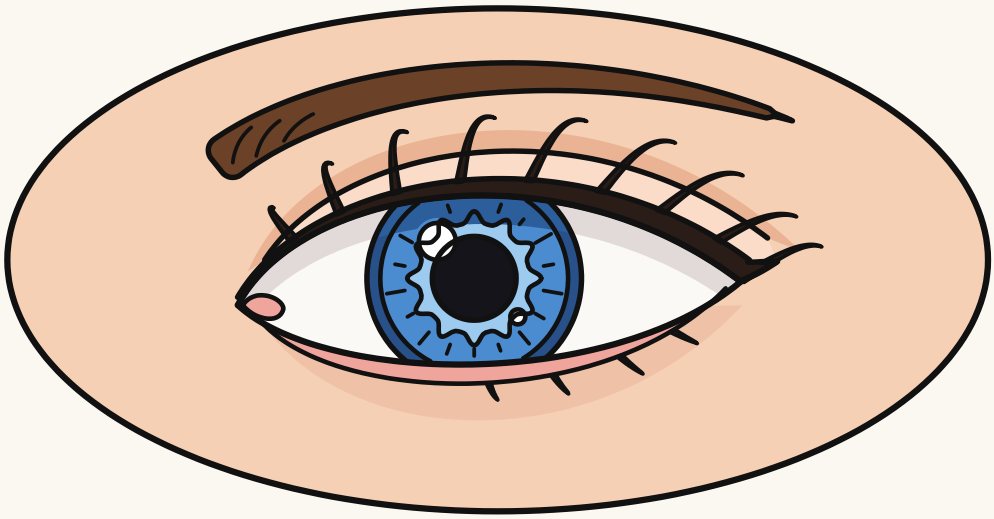
How to Draw an Eye

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

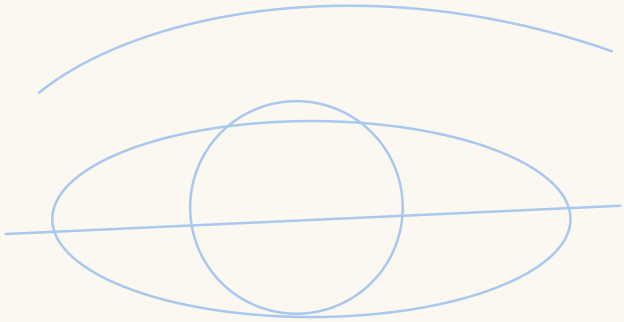
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black fineliner
- Colored pencils
- White paper

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 →

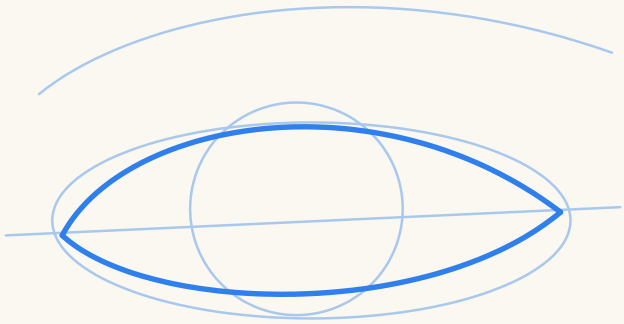
STEP 1 Sketch the light guides



Draw a long, slightly tilted line across the middle of the page, a little lower on the left. Around it, sketch a wide flat oval about two and a half times as wide as it is tall. Put a circle in the middle of the oval for the iris, and a soft arch above everything for the eyebrow.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the oval wide. A tall oval turns into a surprised, staring eye.

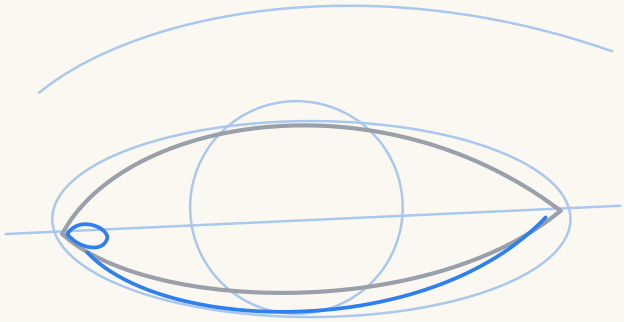
STEP 2 Draw the almond eye shape



Now turn the oval into an almond. The upper lid arches highest a little to the left of center, while the lower lid is flatter and dips lowest toward the right. Both curves meet in a soft point at each corner, with the inner corner (left) sitting a little lower than the outer one.

💡 **Tip:** If both lids are mirror images, the eye looks like a lemon. Shift the high point of the top curve toward the nose side.

STEP 3 Add the tear duct and lower rim

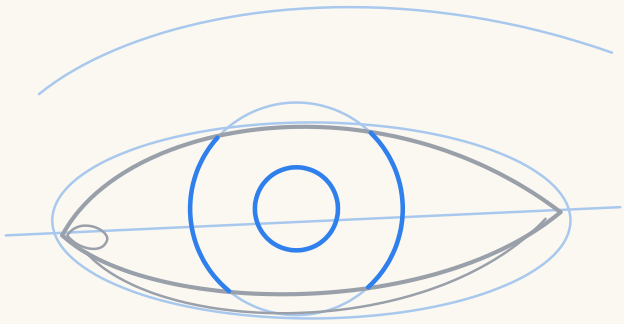


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In the inner corner, draw a tiny teardrop pointing into the corner. That's the pink tear duct, and it's a small detail that makes an eye look human. Below the lower lid, add a second line that follows it closely, so the lower lid gets a thin rim of its own.

💡 **Tip:** Let the rim line fade out before it reaches each corner rather than closing it into a box.

STEP 4 Draw the iris and pupil

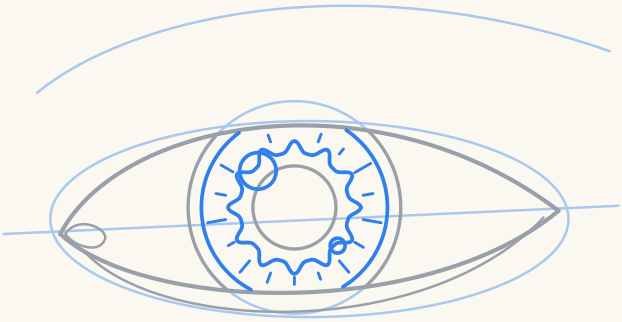


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Trace the iris circle firmly, but stop where it meets the eyelids. In a relaxed eye the upper lid covers the top of the iris and the lower lid just touches or covers its bottom. Then add a round pupil in the exact center, a bit less than half as wide as the iris.

💡 **Tip:** Never draw the whole iris circle with white showing all around it. That only happens when someone is shocked.

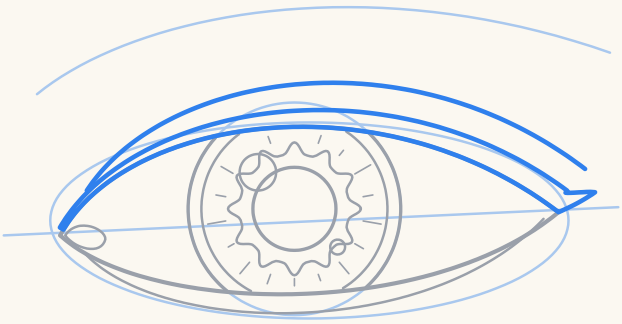
STEP 5 Add iris details and highlights



Draw a second circle just inside the iris edge for the darker outer ring. Around the pupil, sketch a wavy star shape, then a ring of short lines pointing outward from it. Last, add one bigger circle for the highlight at the upper left, overlapping the pupil a little, and a tiny one at the lower right.

💡 **Tip:** Put the highlights in the same spot on both eyes if you ever draw a pair. Mismatched shines make a face look cross-eyed.

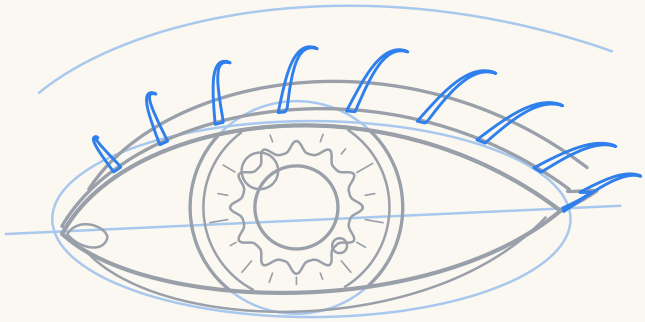
STEP 6 Draw the lash line and the lid crease



Thicken the upper lid into a dark band that starts thin at the inner corner and gets wider toward the outside, ending in a small flick past the corner. Above it, draw the crease of the eyelid as a long curve, close to the eye on the left and with more room on the right.

💡 **Tip:** The crease never touches the lash line. Leave a gap so the eyelid has some skin to show.

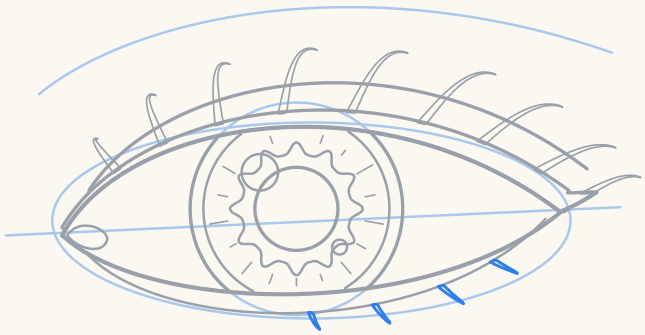
STEP 7 Curl the upper lashes



Each lash grows out of the top of the lash band, curves upward and then flips out toward the outer corner. I make them short near the inner corner and longest around the outer third, and I tilt each one a little more to the right than the one before. Nine lashes are plenty.

💡 **Tip:** Flick each lash from the root outward in one quick stroke. Slow lashes come out wobbly and blunt.

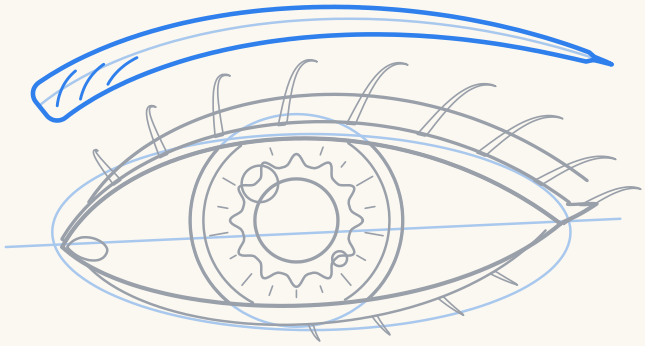
STEP 8 Add a few lower lashes



Under the lower rim, draw four short lashes on the outer half only, leaning down and out. Lower lashes are much shorter and fewer than the top ones. Skipping the inner half keeps the eye from looking heavy or tired.

💡 **Tip:** Keep a small space between the lashes. A solid row of them looks like a fence.

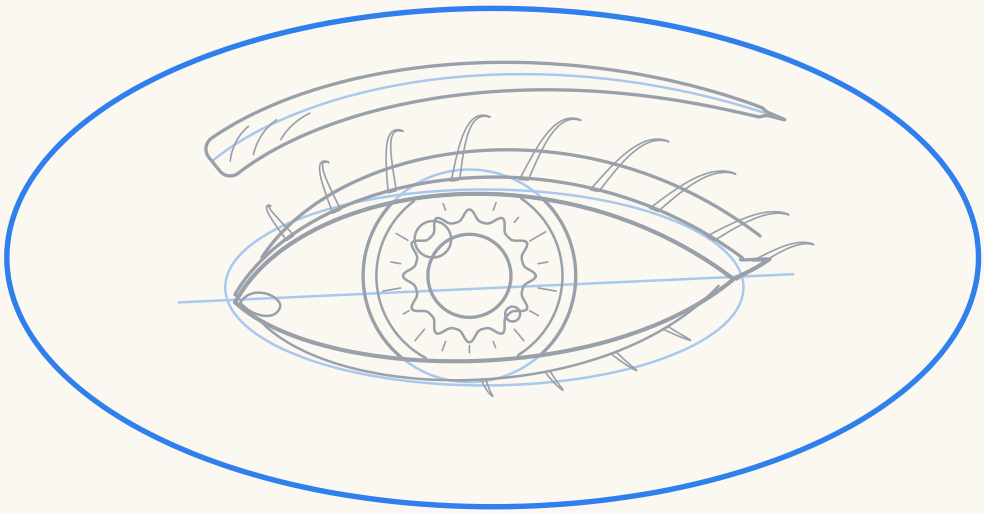
STEP 9 Shape the eyebrow



Follow the brow arch with a shape that's thick above the inner corner and narrows to a fine point past the outer corner. Its highest spot sits roughly above the outer edge of the iris. Add three short hair strokes at the thick end, pointing up and out.

💡 **Tip:** Start the brow just above the tear duct, not in the middle of the eye. A brow that starts too far right looks raised.

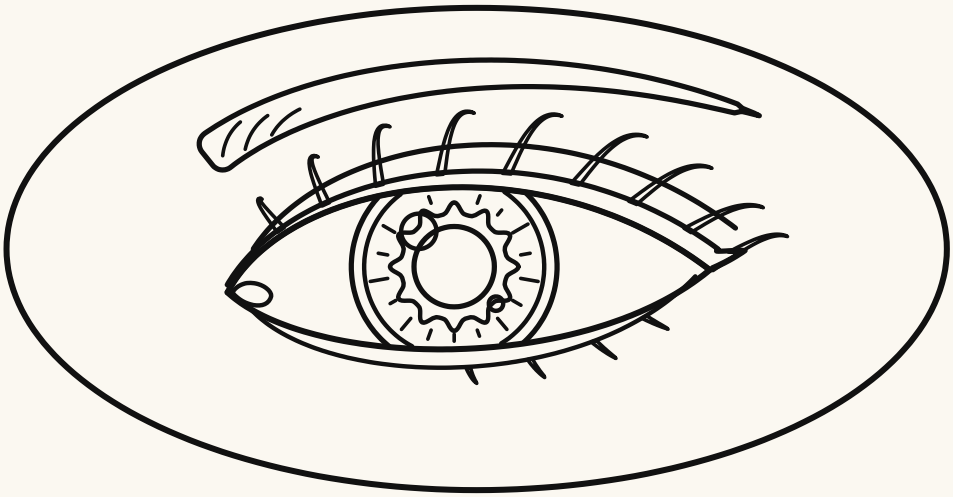
STEP 10 Draw a soft skin shape around it



Wrap a big, smooth oval around the eye and brow with space on every side. It works like a little window onto the face and gives you room for skin tone and shadows. You can skip it if you plan to put the eye on a face later.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the oval wider than tall so the eye sits comfortably inside without touching the edge.

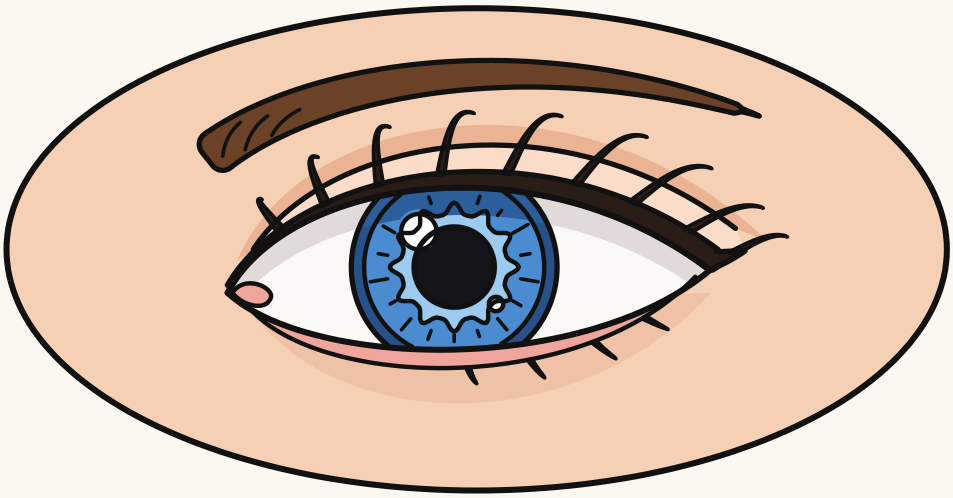
STEP 11 Ink the eye and erase the guides



Go over all the keeper lines with the black fineliner. I ink the iris and pupil first while my hand is steady, then the lids, then the lashes and brow. Wait a minute for the ink to dry, then erase every pencil guide.

💡 **Tip:** Turn the paper so you always pull the pen toward you on the long lid curves.

STEP 12 Color the eye



Color the skin peach and the eyelid a touch lighter. A darker peach goes above the crease and in a soft crescent under the eye. The white of the eye gets a light gray band under the upper lid. Color the iris blue with a dark blue ring and a light blue star, then make the pupil, lash line and lashes black and the brow brown. Leave both highlights white.

💡 **Tip:** That gray shadow under the lid is the secret to a round eyeball. A pure white eye looks flat and pasted on.