

How to draw a realistic eye

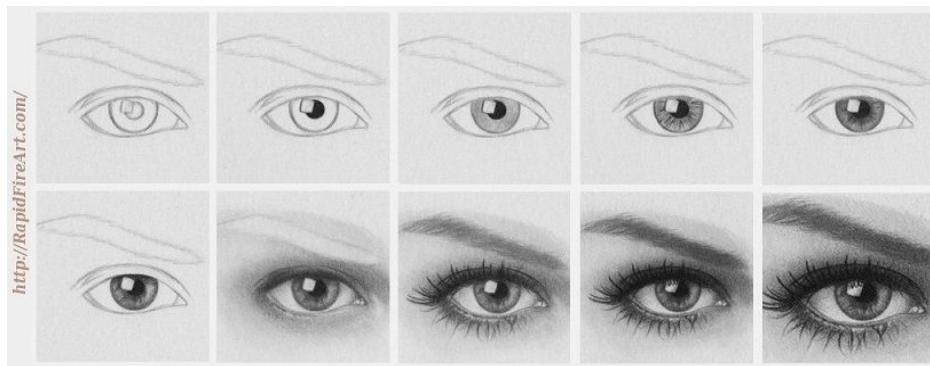
By Darlene Nguyen - May 8, 2013



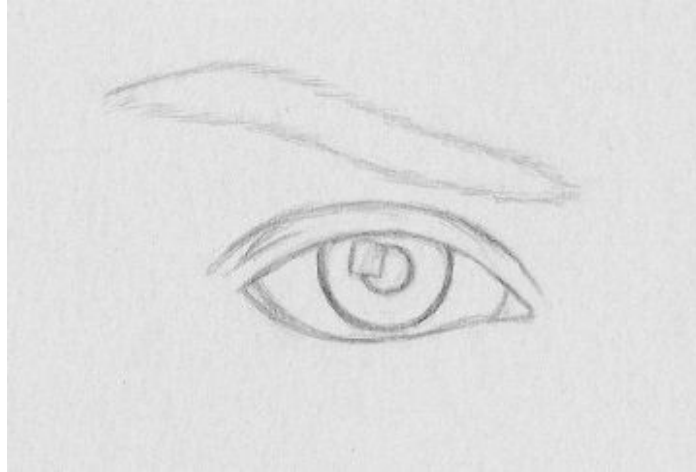
Hi, welcome to RapidFireArt! My name is Darlene and in this tutorial I'm going to teach you how to draw a realistic eye using **easy** step by step instructions. This is my first tutorial, so I hope you enjoy it!

Tools ([You can find all my recommended tools here](#)):

- Mechanical Pencil with 0.5 mm HB and 4B Ain Leads
- Derwent Graphic 6B Pencil
- Kneaded Eraser
- Blending Stump ([Learn how to use them here](#))
- Smooth Bristol Paper



How to Draw a Realistic Eye STEP 1:

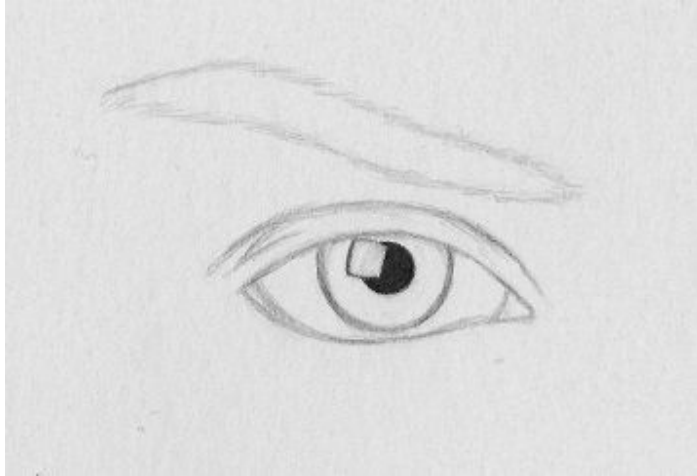


Let's start off with an HB pencil to sketch the shape of the eye. This outline should not be too dark because you want to prevent it from showing through in the end. We just need the basic shapes outlined at this point. The square shape in the pupil is a glare from a window or similar shaped light source. You can use other shapes such as circles or ovals as well.

If you're stuck on drawing a realistic eye shape, iris or eyebrow, visit the 2 pages below:

- [How to draw different eye shapes](#)
- [How to draw eyebrows](#)

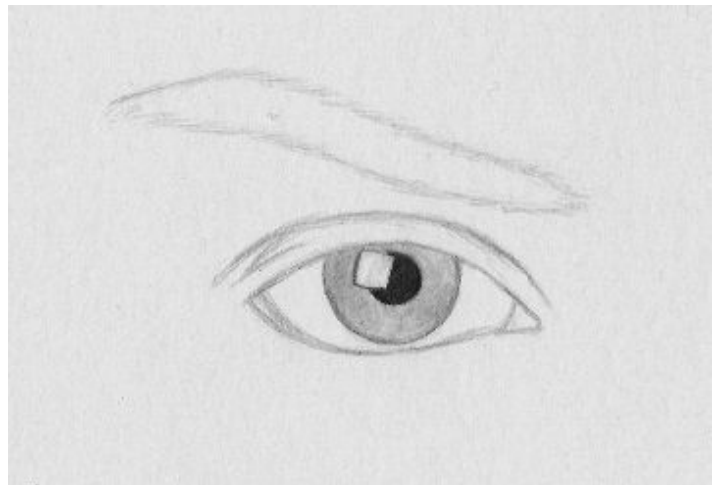
STEP 2:



Using a 6B pencil, fill in the pupil. Avoid pressing too hard or else it will be hard for you to erase if you need to make corrections later on. You can go over the area again to achieve a darker shade. Make sure the highlights stay clean!

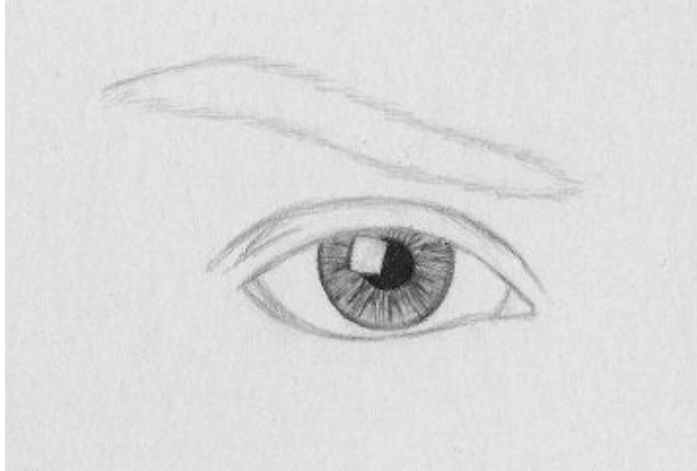
STEP 3:

On a separate sheet of paper, smear some graphite into a small area. Use the blender to rub the area until the graphite has transferred to the tip of the blender (learn how to use a blending stump [here](#)). You will now use that to fill in the outer area of the pupil. This step



does not have to be done perfectly. Sloppy smudging will make it turn out better, as well as give the eye more depth.

STEP 4:

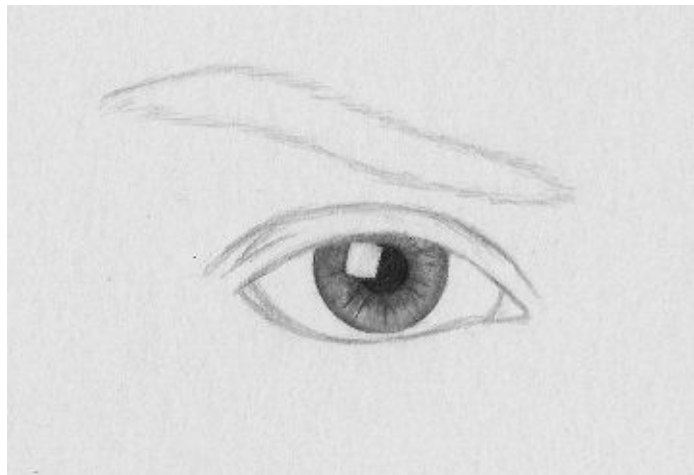


With a 4B pencil draw spokes going outward from the pupil. Overlap some of the spokes to create thicker lines. This will make the eye look more interesting. Leave some areas untouched as they will be filled in later.

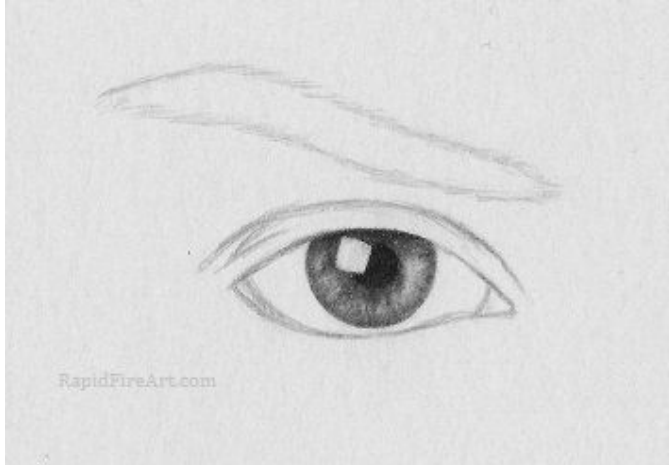
If you're enjoying this article, [click here](#) for another realistic eye tutorial!

STEP 5:

Use the blending stump to fill the white space in the iris. Carefully work around the highlight. Don't press too hard. You should still be able to see the lines coming out of the pupil when done. If most of the lines have disappeared, you have either used the blender with too much force, or have not pressed hard enough when creating the spokes.



STEP 6:



Use the 6B pencil to create a shadow under the eyelid to give the eye more depth and roundness.

STEP 7:

Shade the eye whites as well as the skin around the eyes. Don't leave the eyeball white or else it will appear unrealistic and lack depth. For a more detailed tutorial on shading eye whites and how to make eyeballs look round, [click here](#).



Darken the creases using a 4B pencil. Use the kneaded eraser to make the highlights pop, as well as dab areas of the eye that need to be lightened. For example the eye whites, lower lash area, brow bone and the inner corner of the eye near the tear duct.

Want to improve your shading skills? Click [here](#) to read my shading tutorial!

STEP 8:



Fill in the eyebrows as well as the eyelashes. Eyelashes should be drawn using curved lines, NOT straight lines. To create the eyebrows, use a thin HB pencil. For the eyelashes, go with something darker, like a 6B. Go over the drawing and darken areas such as the pupil, creases, shadows and clean the highlights to make your drawing POP!

[Click here for a super detailed tutorial on how to draw eyelashes](#)

Final Step:



I've added some eyelash reflections, some subtle blood vessels as well as darkened the overall drawing. Try to use as many shades as possible when drawing eyes. Most people are afraid to go dark. Look at the picture in step 8 and compare it to the last step. Going dark makes a huge difference! I used to stop at step 8 too, because I was afraid I wouldn't be able to erase if my hard work turned into a complete disaster. This fear left me unsatisfied with all my drawings because they lacked depth. So take it a step further and make use of your softer pencils!

I hope you enjoyed this tutorial! If you have any questions or requests, let me know in the [comments section](#)!

Want more? Click here to learn [how to draw an eye from the side!](#)