How to Draw Hot Chocolate

11 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black 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 →

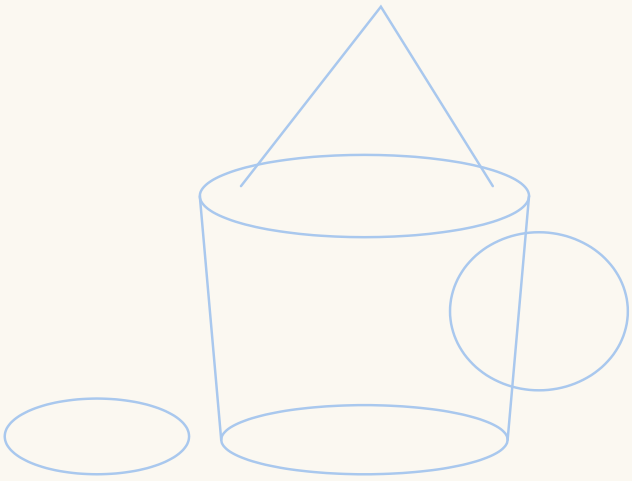
STEP 1 Sketch two ovals for the mug



Draw a wide, flat oval for the top of the mug. Below it, add a slightly smaller oval for the bottom, then join their ends with two lines that lean in a little. The top oval being wider is what makes the mug look like it's sitting on a table and seen from slightly above.

💡 **Tip:** Keep both ovals flat. A round circle on top makes the cup look like it's tipping toward you.

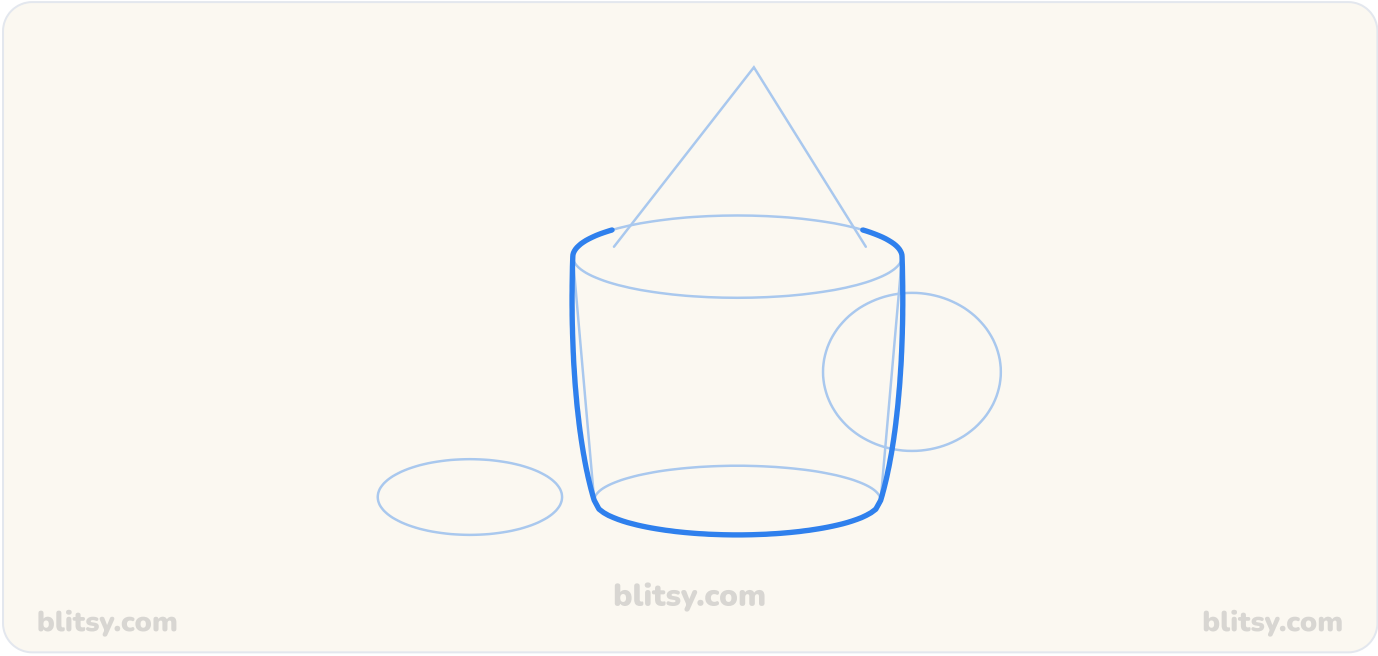
STEP 2 Add guides for the handle, cream and cookie



On the right side, draw a circle that overlaps the mug wall for the handle. Above the top oval, sketch a tall triangle; the cream swirl will fit inside it. Finally, a small flat oval to the left of the mug marks where the cookie will lie.

💡 **Tip:** Let the cream triangle be wider at the bottom than the cocoa is narrow. Cream that spills a bit looks generous.

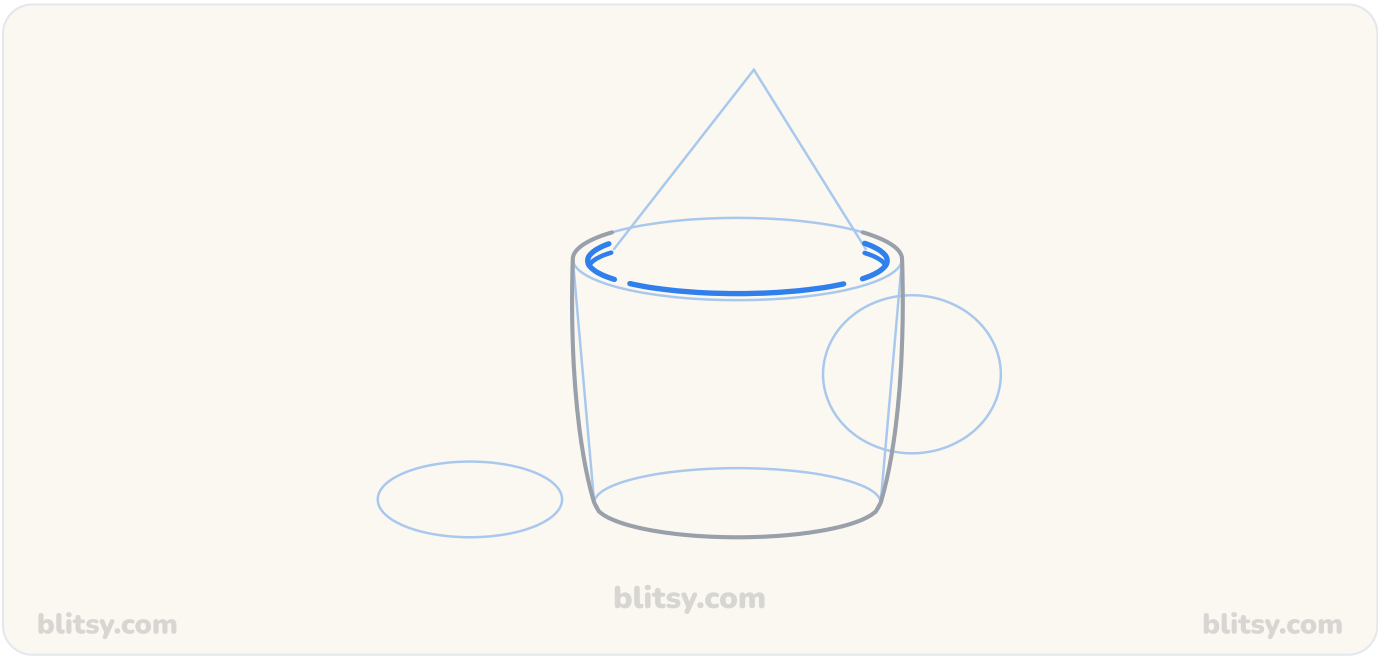
STEP 3 Outline the mug



Go over the back half of the top oval, both side lines and the front curve of the bottom with a firmer line. Bend the sides outward very slightly so the mug feels rounded instead of like a bucket. Skip the front edge of the top oval for now.

💡 **Tip:** Round off the two bottom corners. Sharp corners make the mug look like a paper cup.

STEP 4 Draw the rim and the cocoa surface



Just inside the top oval, draw a second oval a little smaller. That gap is the thickness of the mug wall. Then add a curve a bit lower inside it for the cocoa, so a thin strip of the inside wall shows at the back. Leave small breaks where the cream and marshmallows will cover the lines.

💡 **Tip:** The cocoa sits below the rim, never level with it. That tiny drop makes the cup look full but not overflowing.

STEP 5 Add the curved handle



Trace the outside of the handle circle where it shows past the mug, then draw a smaller oval inside it for the hole. The handle should be thick and chunky. When I teach this, most beginners draw a thin loop, and the mug suddenly looks fragile.

💡 **Tip:** Make the handle about half as tall as the mug. Too small and it looks like a teacup.

STEP 6 Pile on a swirl of whipped cream



Build the cream from the bottom up in three rings, each one smaller than the last. Give every ring a puffy top and a wavy, bumpy lower edge that overlaps the ring under it. Finish with a little curl at the top that leans to one side, like a soft-serve tip.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the bumps on each ring about the same size. Mixing tiny and huge bumps makes the cream look lumpy.

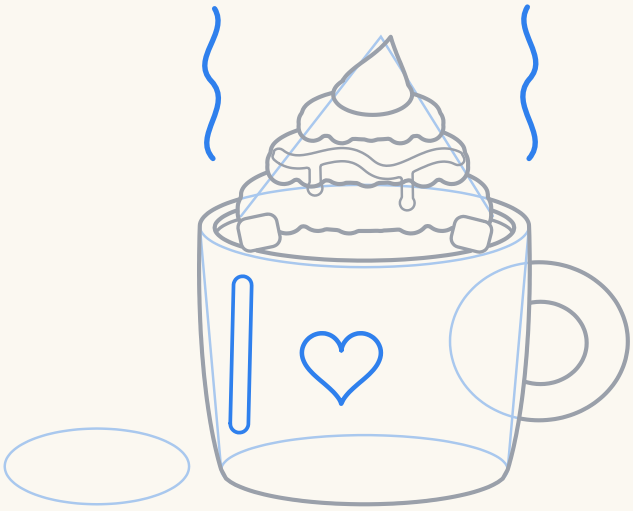
STEP 7 Drizzle chocolate and drop in marshmallows



Draw a wavy ribbon across the middle of the cream, following its curve, with two short drips hanging down. Draw the ribbon as two lines close together so you can color it later. Then add two small rounded squares on the cocoa at each side of the cream for marshmallows.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the drips short and uneven. Long, matching drips turn into stripes.

STEP 8 Draw a heart and curly steam



Place a heart on the front of the mug, a little left of the middle. Because the mug turns slightly, its center is not exactly halfway across. Add a thin rounded stripe near the left edge as a shine, then draw two wavy steam lines rising on each side of the cream.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the steam with quick, loose wiggles. Slow, careful steam ends up looking like worms.

STEP 9 Add a cookie on the side



Inside the small oval, draw the cookie as a flat top oval with a thin band underneath for its thickness. Take a bite out of one edge with a few bumpy curves. Scatter six or so little ovals on top for chocolate chips.

💡 **Tip:** The bite is what tells people it's a cookie and not a coaster, so don't skip it.

STEP 10 Ink the lines and erase the guides



Trace all your keeper lines with a black fineliner: the mug, rim, cocoa, handle, cream, drizzle, marshmallows, heart, steam and cookie. Wait until the ink is fully dry, then erase the ovals, the triangle and the side guides.

💡 **Tip:** Ink the steam and the drizzle a touch thinner than the mug outline so the cup stays the star.

STEP 11 Color your hot chocolate



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Color the mug and handle light blue, pressing harder on the right side for shadow. The heart is pink, the cocoa brown and the drizzle dark brown. Keep the cream pale with a soft beige along each ring's lower edge. One marshmallow can stay white and the other light pink. The cookie is light brown with a darker side and dark chips.

💡 **Tip:** Leave the shine stripe on the mug almost white. That single light line makes the mug look glossy.