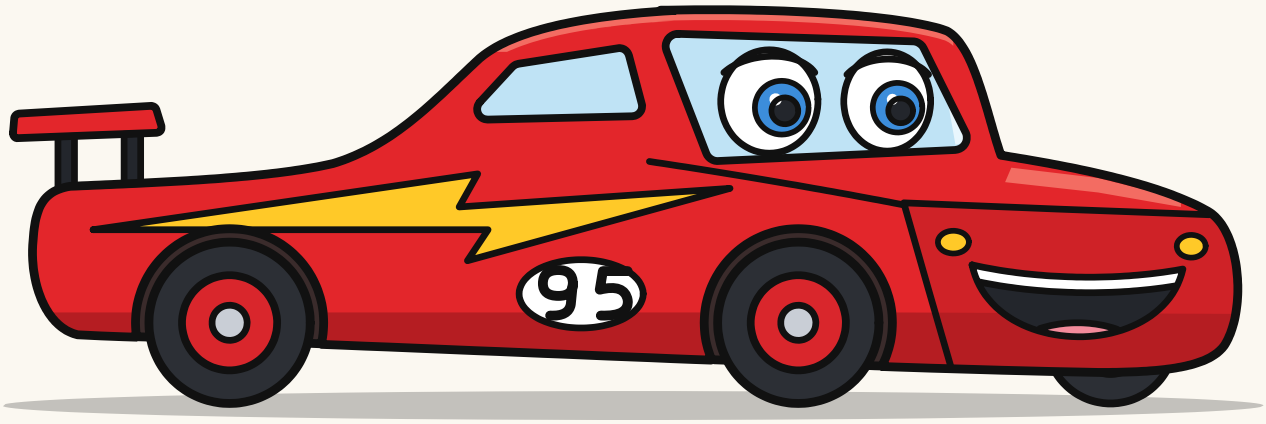
How to Draw Lightning McQueen

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

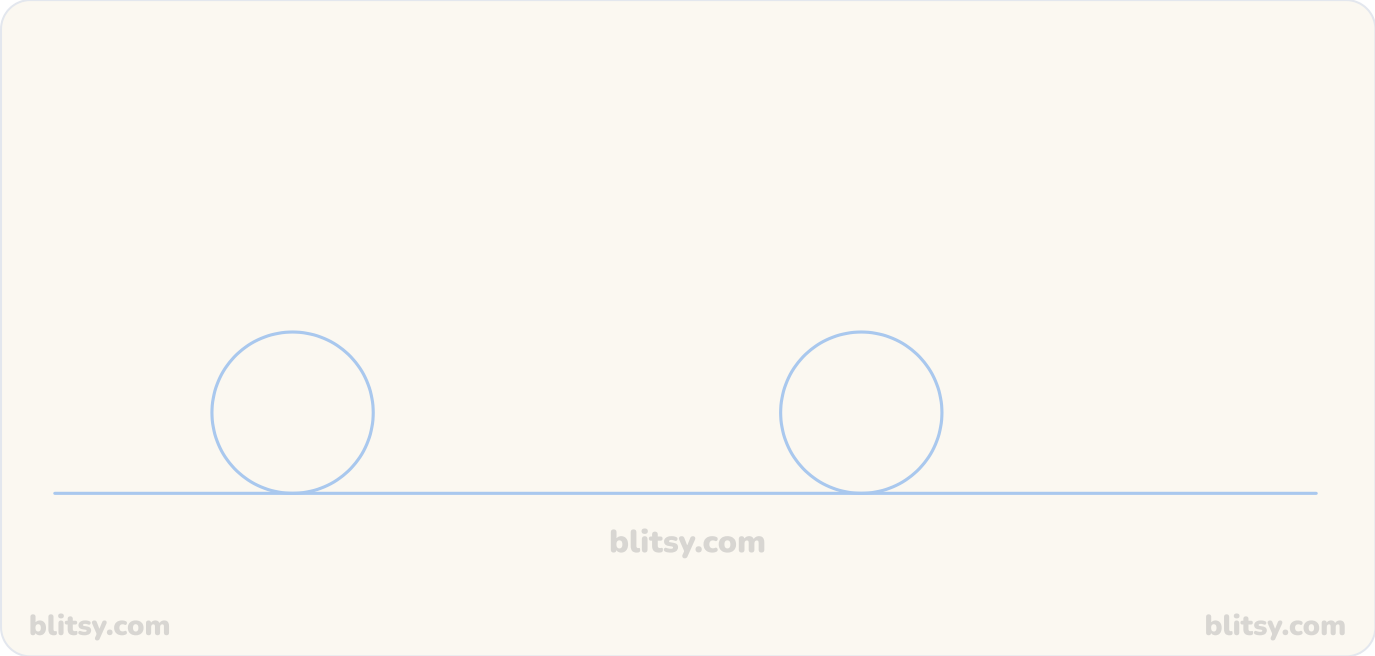
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black marker
- Crayons or colored pencils
- Plain paper

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 →

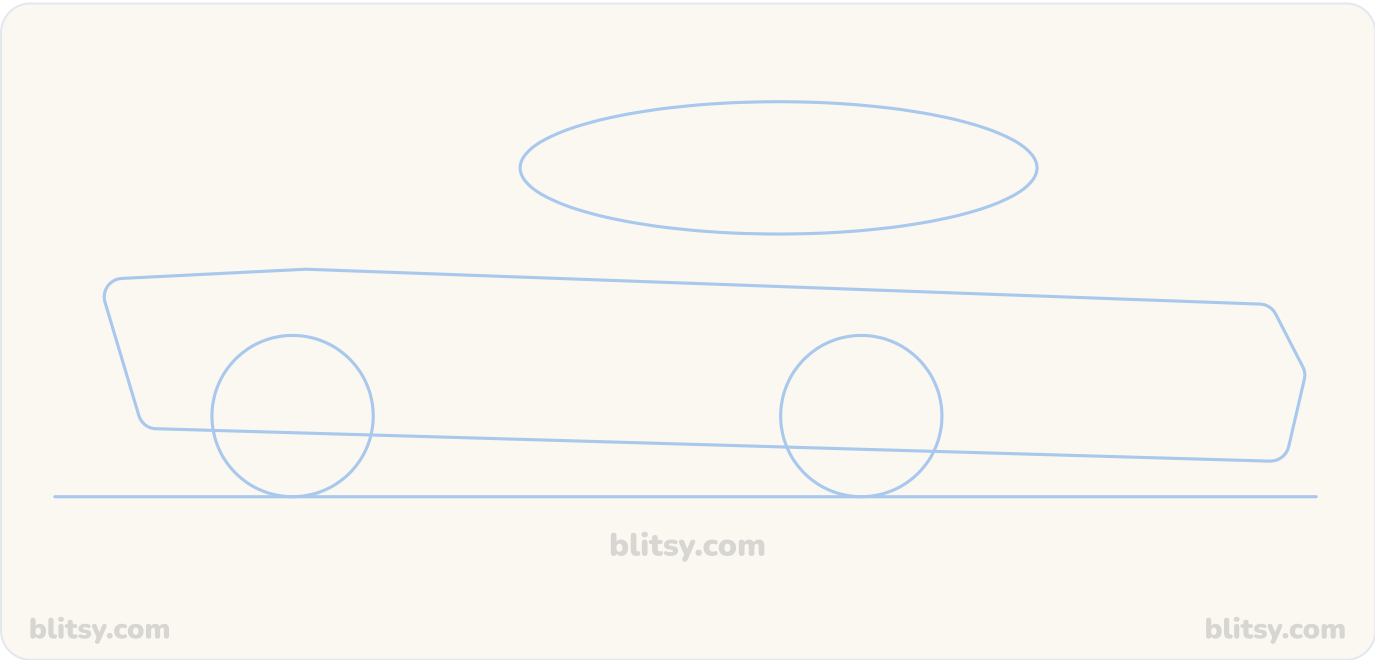
STEP 1 Draw the ground line and two wheel circles



Draw a long, light line across the lower part of your page. Sit two circles of the same size on it, one about a third of the way in from the left and one about two thirds in. Leave a wide gap between them, because the door and the number will go there later.

💡 **Tip:** Trace around a coin or a bottle cap if your circles keep coming out lumpy.

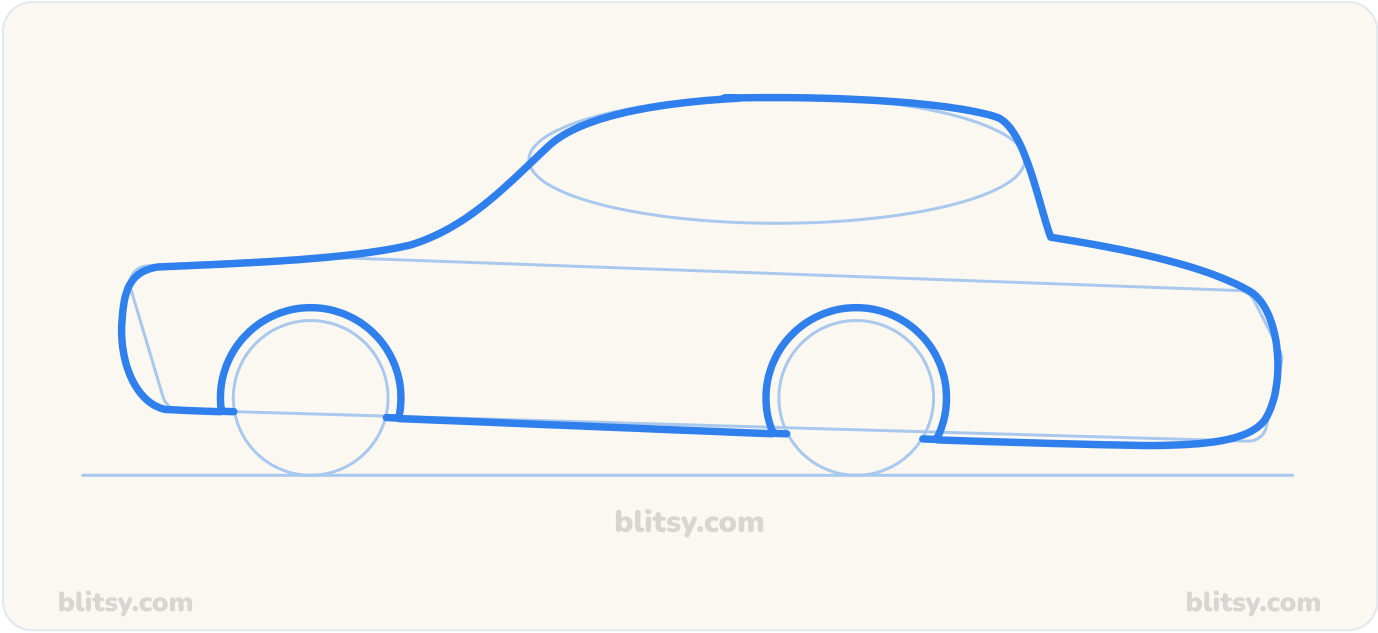
STEP 2 Sketch a long body box and a cabin oval



Around the wheels, sketch a long, low box that runs a little past each circle. Make the right end slightly taller and rounded, since that's the nose. Then float a flat oval above the right half of the box. That oval marks where the roof and the windshield will sit.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the oval over the front wheel, not in the middle. A race car's cabin sits forward.

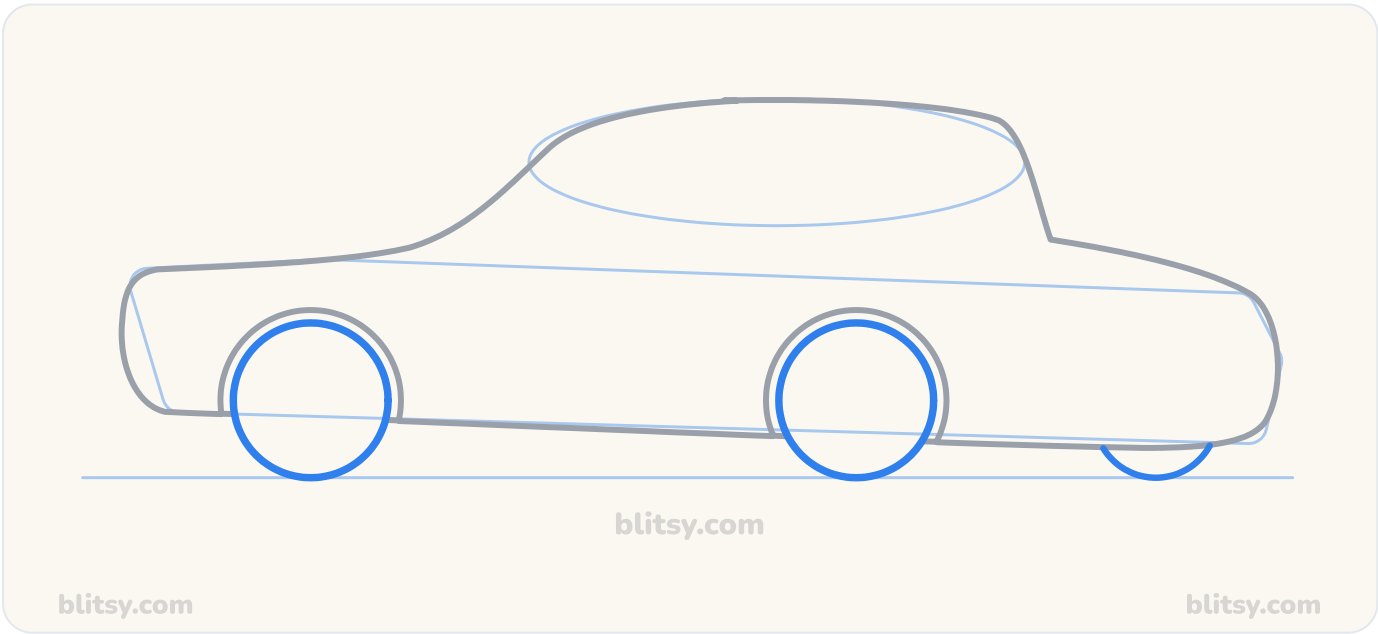
STEP 3 Outline the rounded car body



Now go over the guides with one smooth outline. Start at the back with a rounded end, run a long flat deck forward, then climb up over the cabin oval in a gentle hump for the roof. From the front of the roof, slope down to a long hood and finish with a big rounded nose. Above each wheel, scoop the line up into an arch so the tires have room.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the roof as one slow curve. Short scratchy strokes make it look bumpy.

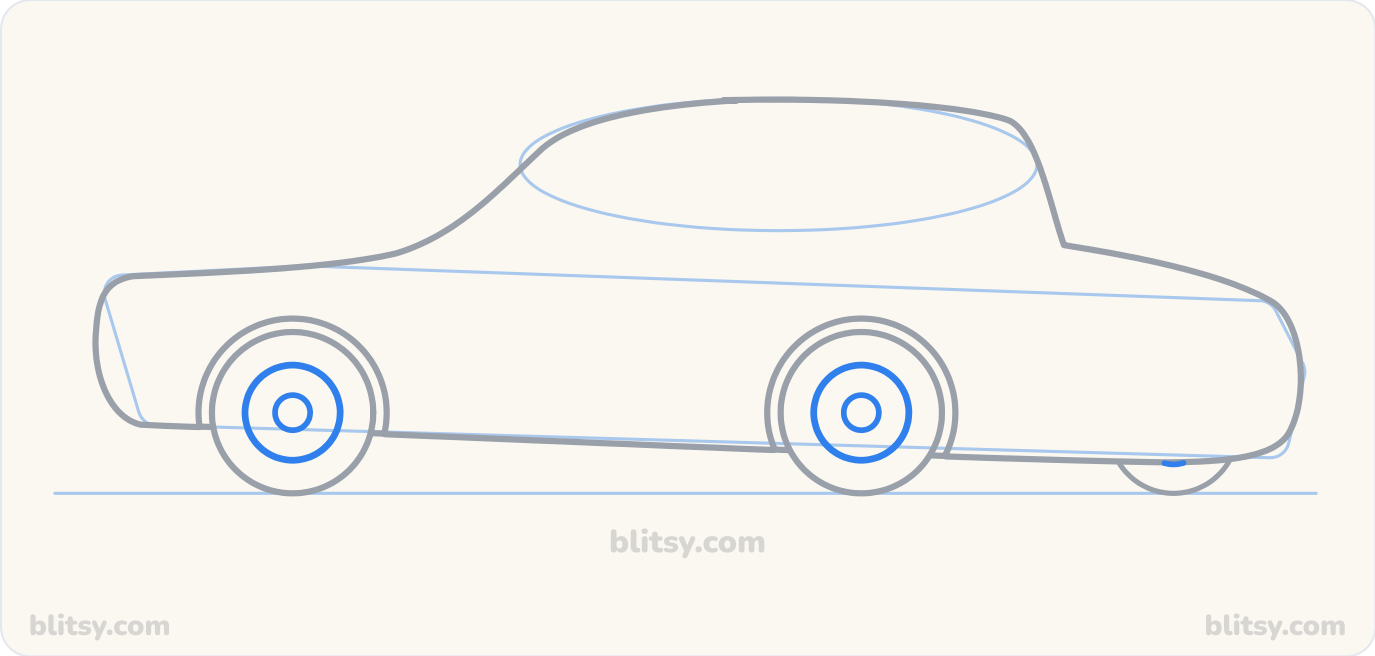
STEP 4 Add three chunky black tires



Trace firmly over the two wheel circles so they sit just inside their arches. Under the nose, draw only the bottom part of a third tire peeking out. That's the wheel on the far side of the car, and showing a slice of it is what makes the car look turned toward you instead of flat.

💡 **Tip:** Stop the far tire where it meets the body. If you draw the whole circle, the car looks see-through.

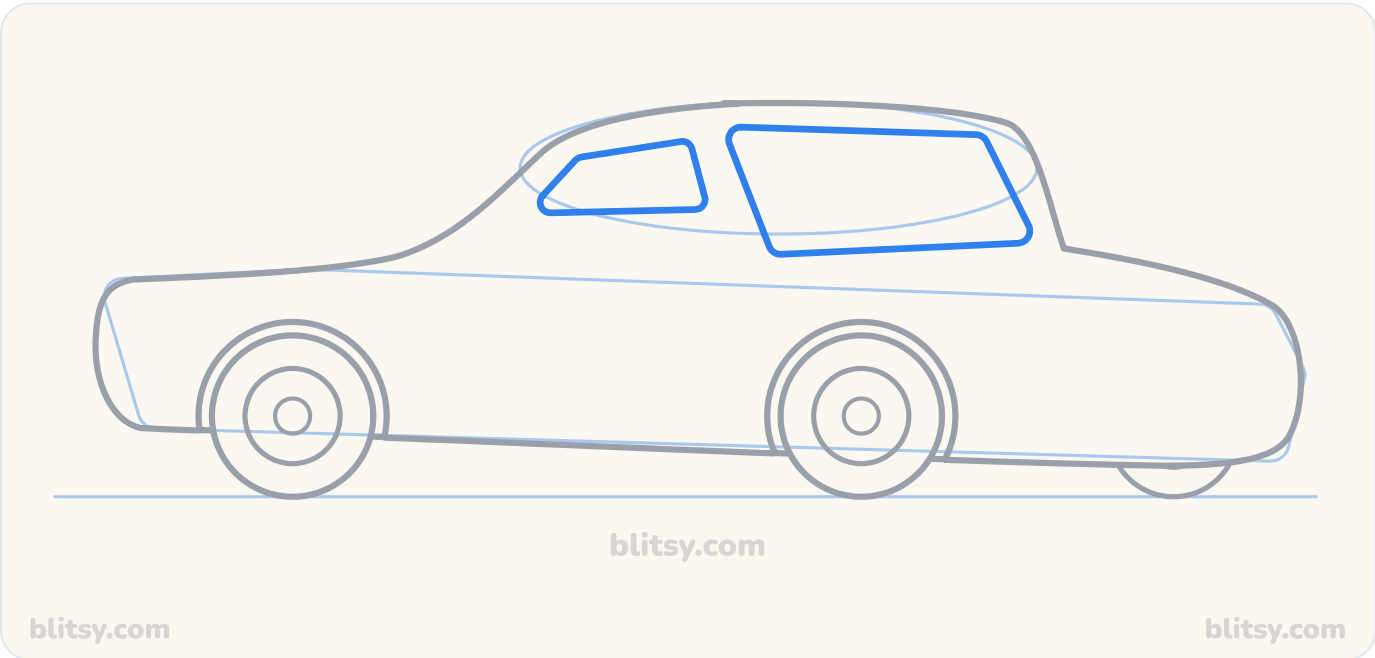
STEP 5 Put red rims and hubcaps in the wheels



Inside each near tire, draw a circle about half as wide for the rim, then a small one in the center for the hubcap. Add a matching rim slice inside the far tire. Keeping the rims centered matters more than it seems. An off-center rim makes the wheel look wobbly.

💡 **Tip:** Mark the center of each wheel with a tiny dot first, then draw the rims around it.

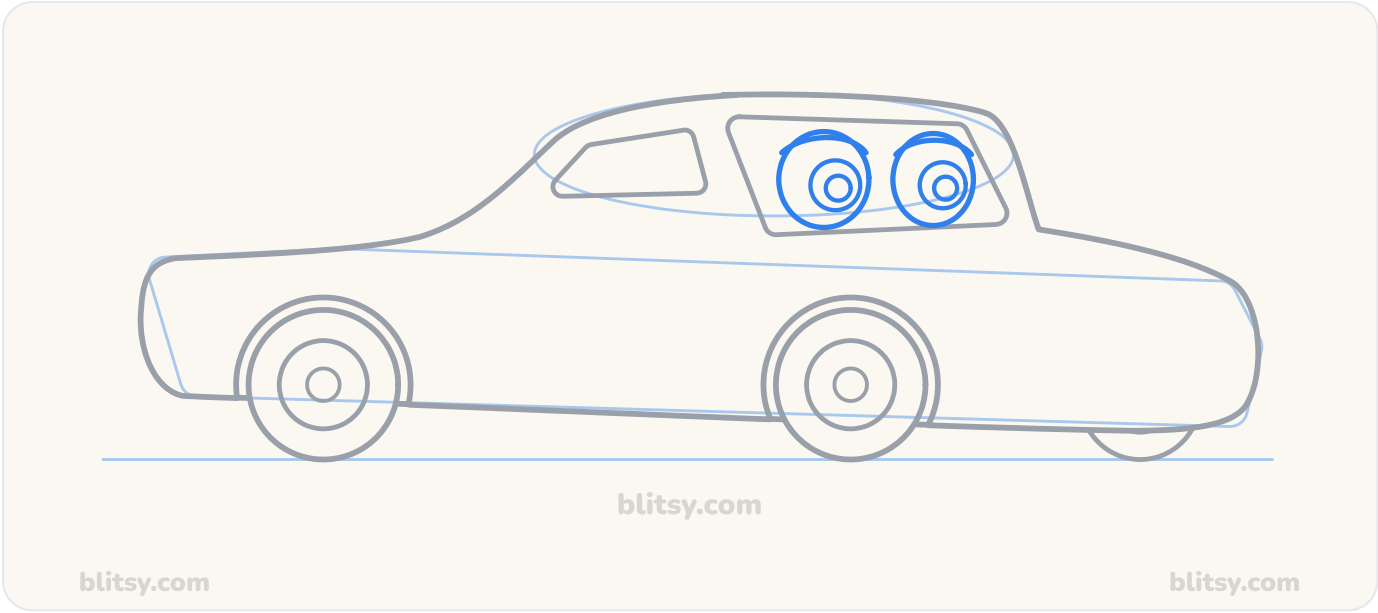
STEP 6 Draw the windshield and a side window



The windshield is a wide, tilted box with soft corners inside the front of the roof. Lean its sides to the right a little so it faces you. Behind it, draw a smaller slanted side window. I leave a strip of body between the two windows, because that little post keeps them from melting into one big shape.

💡 **Tip:** Make the windshield clearly bigger than the side window. It has to hold both eyes.

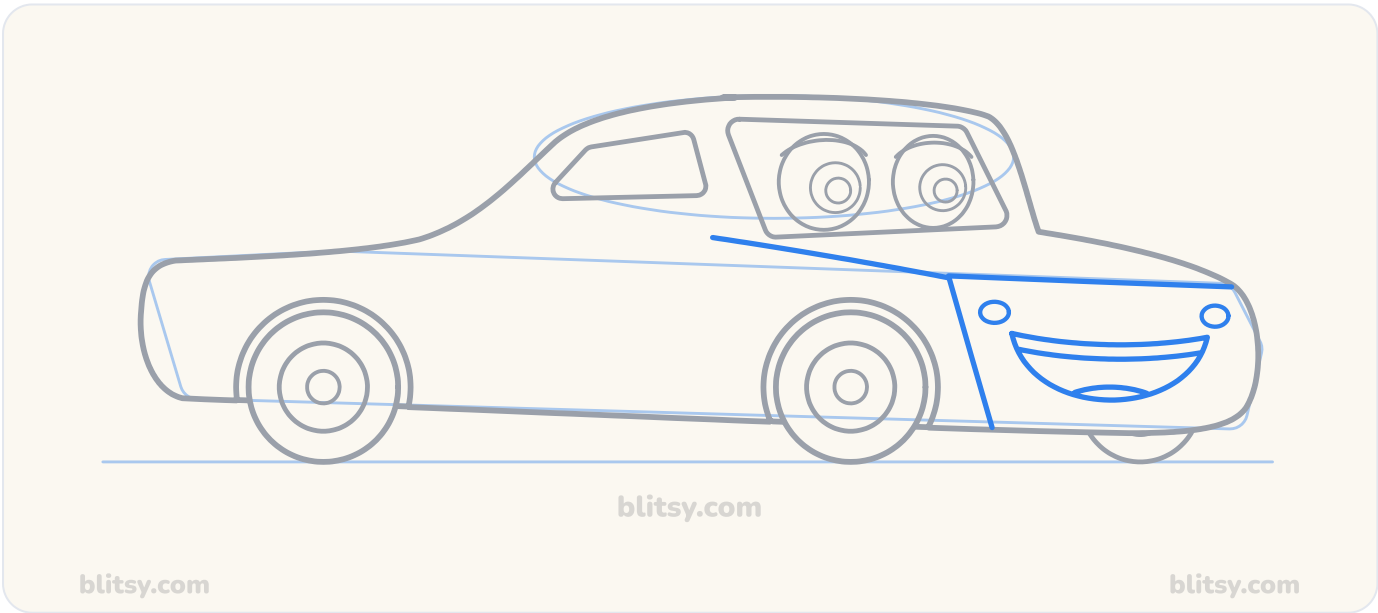
STEP 7 Give him big friendly eyes



Fill most of the windshield with two tall ovals, side by side and almost touching. In each one draw a round blue iris shifted toward the front of the car, a black pupil inside it and a small shine circle near the top. Finish with a soft curved lid line over each eye. Those lids are where most of his expression comes from.

💡 **Tip:** Make the far eye a touch smaller than the near one. It quietly adds depth.

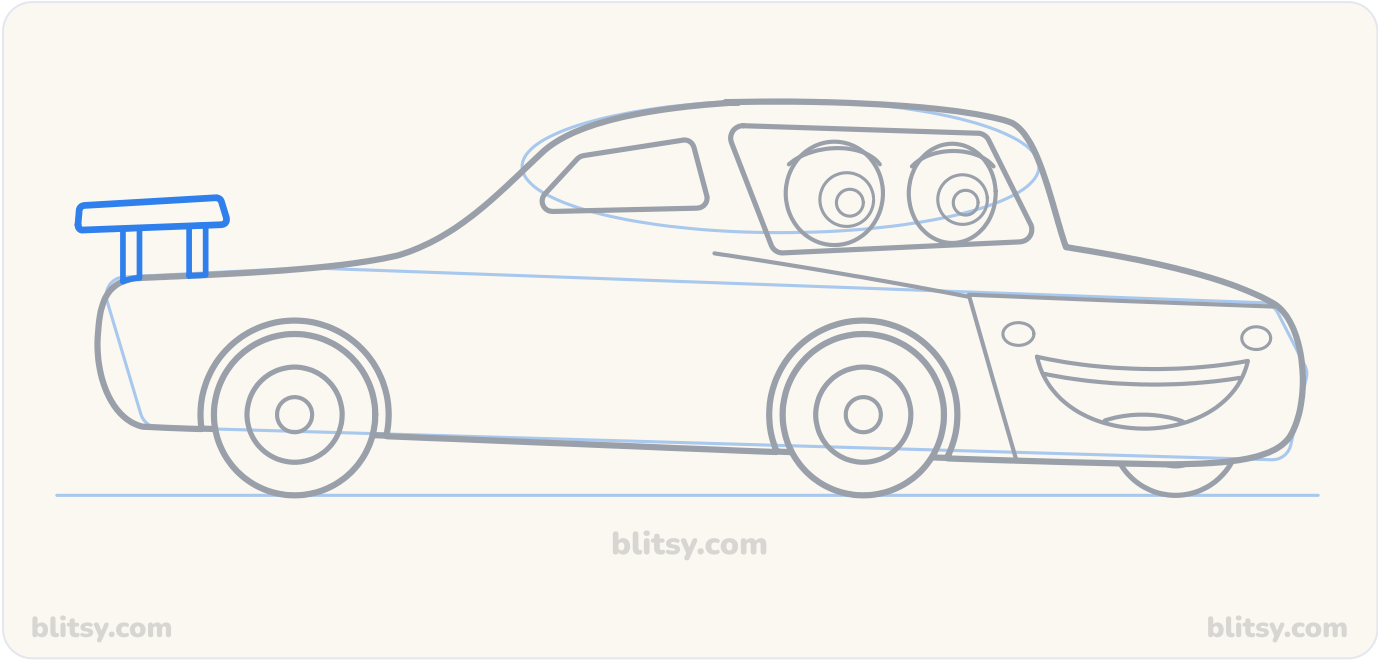
STEP 8 Add the hood line and a smiling mouth



Draw a line from under the windshield down to the front, then a second line that drops from there to the bottom of the car. That box on the right is the front bumper. Across it, draw a wide grin: a gentle top curve and a deep round bottom curve. Add a thin band of teeth under the top lip, a tongue at the bottom and two little oval headlight stickers above the mouth corners.

💡 **Tip:** Let the smile reach close to both sides of the bumper. A small mouth looks shy, not cheerful.

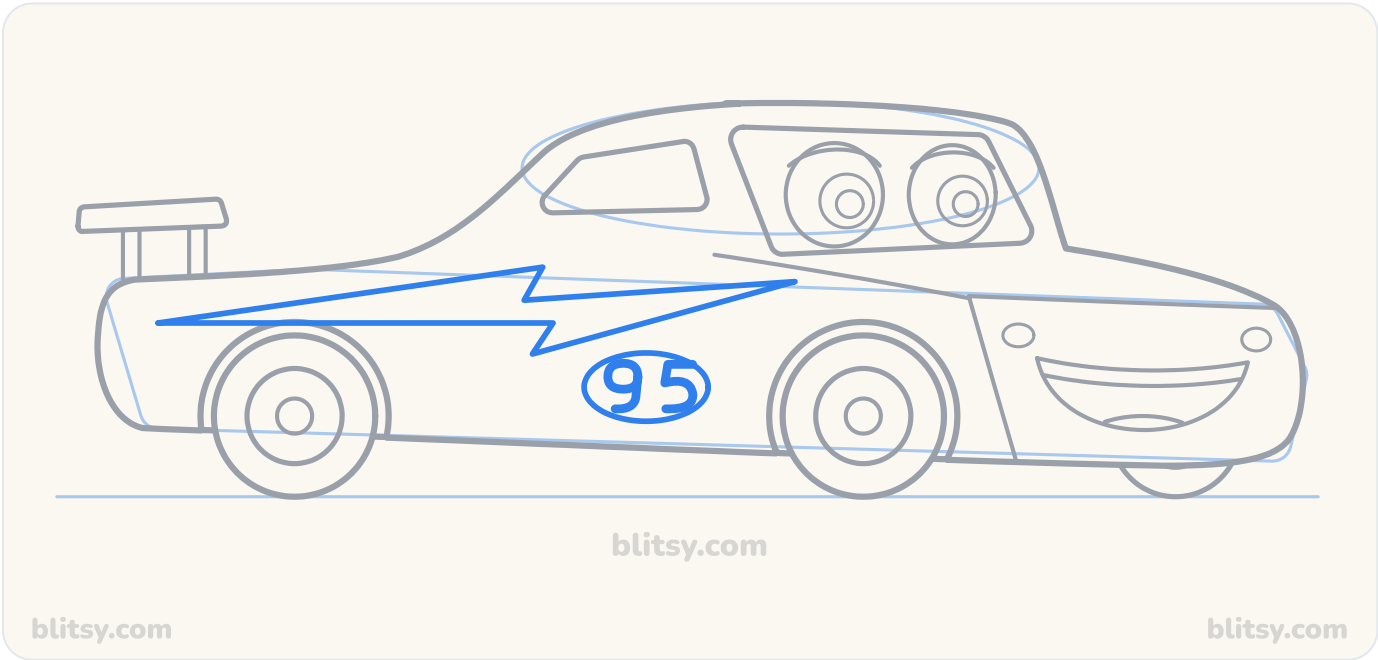
STEP 9 Draw the spoiler on the back



Above the rear deck, draw a flat, slightly tilted bar that sticks out past the back of the car. Hold it up with two short posts that disappear into the body. It's one of the quickest ways to say race car rather than family sedan.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the posts short. A tall spoiler looks like a handle.

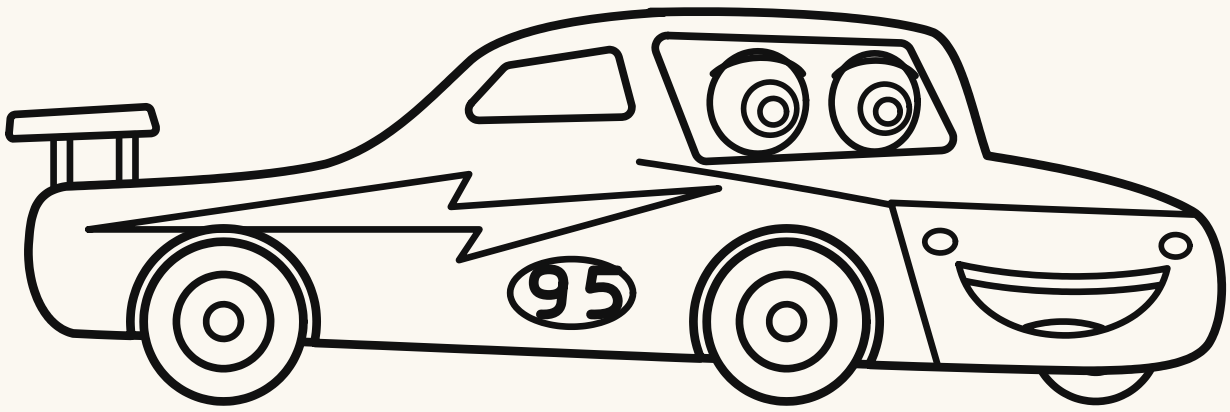
STEP 10 Add the lightning bolt and the number 95



Along the side, draw a long zigzag bolt that starts as a sharp point near the back and ends in another point just before the front wheel. Give it one big jag in the middle. Below the bolt, on the door, draw a flat oval and write a bold 95 inside.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the bolt's top edge first, then the bottom edge. Its thickness stays even that way.

STEP 11 Ink the car and erase the guides

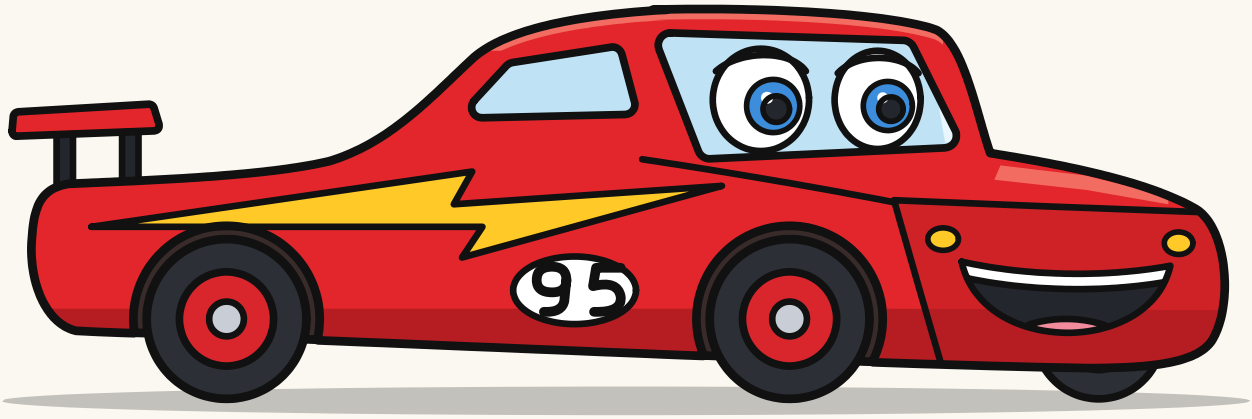


blitsy.com
blitsy.com
blitsy.com

Trace every keeper line with your black marker. I go around the outer body first, then the wheels, and leave the eyes and mouth for last, when my hand is steady. Wait for the ink to dry, then erase every guide.

💡 **Tip:** Turn the page so you always pull the marker toward you on long curves.

STEP 12 Color your race car



blitsy.com
blitsy.com
blitsy.com

Red covers the whole body and the spoiler. A darker red along the bottom edge and a lighter streak on the roof make him look shiny and round. Color the windows light blue, the bolt and headlights yellow, and the eyes blue with black pupils. The tires and mouth are black, the tongue pink, and the rims red to match the body. Leave the eye whites and teeth white.

💡 **Tip:** Color the red with long strokes going front to back, the way the car moves.