pulls the pencil toward you. Curves come out smoother that way.

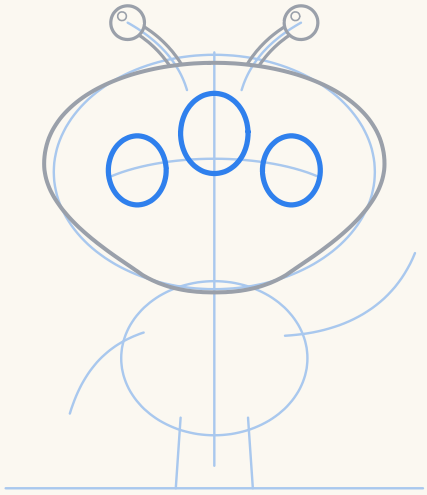
STEP 4 Give him two antennae with round tips



Follow each antenna guide with two thin lines close together, like a skinny tube growing out of the head. Stop where they touch the head outline. Put a circle on the end of each one and a tiny circle inside it near the top left. That small circle turns into a shine when you color, so the tips look like they glow.

💡 **Tip:** Draw both tips the same size. Uneven balls make the head look tilted.

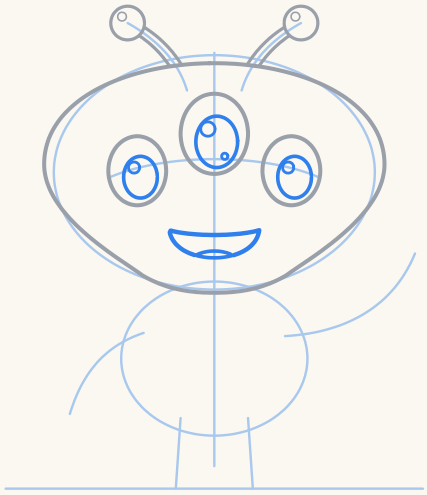
STEP 5 Draw three big eyes



Place a tall oval right on the center line for the middle eye, sitting a little above the curve. Then add two slightly smaller ovals lower down, one on each side, resting on the curve. Leave a small gap between all three so they don't touch. If three eyes feel like too many, two big ovals work fine too.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the middle eye first. It's much easier to space the side eyes once it's in place.

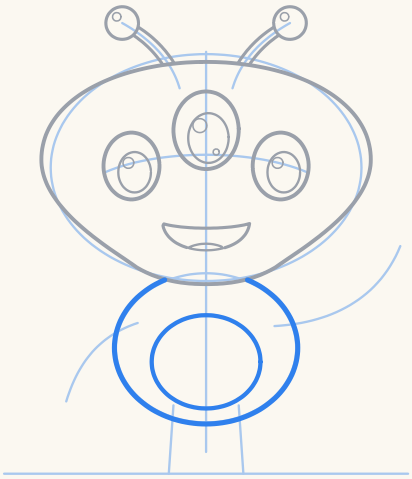
STEP 6 Add pupils, eye shine and a big smile



Inside each eye, draw a large oval pupil that fills most of it. Add a small shine circle in the top left of every pupil, plus a tiny dot lower in the middle one. Below the eyes, draw a wide smile: a gently curved top line and a deeper round line underneath. A small curve near the bottom of the mouth makes the tongue.

💡 **Tip:** Put every shine in the same corner. That's the trick that makes all three eyes look at you together.

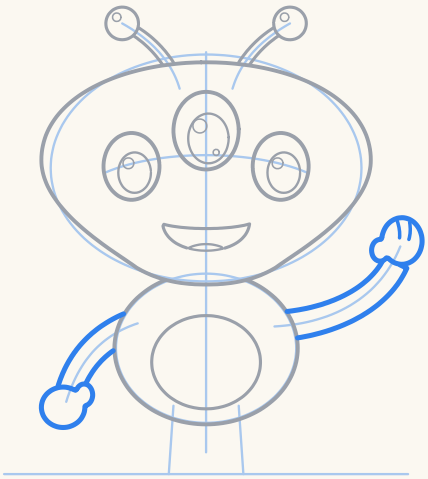
STEP 7 Outline the round body and belly



Go over the body oval with a firm line, starting where it peeks out under the chin. Stop at the head, since the head sits in front. Then draw a smaller oval inside, a little low, for the belly. It gets a lighter green later and makes the alien look soft.

💡 **Tip:** Leave a thick band of body around the belly. If the belly touches the edge, it looks like a hole.

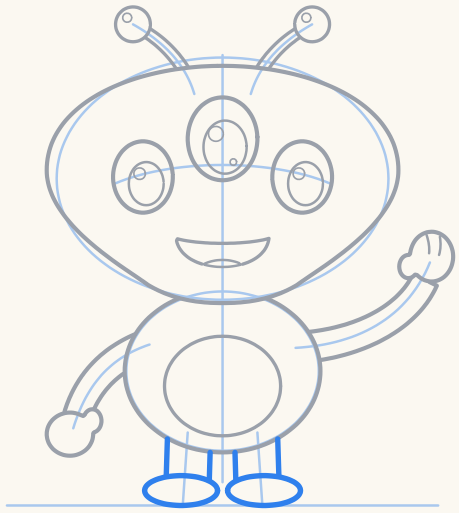
STEP 8 Draw waving arms with mitten hands



Follow each arm guide with two lines about a finger width apart, starting behind the body. The left arm ends in a round mitten hand with a small thumb bump pointing toward the body. The right arm bends up, and its hand is a taller mitten with a thumb on the side facing the head. Two little lines on that hand suggest fingers.

💡 **Tip:** Make the hands a touch wider than the arms. Hands that are too small make the wave hard to see.

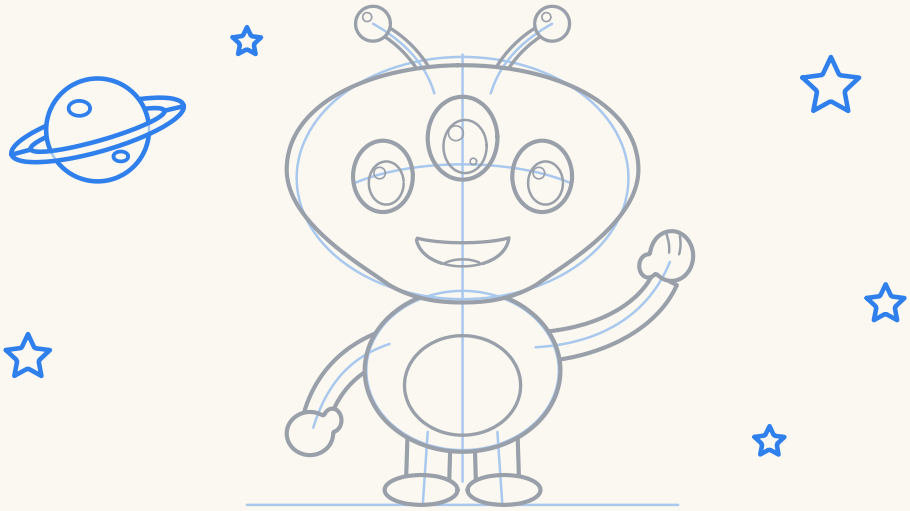
STEP 9 Add short legs and round feet



Under the body, draw two short legs as rounded tubes along the leg guides. At the bottom of each, add a flat oval foot sitting right on the ground line. The feet should be wider than the legs, which keeps your alien steady instead of tipping over.

💡 **Tip:** Let the feet nearly touch in the middle. A wide stance looks stiff on such a small character.

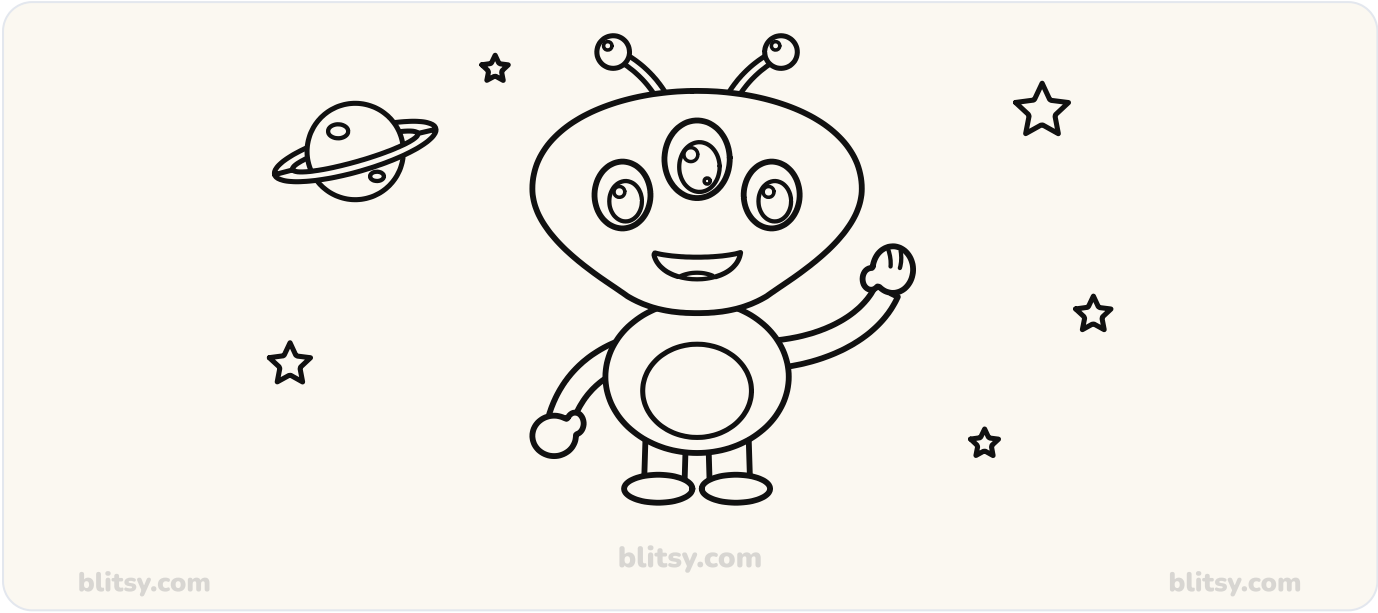
STEP 10 Draw a ringed planet and some stars



In the top left corner, sketch a circle for a planet. Wrap a long, thin, tilted band around its middle for the ring, leaving out the part hidden behind the planet. Add two small craters. Then scatter five stars of different sizes around the alien, away from his antennae and hands.

💡 **Tip:** Draw each star in one go: five points, never lifting the pencil. Then round the corners slightly.

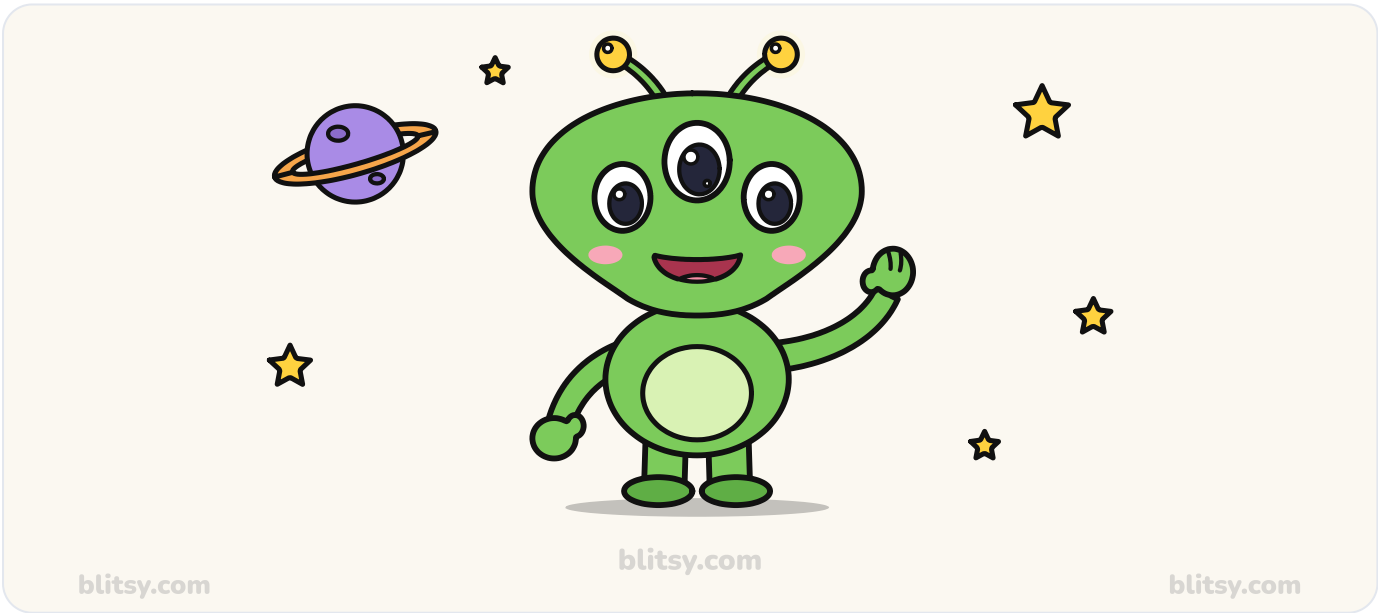
STEP 11 Ink the outline and erase the guides



Trace every keeper line with the black marker. I do the face first while my hand is steady and the planet and stars last. Skip the guide ovals and the center line. Wait a minute for the ink to dry, then erase the pencil underneath.

💡 **Tip:** Go slowly around the eyes. Small circles show every wobble, so lift the pen and restart if you need to.

STEP 12 Color your alien



Green covers the head and stalks plus the body and limbs, with a darker green for the feet. The belly is light green and the antenna tips yellow. Fill the pupils black but keep the shine spots white. The mouth is dark pink with a lighter pink tongue, and two soft pink cheeks finish the face. Make the planet purple with an orange ring and the stars yellow.

💡 **Tip:** Press lightly for the pink cheeks. A soft blush looks cute, but a heavy one looks like a sunburn.