



How to...



DID YOU KNOW?
Studies show that drawing can help kids improve their memory.

Boost your drawing skills

These easy tips will help you learn to sketch in creative ways.

Whether you want to sketch nature scenes, draw a comic strip, or enter our winter cover contest (see the next page), drawing is an art form that's fun and useful. "Drawing can be a great way to share your creativity with others," says artist Gabrielle Brickey, who teaches online drawing classes at skillshare.com. And just about anyone can learn. Here's how to get started.

Gather supplies

If you have paper and a pencil, you can start drawing right away. As you get more involved in this activity, you can pick up a few more supplies, like an eraser, a sketchpad, and other drawing materials. Colored pencils, charcoal pencils, and pastels are good options to try. But for now, whatever you have at home will work.



Colored pencils can make sketching more interesting.

Use a reference

It's easier to draw something when you're looking at it, rather than trying to draw from memory. So pick an item you can see, like a piece of fruit or a tree outside your window. Or print out a picture of something you really want to draw. An inspiring subject will get you excited to keep drawing.

Start with shapes

Begin by looking at the shapes that make up your object. This is easier than trying to outline your drawing

all at once. For example, most animals have oval bodies with round heads and long, rectangular legs. Sketch out these shapes first to get the basic form of your drawing down. Then you can add details. When you're done, erase any of the lines from the original shapes that you no longer need.

Practice often

Once you catch the drawing bug, the best way to get better is just to keep drawing. Have a sketchbook on hand and draw in it as often as you can.

Try giving yourself fun challenges, like drawing every day for a month or sketching a self-portrait. Another great way to practice is to find a piece of art that you love and draw an image of it over and over. (For inspiration, check out the artwork on a museum website, such as metmuseum.org.) You'll be able to

see how your skills improve over time.

Take a lesson

You can learn a lot about drawing on your own. But eventually, you might want to take a class. Ask an adult to help you search for free step-by-step drawing tutorials online, such as at openculture.com. Or sign up for full drawing courses at sites like outschool.com and skillshare.com. Community centers and art galleries in your area may also offer classes for kids.

5 drawing apps that are fun to try

There are many awesome apps that can help you develop your drawing skills. These are free to try.

Tayasui Sketches

This app is like drawing on paper, but better. Choose from pens and pencils, in all sizes and any color you can think of, to create your artwork.



Sketch a Day

Sometimes it can be hard to come up with ideas for what to draw. This app gives you a daily prompt, like draw a skeleton, to help you get the creative juices flowing.



Animation Desk

Bring a drawing to life with this animation tool. Perfect for beginners, the app walks you through the steps to creating a short video with your drawings.



Draw It

If you enjoy competing, this group game is for you. It lets you practice your drawing skills with prompts such as "draw a sock or a bird." Then other players have to guess what you're drawing.



How to Draw—Learn Drawing

This app gives you step-by-step directions on how to draw hundreds of items, including Minecraft characters and fairies. You'll be amazed at what you can create with basic shapes and lines.



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