How to Draw Ice Cream

11 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

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

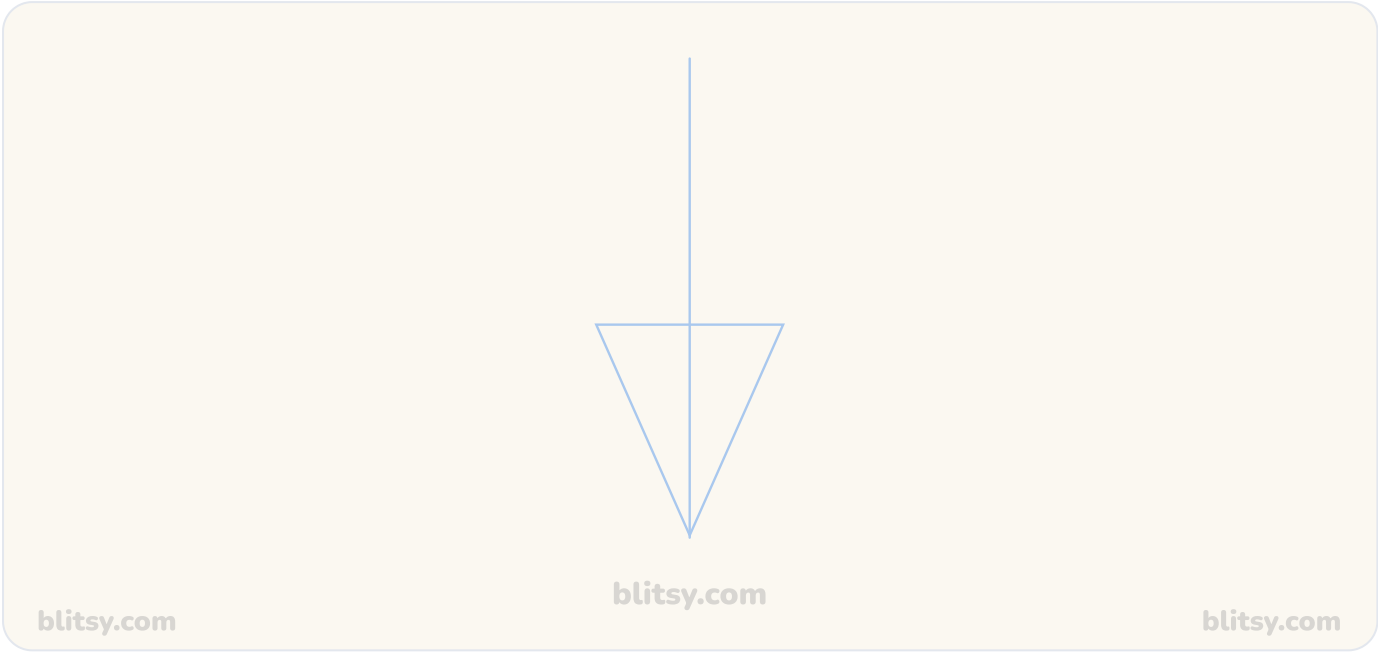
How to use this guide

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 →

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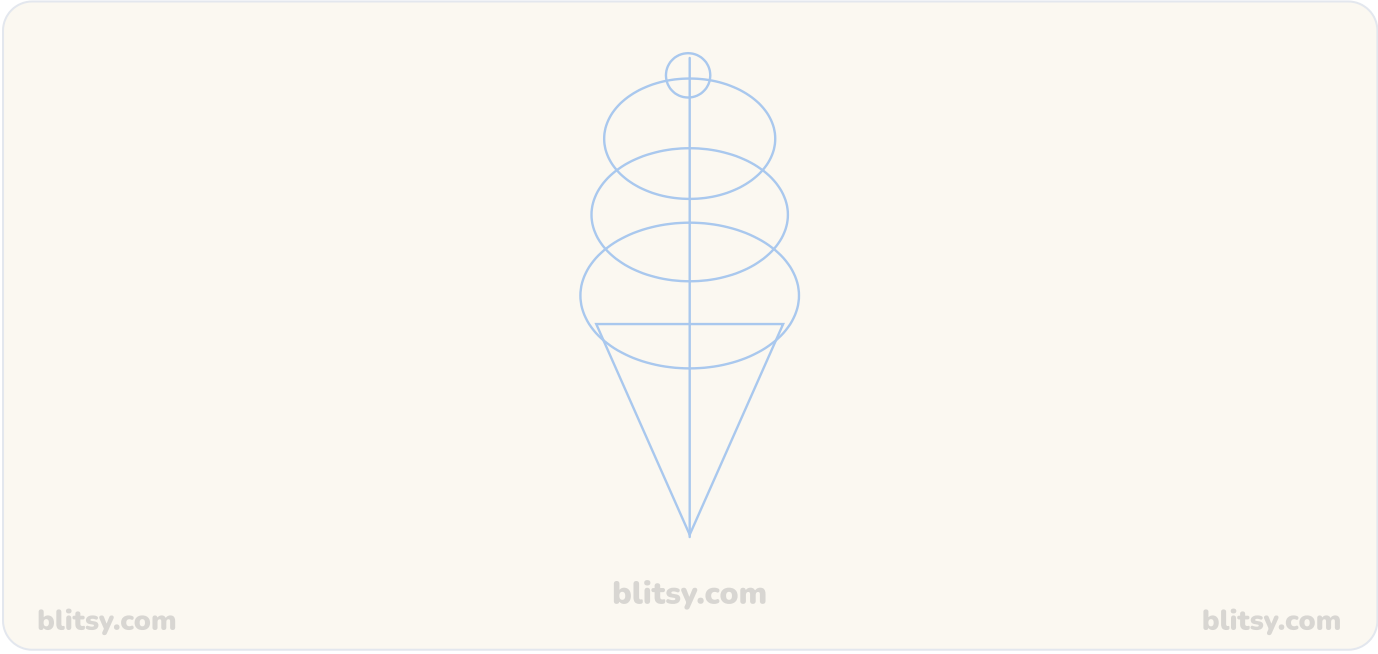
STEP 1 Draw a center line and a cone triangle



Start with a light vertical line down the middle of your page. In the lower half, draw an upside-down triangle centered on that line, with its point near the bottom edge. The top of the triangle should be roughly as wide as the triangle is tall, maybe a bit less. That keeps the cone from looking like a carrot.

💡 **Tip:** Press so softly that the line almost disappears. Every guide gets erased later.

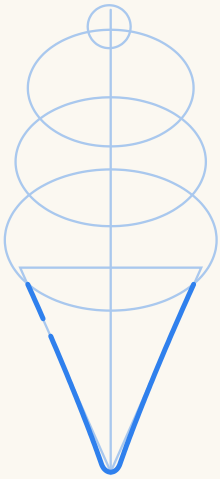
STEP 2 Stack three ovals for the scoops



Draw a wide oval sitting on top of the triangle, slightly wider than the cone's top edge. Stack a smaller oval on it so they overlap. A third oval, smaller still, goes on top of that. Each one should cover the bottom of the next. I finish with a little circle on the very top for the cherry.

💡 **Tip:** Shrink each oval a little as you go up. Equal sizes make the stack look like a snowman.

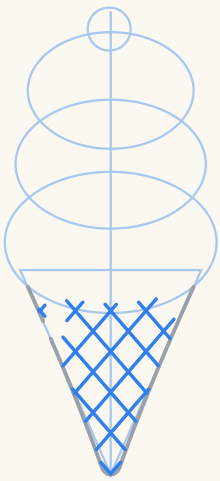
STEP 3 Outline the cone



Go over the two long sides of the triangle with firmer, straight lines and round off the tip. You don't need the top edge, because the first scoop will hide it. A soft, round tip looks friendlier than a sharp needle point.

💡 **Tip:** Draw one side, then turn the paper and draw the other in the same direction so they match.

STEP 4 Add the waffle criss-cross



Draw a set of evenly spaced slanted lines across the cone, all leaning the same way. Then add a second set leaning the opposite way so they cross into little diamonds. Stop each line at the cone edge. Most beginners space them too tightly, and the cone turns into a dark smudge, so leave room between them.

💡 **Tip:** Use the first line as a ruler for the gap. Matching gaps matter more than straight lines.

STEP 5 Draw the chocolate scoop with drips



Trace the top of the bottom oval as a round dome. Its lower edge is the fun part: draw a row of small bumps, like a ruffle, that sticks out a little past the cone on both sides. From that bumpy edge, let two drips run down over the cone, one long and one short, each ending in a round drop.

💡 **Tip:** Make the drips different lengths. Two matching drips look stiff, uneven ones look melty.

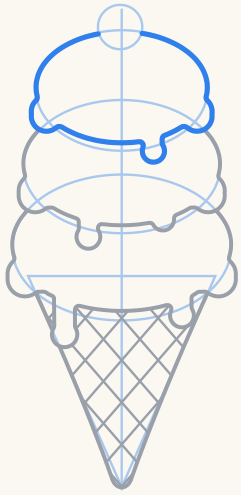
STEP 6 Add the strawberry scoop



The middle scoop is built the same way, just a bit smaller. Draw its round top over the second oval, then a bumpy bottom edge that sits over the chocolate scoop. Add two short drips that hang onto the chocolate. Erase or simply ignore the chocolate lines that end up under this scoop.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the bumps on each scoop roughly the same size, or the edge starts to look torn.

STEP 7 Finish with the vanilla scoop on top



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Now the smallest scoop. Give it a round top, a ruffled bottom over the strawberry, and just one drip on the right side. I like the top scoop to be the roundest of the three, because it's the part people notice first.

💡 **Tip:** If the stack leans, fix it now while everything is still pencil. Line the scoops up on the center line.

STEP 8 Place a cherry with a stem

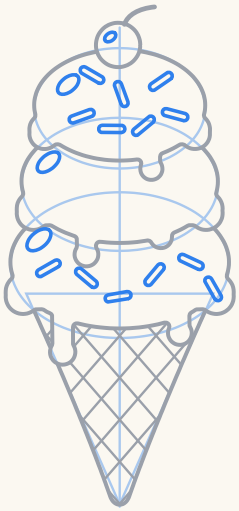


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Draw a round cherry on top of the vanilla scoop, sinking into it slightly so it looks heavy. From the top of the cherry, pull one curved line up and to the right for the stem. A thick line works fine here; there's no need to draw the stem as two lines.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the cherry small, about a quarter as wide as the top scoop.

STEP 9 Sprinkle it and add shines



Scatter short rounded sticks across the vanilla and chocolate scoops, pointing in different directions. Leave the strawberry plain so the eye has a place to rest. Then draw a small slanted oval near the upper left of each scoop and one on the cherry. Those shines tell the viewer the light comes from the left.

💡 **Tip:** Seven or so sprinkles per scoop is plenty. Too many and the scoop disappears.

STEP 10 Ink the lines and erase the guides



Trace every keeper line with a black marker: the cone, the waffle lines, all three scoops, the cherry, the sprinkles and the shines. Skip the center line and the ovals. Let the ink dry for a minute before you erase, or the eraser will smear it across the whole cone.

💡 **Tip:** Ink the waffle lines with a lighter hand than the outline so the cone shape still stands out.

STEP 11 Color your ice cream



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Color the cone light brown and press harder on its right side for a shadow. The bottom scoop is chocolate brown, the middle one pink and the top one cream. Add a slightly darker shade along the bottom of each scoop. Make the cherry red, leave every shine white, and give each sprinkle its own bright color.

💡 **Tip:** For cream, a very light yellow works if your set has no cream pencil.