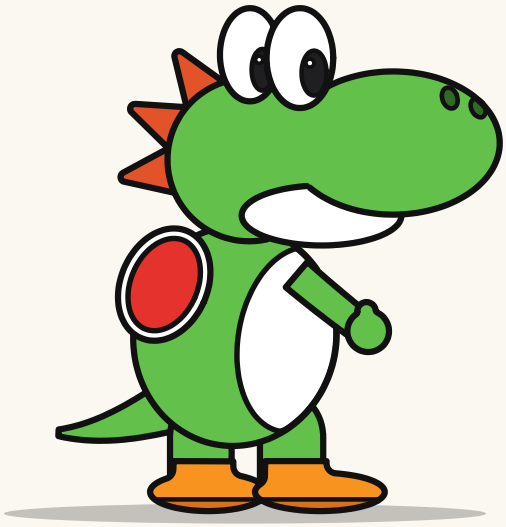
How to Draw Yoshi

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

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

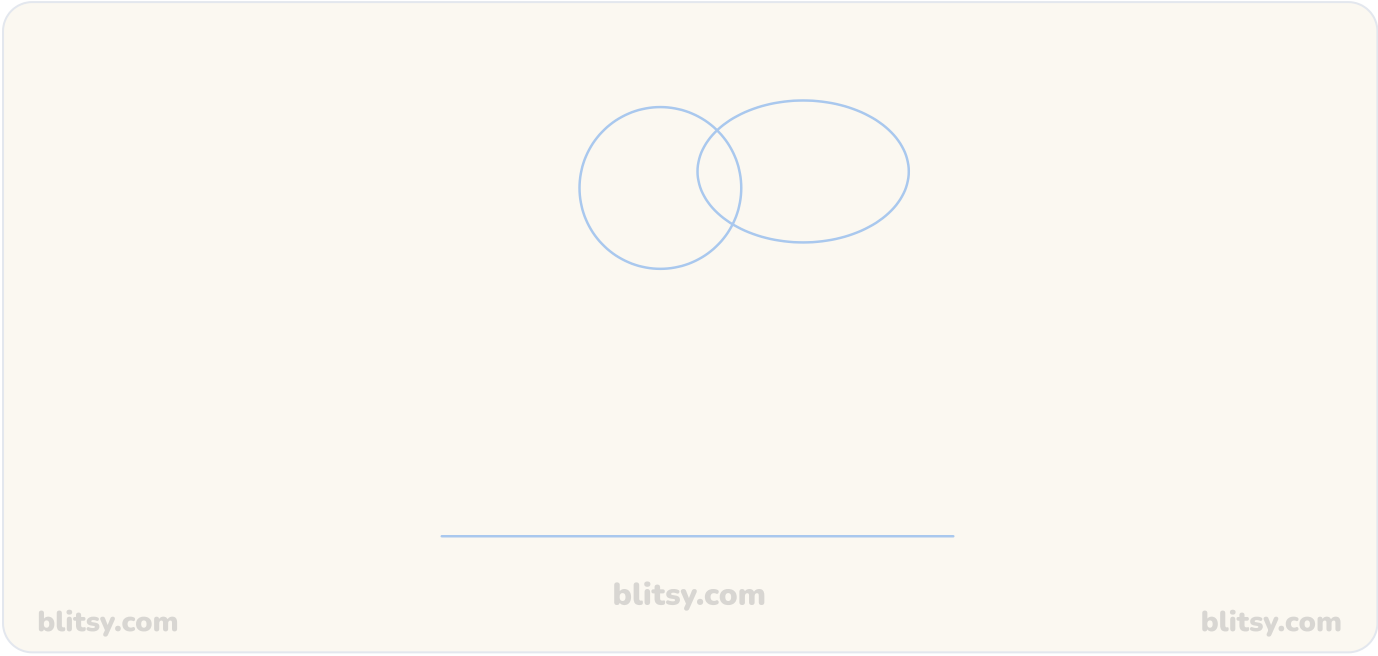
How to use this guide

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 →

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STEP 1 Draw a head circle and a snout oval



Put a light ground line near the bottom of your page first. Then, high up and a little left of center, draw a circle for the head. Overlap it with a wide oval to the right for the snout. The oval should be wider than the circle, because Yoshi's nose really is the biggest part of his face.

💡 **Tip:** Let the two shapes overlap by about a third. Too little and the nose looks glued on.

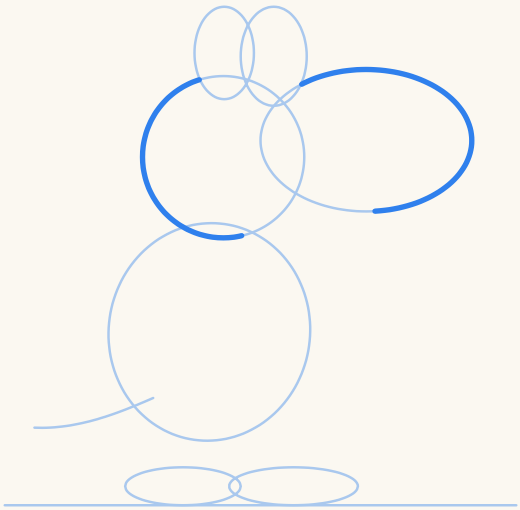
STEP 2 Add guides for the eyes, the body and the feet



Two tall ovals sit on top of the head circle, touching each other, for the eyes. Below the head, draw a big egg shape for the body that tips slightly forward. On the ground line add two flat ovals for the boots, and from the lower back of the body sketch one curved line out to the left for the tail.

💡 **Tip:** Make the body a little smaller than the head and snout together. Yoshi is top heavy, and that's part of his charm.

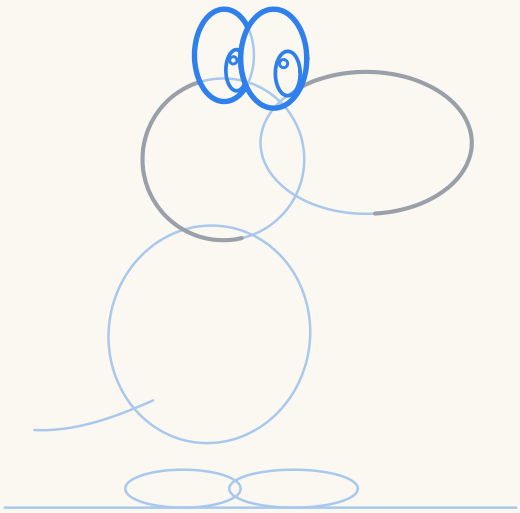
STEP 3 Outline the head and the big round nose



Now trace the outside of the circle and the oval as one shape with a firmer line. Skip the part where the two guides cross in the middle, so the head and snout become one smooth form. Stop short at the bottom of the nose and at the eyes; those edges get other lines soon.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the top of the snout nicely domed. A flat top makes him look more like a crocodile.

STEP 4 Draw the tall eyes on top



Go over the two eye ovals. The front one overlaps the back one, so draw it fully and let the back eye tuck behind it. Inside each, near the front and a bit low, add a tall black pupil with a tiny shine circle. Pupils that point forward make him look curious and alert.

💡 **Tip:** Place both shine dots in the same upper corner, or the eyes will seem to look different ways.

STEP 5 Add the white jaw, the smile and the nostrils



Under the snout, draw a flattened oval for the lower jaw that pokes out behind the nose. Where the bottom of the snout crosses it, that curved line becomes his wide smile. Near the front tip of the nose, add two small slanted ovals for the nostrils.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the jaw shorter than the snout. If it sticks out past the nose, he starts to look grumpy.

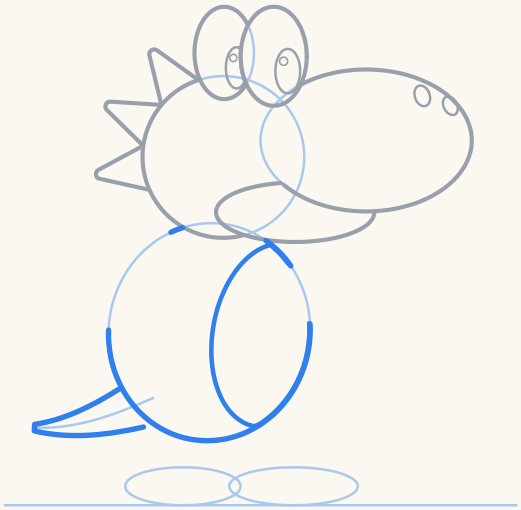
STEP 6 Draw three red spines on the head



On the back of the head, add three pointed spines in a row, running from the top down toward the neck. Each one is a simple triangle with its base hidden behind the head line. I make them about the same size so they read as a neat little crest rather than random spikes.

💡 **Tip:** Point the spines outward and slightly back, like a fan. Straight up looks stiff.

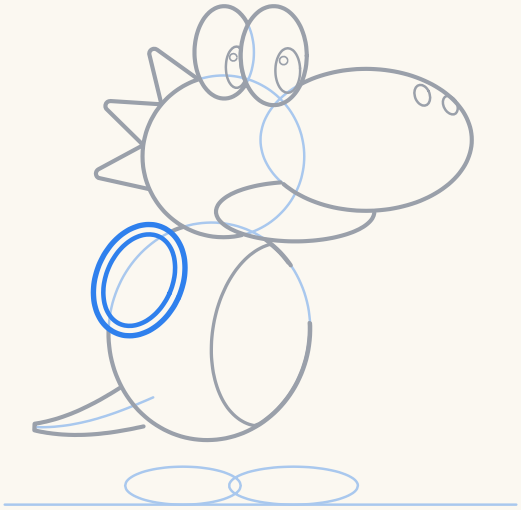
STEP 7 Outline the body, the belly and the tail



Trace the egg-shaped body, leaving out the top part the head covers. On the front, draw a tall oval for the white belly that follows the curve of the body. Finish with the tail: two lines that start wide at the back of the body and taper to a point over the ground.

💡 **Tip:** Hold the tail low and short. A long tail pulls the eye away from the face.

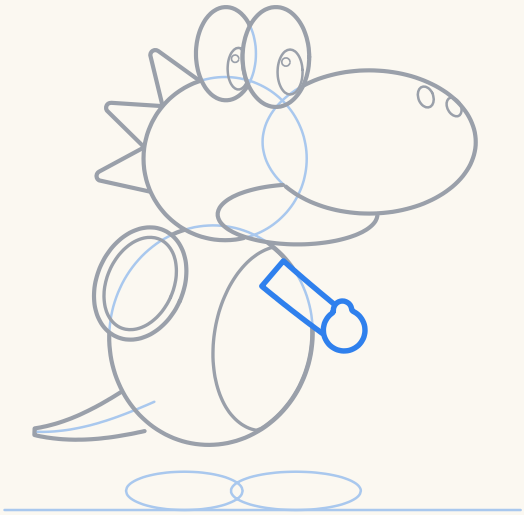
STEP 8 Add the red saddle with a white rim



On Yoshi's back, draw a tilted oval for the saddle, half on the body and half sticking out past its edge. Draw a second, slightly bigger oval around it for the white rim. The gap between the two lines should be even all the way round.

💡 **Tip:** Tilt the saddle so its top leans toward the head. It then looks like it's resting on a rounded back.

STEP 9 Draw the short arm and round hand



From the upper front of the body, draw a short, thick arm reaching forward and down. End it with a round mitten hand and a little bump on top for the thumb. One arm is enough in side view; the far arm hides behind the body.

💡 **Tip:** Give the arm real width. Thin stick arms make him look like a toy instead of a dinosaur.

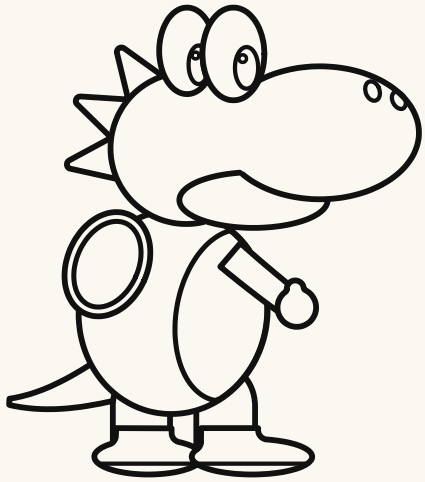
STEP 10 Add the legs and big boots



Two short legs come down from under the body to the foot ovals. Around each oval, draw a chunky boot with a rounded toe that points to the right and a short ankle on top. A straight line across the bottom of each boot makes the sole.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the boots bigger than feels right. Oversized shoes are a big part of Yoshi's look.

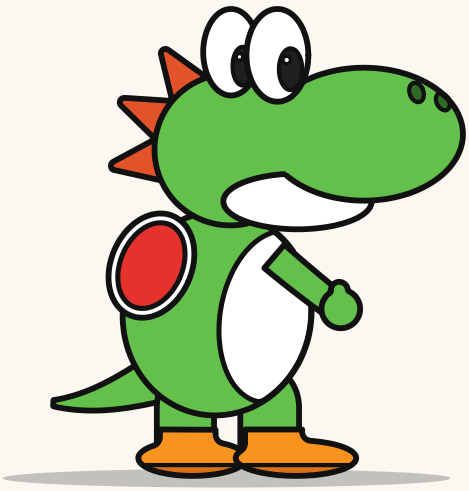
STEP 11 Ink the drawing and erase the guides



Trace every keeper line with your marker. I ink the eyes and face first while my hand is steady, then the body, the saddle and the boots. Wait a minute for the ink to dry, then erase all the light circles and guide lines underneath.

💡 **Tip:** Turn the paper so you always pull the marker toward you on curves. Lines come out smoother.

STEP 12 Color your Yoshi



Bright green covers the head and body, the arm, the legs and the tail. Leave the belly, the jaw, the eyes and the saddle rim white. The saddle is red, the spines a red orange, and the boots orange with a darker orange sole. Fill the pupils black around their shine, color the nostrils dark green and add a soft gray shadow under the boots.

💡 **Tip:** Color the green in one direction with even pressure. Patchy green shows more than any other color here.