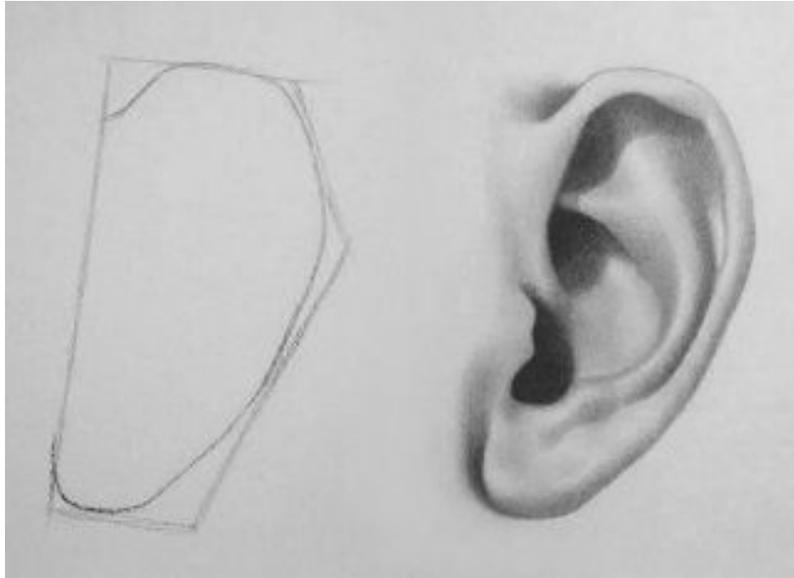


How to Draw an Ear in 5 Easy Steps

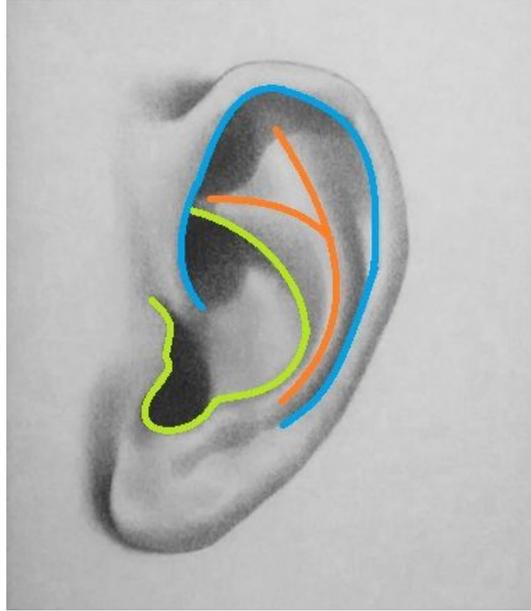
By Darlene Nguyen - April 21, 2015



When drawing portraits, people usually do not put too much effort into creating a likeness with their subject's ears because we usually recognize people by their faces or other unique features that stand-out.

Even though they are not given a lot of attention, it is still good practice to learn how to draw an ear and understand its structure.

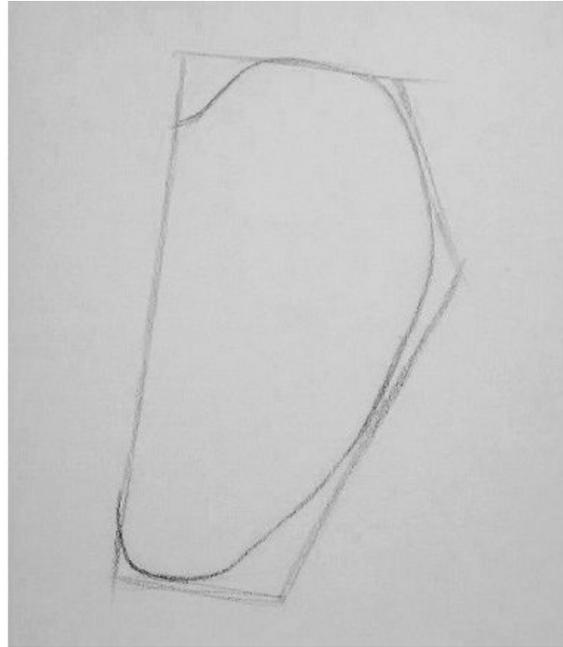
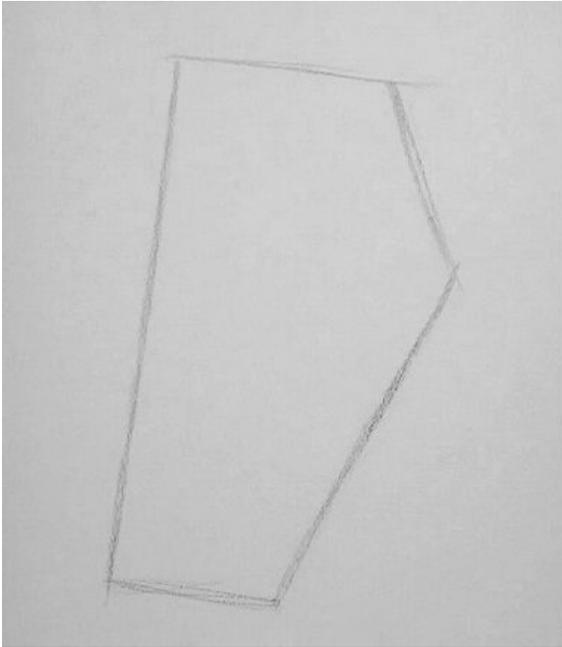
Drawing ears may seem difficult and complex because they contain many bumps, valleys and folds. Learning how to draw an ear is a lot easier when you learn to simplify its complex shapes like the example image below.



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

- Blending stump
- HB Derwent pencil
- 4B Derwent pencil
- Canson Sketch paper (not the usual Canson **Bristol** Paper which is my ultimate favorite. Ran out of that.)

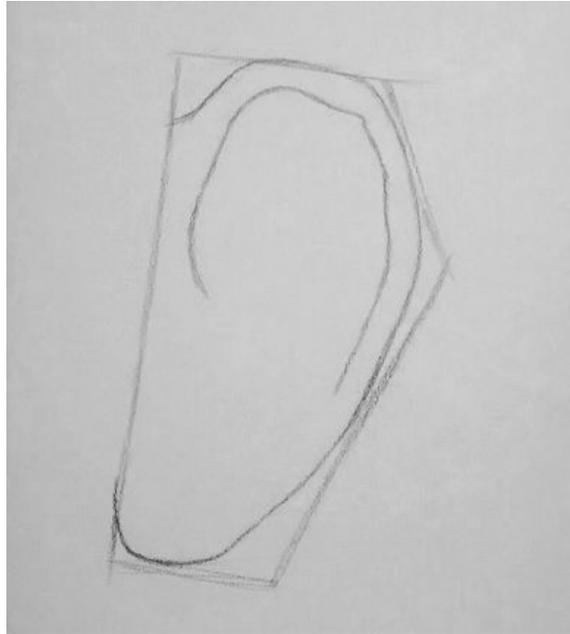
Step 1:



Outline the shape of the ear making sure the bottom part of the ear (ear lobe) is smaller in proportion to the top part of the ear (known as the helix).

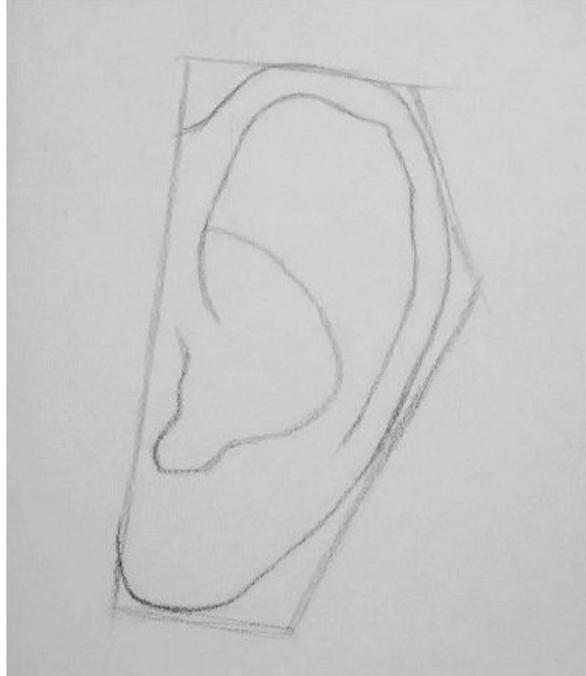
"Where exactly do I draw an ear on the head?" [Click here to find out!](#)

Step 2:



Draw 2 curves to indicate the main folds within the ear. The first curve should line the middle to top part of the ear. You can make this curve as smooth or jagged as you want.

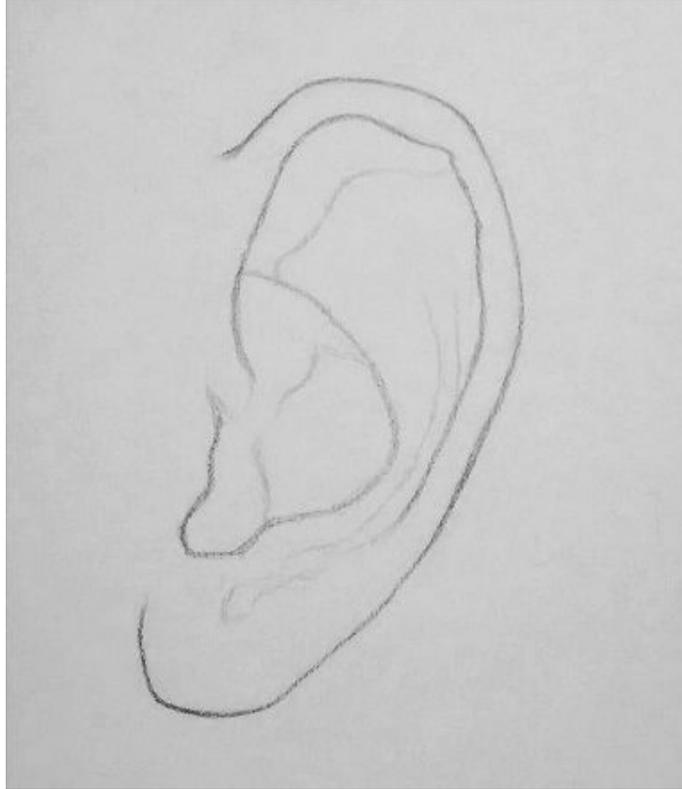
Remember to leave a small amount of room around the edge. The left side of the curve should curl slightly into the center of the ear.



The second curve should come out of the first one and have a tear-shaped bottom. Wrap the curve up to form a flap (known as the tragus). Make sure you leave a good amount of space at the bottom for the ear lobe.

Step 3:

At the beginning of the tutorial, I pointed out three main shapes within an ear. We drew two of them in step 2. The third shape looks like the letter 'y'. You can either draw the 'y' very lightly or picture it on your drawing instead. We'll be using it later in this step.

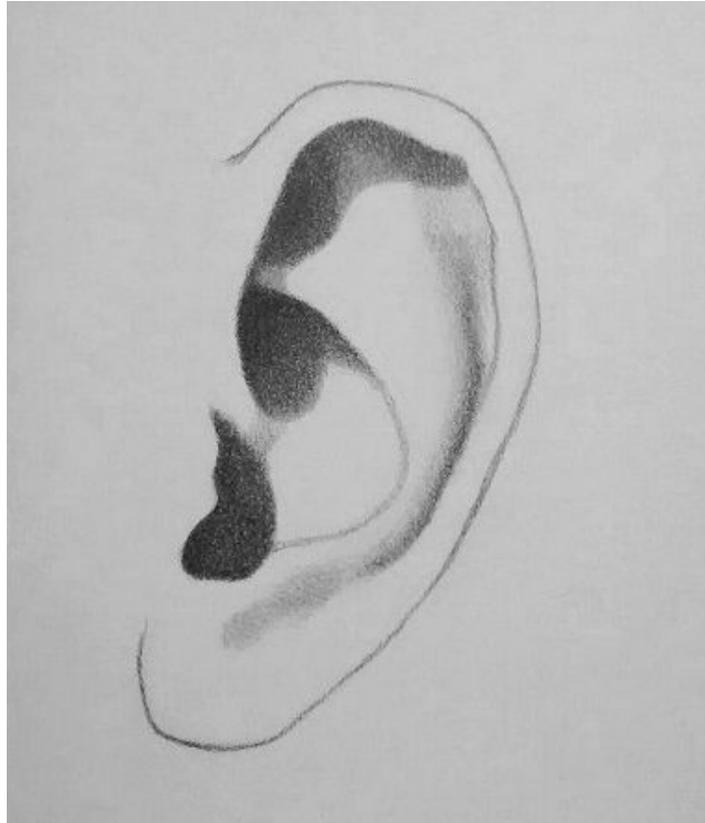


Decide on a direction from which the light is coming from and use soft lines to indicate where the darkest shadows will fall. These places will be the most prominent folds and deepest valleys within the ear.

For this example, the light is shining from the left side.

If any shadows cross through the 'y', make sure you warp them to compliment any ridges, bumps or valleys of the 'y'.

Step 4:

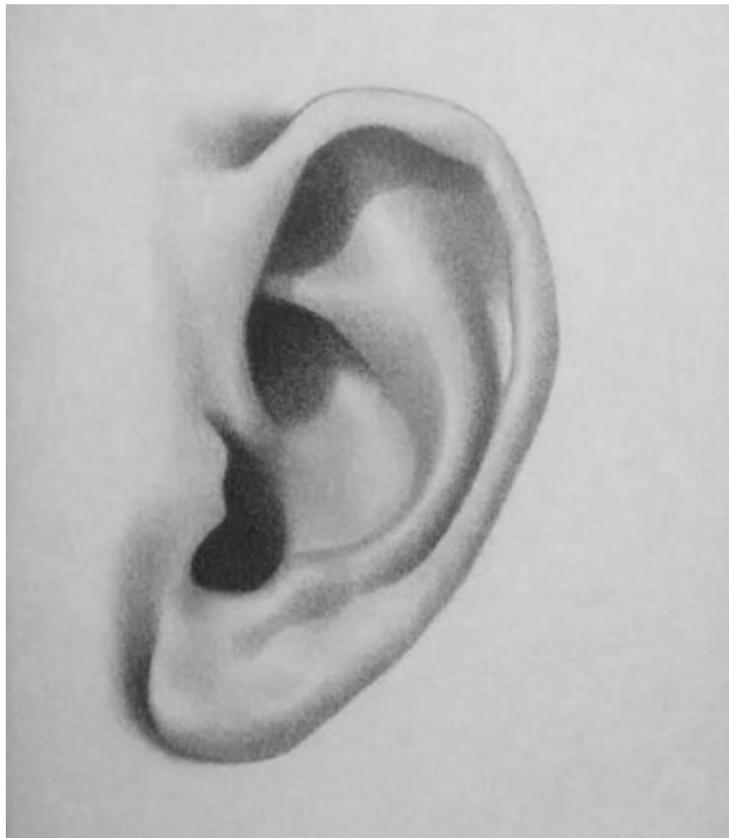


Shade the areas outlined in the previous step with a 4B pencil. Remember to shade deeper parts of the ear darker and bumps lighter.

Click [here](#) to learn how to shade!

Step 5:

Using an hb pencil, shade the rest of the ear, keeping in mind that the bumps should be lightest and valleys darkest. Use a blending stump to blend each area separately (learn about how to use a blending stump [here](#)). Use a kneaded eraser to bring out the lightest areas of the ear if needed.



If you enjoyed this short and simple tutorial on drawing the human ear, please share it with your friends!

What's next? Click here to learn how to [draw it on a face!](#)