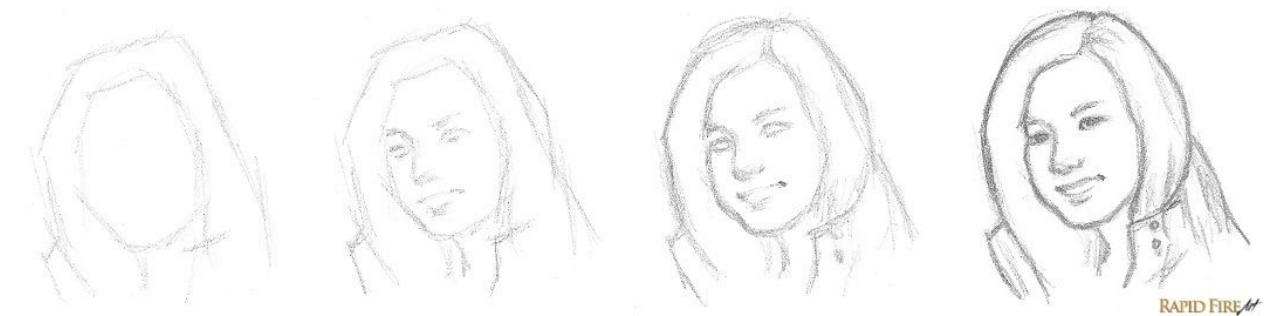


Lesson 1: How to Sketch

By Darlene Nguyen - April 6, 2017



Drawing is simply the process of layering shapes, lines, scribbles and values on top of each other until you get your desired result.

In this first lesson, we're going to focus on the process of **sketching**. If you can make a mark on a piece of paper, you can learn how to sketch! You don't need to be able to draw straight lines or perfect circles in order to be an artist.

Introduction to Sketching

Sketching is the process of roughly scribbling an idea on paper. It allows you to bring your ideas to life quickly so you can save time in the long run. It's a great way to brainstorm!



The awesome thing about sketches is that they usually blend in or fade away while you continue to build upon the concept of your drawing.

So don't be afraid to make mistakes!

This stage is meant for exploration! When I make a mistake, I find ways to use that mistake to my advantage. If I can't, I'll simply move on.



Can you tell this sketch was created using one of the rough sketches above?

How to Sketch

It's best to use free flowing lines that are loosely and lightly drawn. To do that, adjust your grip on the pencil so that your hand is relaxed instead of tense. If your hand usually gets tired after you've drawn for less than an hour, you're probably gripping it too tightly.



DO



DON'T

RAPID FIRE

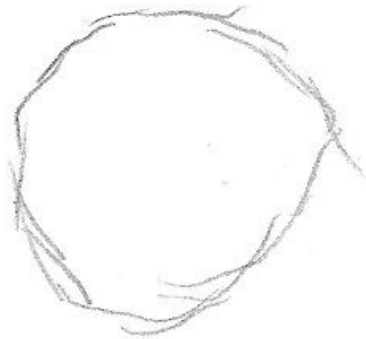
It's okay if your lines are wobbly because you may not be used to drawing certain lines and curves yet. Drawing is very different from writing, so you'll need to improve your muscle memory by drawing as frequently as you can!

When making an initial sketch, you'll want to leave your perfectionism behind and focus on general shapes. Think about the size, shape, angle, etc. The last thing you want to think about is detail!

Let's Sketch Something Together!

Since this is a sketching tutorial for beginners, I'm using my **left hand** (non-dominant hand) to show you that you don't need to have good control of your hand in order to sketch well.

Step 1: Sketch a circle loosely



My lines are so wobbly!

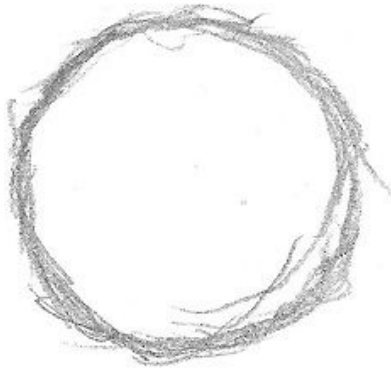
I sketched a circle using a bunch of loosely drawn lines. Don't worry if your lines are going in weird directions. It's likely that you're not going to draw something perfect the first time around. That's totally fine! Remember, we're supposed to work in layers.

Step 2: Refine the shape



After your initial sketch, find areas that need improvement and sketch over it until you get closer to your desired result.

Step 3: Keep refining



Keep repeating that step until you get even closer to what you want.

Tip: You can rotate your sketch book to help your eyes look at the shape differently. You might spot some obvious areas that need fixing.

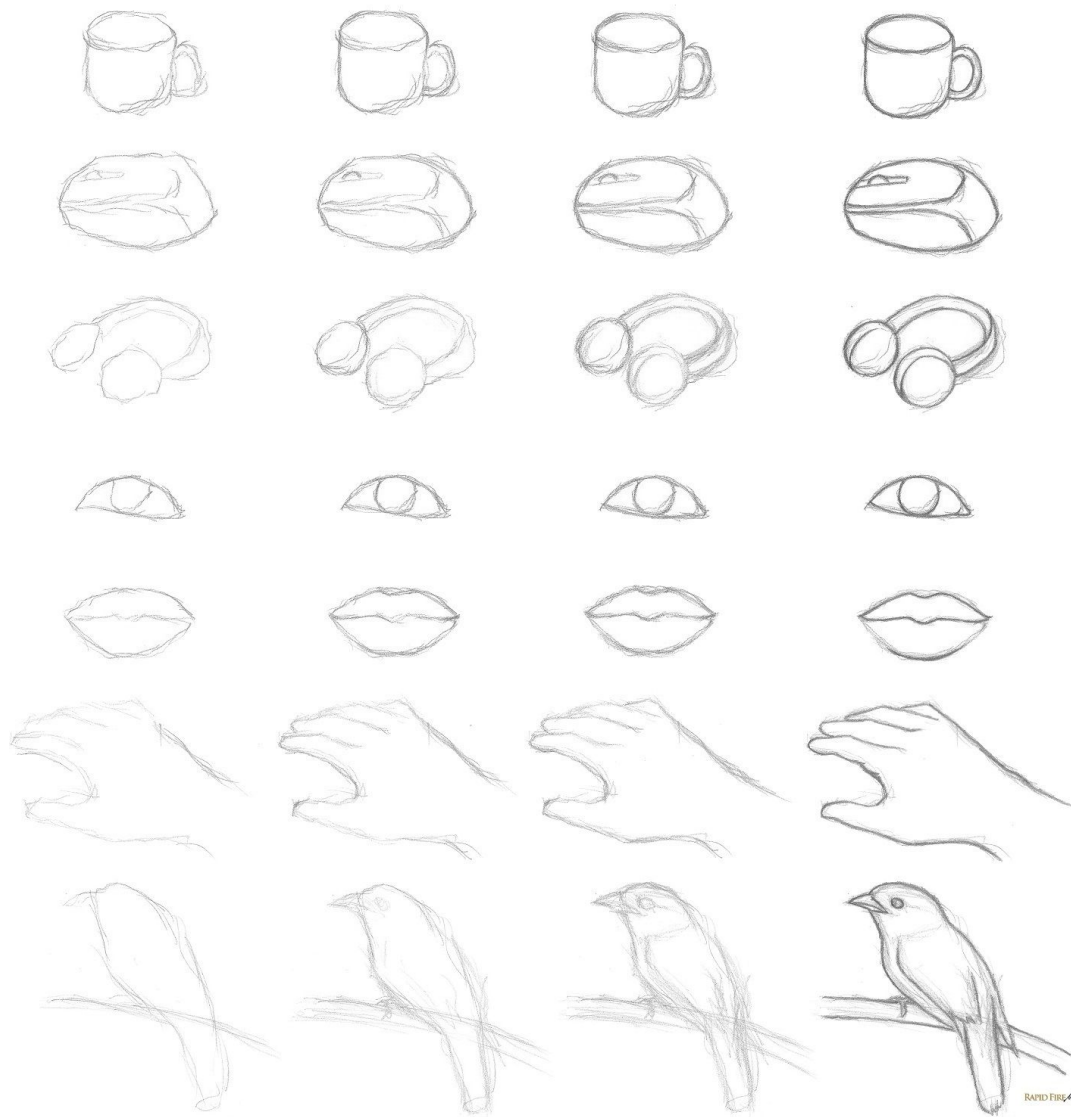
Step 4: Define the shape



Happy with how it looks overall? Use more confident lines to define the shape of your circle. You can erase the scribbly lines or let them disappear naturally as you continue to work on your drawing.

Like That Example? Here are Some More!

LOOSE SKETCH → REFINE → REFINE → DEFINE



After drawing all these examples and more using my non-dominant hand, I noticed some big improvements!

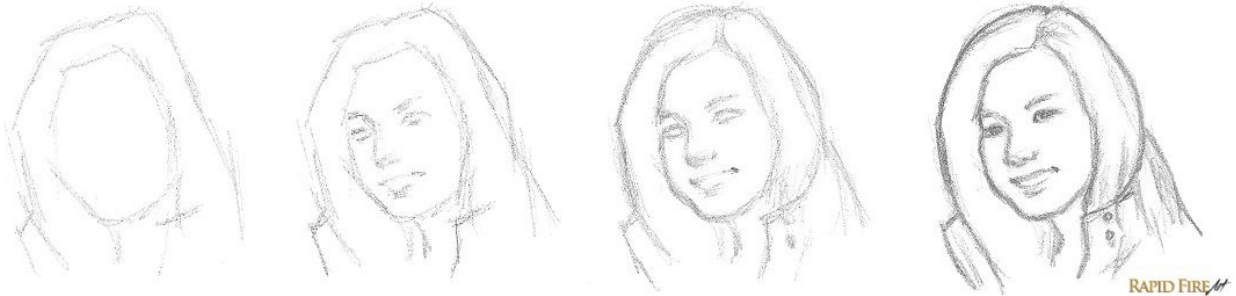
I got used to moving my elbow and shoulder joint to draw which gave me much smoother lines. If you look at the images in the example above, you'll notice that my lines gradually become a lot less wobbly.

I thought it would be fun to show you the difference between a sketch made with my left versus right hand:

DRAWN WITH MY LEFT HAND



DRAWN WITH MY RIGHT HAND



Again, you don't need to be good at drawing straight lines or have amazing control of your pencil in order to be able to sketch. Having good control just means that your drawing will look cleaner and in turn more precise.

Your Homework Assignment

Things to remember while you draw:

1. Don't be a perfectionist
2. Focus on the overall shape instead of the details
3. Use a gentle amount of pressure

Assignment #1:

Fill an entire page in your sketchbook, following the steps in this lesson.

Step 1: Sketch Loosely

Step 2: Refine the shape

Step 3: Refine it further

Step 4: Define the desired shape

Find objects to draw around the house, outside or from a quick google search on "random objects". Once you fill an entire page in your sketchbook, fill another one.

My challenge to you: If you can draw 50 things in your sketchbook and submit it to [the RFA facebook page](#), I'll feature your artwork on the site!

Here are some ideas for you to draw:

1. Fork
2. Apple
3. Banana
4. Laptop
5. Jacket
6. Hat
7. Your hand
8. Your foot
9. Your eye
10. Key
11. Lamp
12. Cat
13. Dog
14. Bird
15. Boat

16. Tree
17. Flower
18. Car
19. Helicopter
20. Plane
21. Alligator
22. Person jumping
23. Person sitting
24. Person standing
25. My avatar picture

Done the assignment?

Let me know if/how you improved and how this lesson helped you draw better!

[Click here for lesson 2](#)

Have any questions? Drop them in the comment section and I'll get back to you shortly!

Read more: <http://rapidfireart.com/2017/04/06/lesson-1-how-to-sketch/>