How to Draw an Angel

11 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

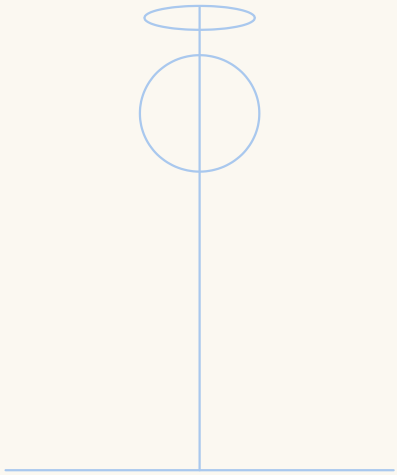
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black marker or fineliner
- Colored pencils or crayons
- Plain paper

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 →

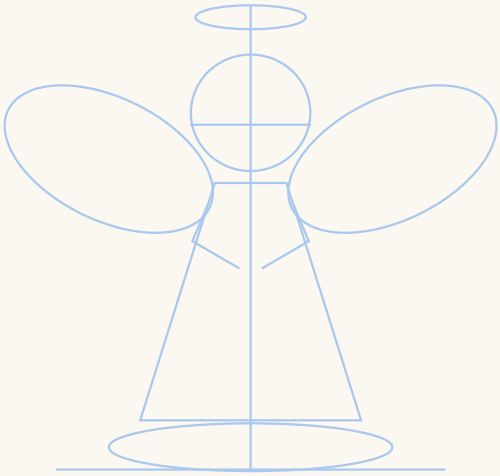
STEP 1 Draw a center line, the head circle and a halo oval



Lay down a light ground line near the bottom of the page, then one straight line up through the middle. The head is a circle near the top of that line, about a fifth of the page tall. Just above it, float a flat oval for the halo, a bit wider than the head.

💡 **Tip:** Leave a small gap between the halo oval and the circle. Curly hair will fill some of that space later.

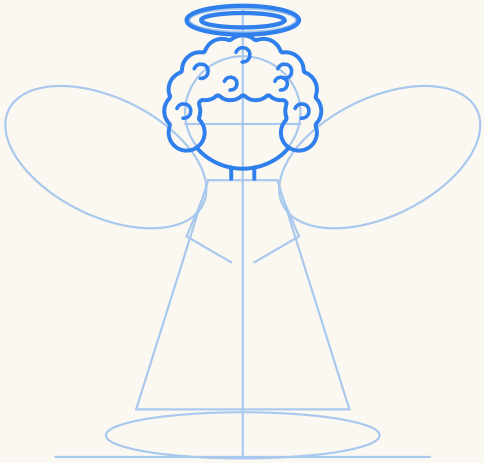
STEP 2 Sketch guides for the robe, arms, wings and cloud



Put a cross line through the head a little below the middle for the eyes. Under the head, a small flat box makes the shoulders, and a tall triangle flares from it to a wide base for the robe. Two tilted ovals go behind the shoulders for wings, and a short bent line on each side shows where the arms fold in. Finish with a wide flat oval at the bottom for the cloud.

💡 **Tip:** Tilt the wing ovals upward. Wings that point down make the angel look sleepy instead of cheerful.

STEP 3 Add curly hair, the face edge and the halo



Around the top of the head circle, draw a ring of round bumps, like a fluffy cloud of curls, coming down to about ear height. Across the forehead, four smaller bumps make the bangs. Add a few tiny "c" swirls inside the hair, trace the cheeks and chin, then draw two short neck lines. Last, go over the halo with two ovals, one inside the other, so it looks like a ring.

💡 **Tip:** Make the curls different sizes. Perfectly even bumps start to look like a flower instead of hair.

STEP 4 Outline a long flowing robe



Start at the neck with a small curved neckline. The shoulders slope gently, and the sides follow your triangle guide all the way down to a curved hem. I stop the robe's side lines where the sleeves will sit, which saves erasing later. Two long soft lines on the skirt make folds, and one more curve just above the hem marks the gold trim.

💡 **Tip:** Let the robe reach almost to the cloud. A long robe is what makes the figure read as an angel and not just a kid in a dress.

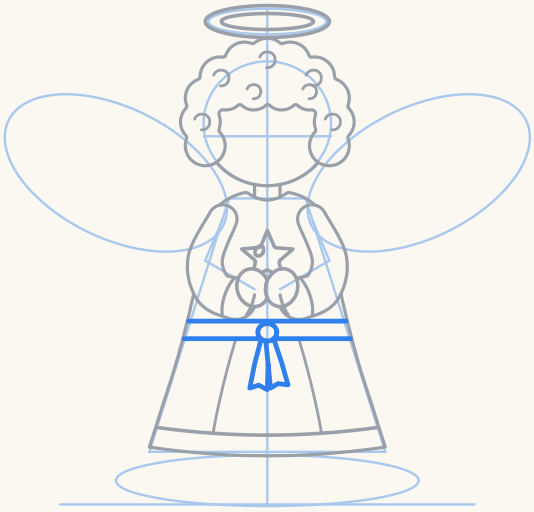
STEP 5 Draw the sleeves, mitten hands and a little star



Each sleeve starts at the shoulder, bulges out at the elbow and comes back in toward the middle of the chest, getting wider at the end like a bell. Where the sleeves meet, draw two rounded mitten hands touching each other. Then sit a small five-point star on top of the hands, with a tiny shine dot on it.

💡 **Tip:** Give the sleeves real width all the way along. Thin arm lines make the angel look like a stick figure under a sheet.

STEP 6 Add a gold sash with ribbons



Just below the hands, two lines straight across the robe make the sash. In the middle, a small circle becomes the knot, and two ribbon ends hang down from it with little notches at the tips.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the sash narrow. If it gets too wide, the top of the robe looks squashed.

STEP 7 Draw two feathered wings



Use the oval guides to draw each wing's top edge, curving up and out to a rounded tip. The bottom edge is a row of big round bumps, which are the long feathers. Inside the wing, draw a second, smaller row of bumps, and a third short row near the top. Three rows are enough to say "feathers" without hours of work.

💡 **Tip:** Hide the wing behind the shoulder and sleeve. If the wing line crosses the robe, it looks pinned on from the front.

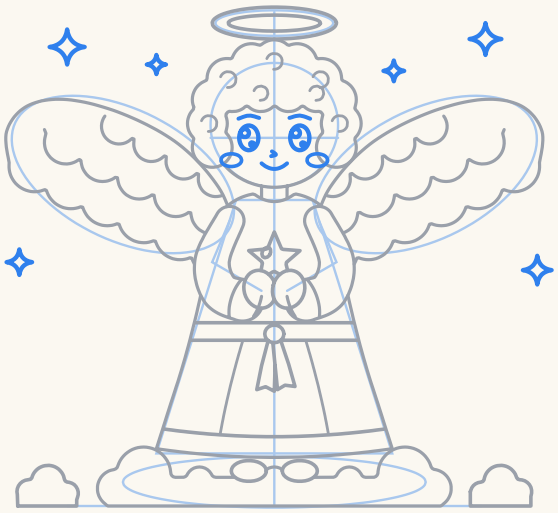
STEP 8 Draw little feet and a puffy cloud



Two small oval feet peek out under the hem. Around them, draw the cloud: a big round puff on each side, a few small bumps in between, and a flat bottom along the ground line. Two tiny clouds on the sides fill the empty corners.

💡 **Tip:** Give the cloud a flat bottom. Round all the way around, it looks like a balloon rather than a cloud.

STEP 9 Give the angel a sweet face and add sparkles



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Place two tall oval eyes on the cross line with a gap of about one eye between them. Leave a big and a small shine circle in each, and add soft curved brows. A tiny hook makes the nose, a short curve makes the smile, and an oval on each cheek gets colored pink. Scatter a few four-point sparkles in the sky around the wings.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the smile small and close to the nose. That gentle look suits an angel better than a wide grin.

STEP 10 Ink the lines and erase the guides



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Trace every keeper line with the marker. I start with the face while my hand is fresh, then the hair and the robe, then the wings, with the clouds last. Once the ink is fully dry, erase every guide line.

💡 **Tip:** Wait a minute before you erase. Fresh marker smears straight across a white robe.

STEP 11 Color your angel



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Color the halo bright yellow, along with the star and sparkles, and use a deeper gold for the sash and hem trim. The curls are light brown and the skin is peach. Leave the robe and the top of the wings white, then add light blue to the lower feather rows and the clouds. Finish with pink cheeks and black eyes.

💡 **Tip:** Shade one side of the robe with a very light gray or blue. A white robe with no shading looks like a hole in the page.