

How to Doodle

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Doodling is not only a great way to pass the time during a boring class, but it can help you improve your artistic skills and find your passion. As long as you relax and let your hand do the thinking, you'll be on your way to having original, funny, or even gorgeous doodles. If you want to know how to doodle, just follow these steps.

Things You'll Need

- ☐ Pencil or pen
- ☐ Paper or notebook

Part 1 of 2: Learning the Basics of Doodling



1 Have the right tools. If you want to be a master doodler, then you should be prepared to doodle wherever you go. Inspiration -- or boredom -- can strike at any moment, not just in your third-period history class, so you should always be prepared to start doodling. You should *always* carry a notebook around, along with a few tools. You can begin with a few basic tools and use more artistic tools as your doodling skills improve. Here are some great tools to doodle with:[1]

- Simple supplies:
 - Pencil
 - Ink Pen
 - Highlighter
 - Marker
 - Ballpoint pen
- Artist supplies:
 - Charcoal
 - Chalk
 - Coloured Pencils
 - Paint
 - Pastels



2 Get inspired. As soon as you feel the urge to doodle, just put your pen to the paper and get started. Whether you're thinking of an act, an event, a feeling, a person, a place, a song, or even your own name, you should just put your pen to the paper and start drawing to see what you come up with. When the urge to doodle strikes, don't ignore it (unless it's not appropriate for you to doodle), or the feeling may pass.^[2]

- You'll find that you can also become inspired *after* you begin to doodle. You don't have to wait for the feeling that tells you to doodle -- you can just start doodling and feel the inspiration seep into your pores.



3 Associate freely. You don't have to stick to doodling just flowers, puppies, or your own last name. You can start by doodling a garden of flowers, then think of your best friend Mary Flowers and start drawing her pet poodle, Pork Chop, who makes you think of the delicious pork chop dinner you had last night...just start with one image and keep drawing whatever pops into your head.^[3]

- You don't have to stick to one theme or concept. No one is judging you -- and it's likely that no one will even see your doodles, so feel free to draw whatever you want.

Part 2 of 2: Doodling a Variety of Objects



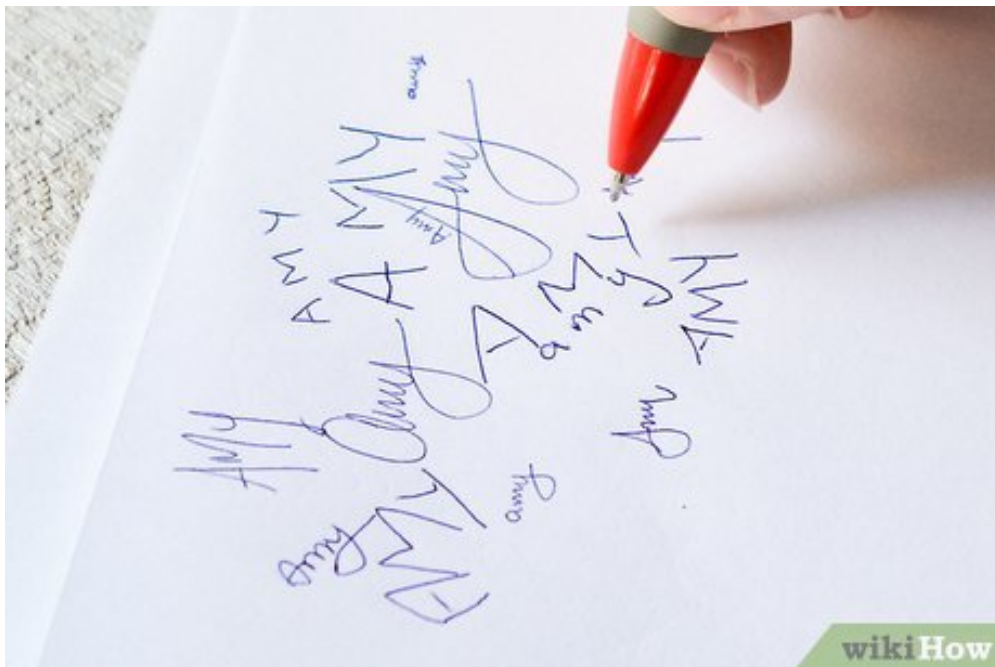
1 Doodle flowers. Flowers are a popular item for doodling because there are endless variety of flowers and they are fun and easy to draw.^[4] Here are some ways you can draw flowers:

- Draw a vase and fill it with your own bouquet of flowers.
- Draw a garden that is filled with unique flowers.
- Draw a field of sunflowers with a sun shining down on them.
- Draw a rose bush surrounded by rose petals.
- Draw daisies. Cross off some of the petals and play "He loves me, he loves me not."
- Write your own name or another word in simple flowers.



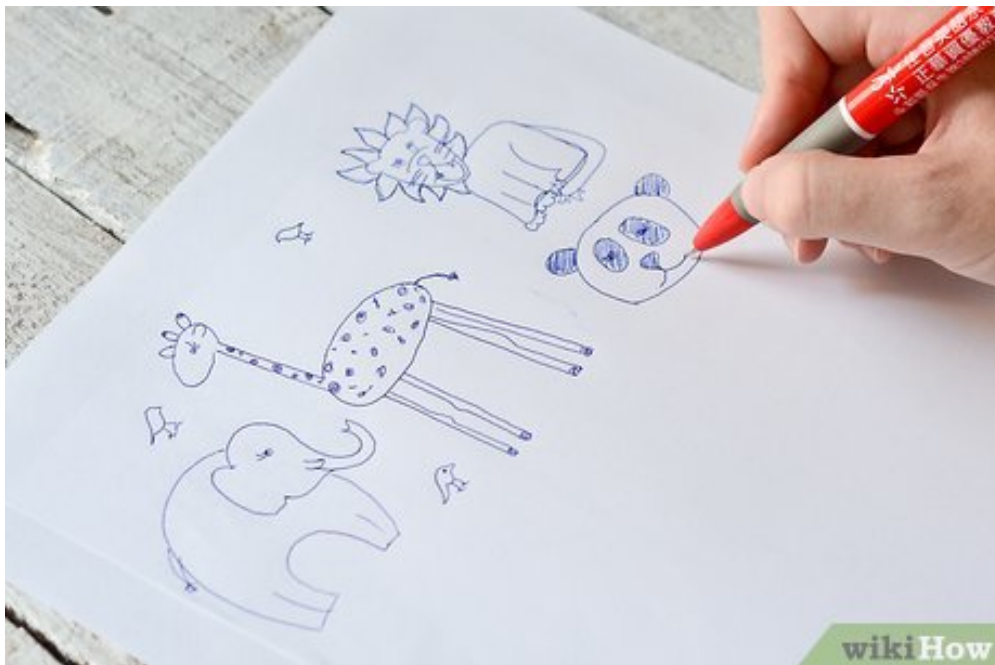
2 Doodle faces. Faces are more complicated to draw than most flowers, but you'll feel rewarded when you've truly learned to draw a face. You can draw the face of your teacher or your classmate, or just have fun drawing a random face. Here are some other ways to doodle faces:

- Practice drawing almost the same face with different expressions. This will help you get to know the face you're doodling.
- Doodle a face of a person you know from memory, whether it's your crush or favorite celebrity. Later, you can compare the doodle to the actual person and see how well you did.
- Doodle parts of a face. Draw an entire page of eyeballs, lips, or noses, and see how much you learn.
- Doodle a caricature. Draw a face with silly, exaggerated features.



3 Doodle your name. Your name is another popular thing to doodle. There are a variety of ways to doodle your name, whether you're writing it over and over again in the same way, or writing your name in a completely new way every time. Here are some ways to doodle your name:

- Write your name in cursive. Try writing it with exaggerated loops.
- Try writing your name as small as you possibly can while making it still legible.
- Write different versions of your name that abbreviate your first, middle, or last name. For example: "Jean M. Carmen," "J. M. Carmen," or "Jean Marie C."
- Write your first name along with the last name of your crush. This will help you see if you're a match made in heaven.
- Write your name in big block letters. Decorate the block letters with vines, stars, planets, or hearts.
- Write your name in bubble letters. Have soap bubbles floating off the top of your name.



4 Doodle animals. Animals are another fun thing to doodle, and there are endless possibilities to covering your pages with cute or scary creatures. You can draw your pet dog, create a creature of your own, or even turn an ordinary kitty into a monster. Here are some other ways to doodle animals:

- Doodle underwater creatures. Draw an ocean and place all of the underwater creatures you can think of, from jellyfish to sharks, in this fun seascape.
- Doodle jungle creatures. Create your own jungle filled with parakeets, monkeys, snakes, and any jungle creatures you can think of.
- Turn ordinary creatures into monsters. Doodle a collection of cute kitties, puppies, and bunnies, and then have fun giving them fangs, evil eyes, and devil's horns.
- Doodle your favorite pet. Are you obsessed with your dog? Draw him in a variety of cute poses.
- Doodle your dream pet. Draw the pet you'd like to have the most, even if it's completely impractical. You can even name him and write his name around him in bubble letters.
- Doodle a hybrid creature. Draw a dog with a lamb's head, a leopard with a peacock's tail, or a fish with an alligator snout.



5 Doodle what you see. Have fun doodling whatever you see in front of you, whether it's your teacher, your classmates, the board, or the world outside your classroom. You can find a lot of originality in the ordinary objects right in front of you. Here are some other things to doodle:

- The contents of your pencil case
- The expression on your teacher's face
- The clouds or sun outside your window
- The trees outside your window
- Anything hanging on the wall in front of you
- Your other hand



6 Doodle what you hear. A fun way to free associate while you're doodling is to listen to whatever your teacher or the people around you are saying and to doodle the things that you're hearing about. Here are some ways to doodle what you hear:

- Doodle a historical figure. If your teacher is talking about George Washington, draw him in a variety of poses.
- Doodle a person you've never met. If you hear two people discussing a person with a funny name, just imagine what he would look like and draw him.
- Doodle a concept. What do you think of when your teacher says, "embargo" or "bell curve"? You don't have to doodle what the object actually is -- just doodle what it makes you picture in your head.
- Doodle a song. Did someone walk into the classroom with that song that always gets stuck in your head blaring from his headphones? Draw whatever it is the song makes you think about.



7 Doodle a cityscape. Cityscapes are fun to doodle and are perfect for the bottom or top margins of your pages. Draw a cityscape along the top of your notebook page, and have fun adding all of the little details that make it unique.^[5] Here are some things you can do when you doodle a cityscape:

- Make it night. The city looks the most beautiful at night, so draw a full moon and shade the sky in a dark color.
- Draw little windows in all of the houses. Some will be lit and some won't be.
- Add more details. Add trees, lamps, phone booths, trash cans, and even people walking their dogs on the streets outside the city.
- Draw a city you love. Think you know exactly what the New York cityscape looks like? Try drawing it and see how accurate you were later.



8 Create your own doodle world. As you become a more experienced doodler, you can create your own world, with your own people, your own animals, your own buildings, and your own trees in it. As you become more experienced, your creatures, thoughts, and people will begin to take on their own form and everyone will be able to recognize them as yours.

- Once you're a professional doodler, you can spread your love for doodling to others. Become an after-school doodle coach and share your love for doodling with others.
- You can even name your own world something like, "Megland," or "Walt's World," and write this name on top of your doodles.
- You can create a collage of your doodles in your room by taping the pages to your wall and being proud of all the doodling you've done.



Community Q&A

Question

I can only think of one thing to doodle and my mind is blank. How do I stop that?



Community Answer

Maybe you can try to relax more. Don't try to think about what to doodle too much, or else it would be kind of hard and frustrating. Try listening to music while you doodle.

Helpful 268 Not Helpful 45

Question

How can I do doodle better without any eraser?



Community Answer

Just let your imagination go wild. Then use your doodle "mistakes" to improve your drawing. Try to make something new out of them.

Helpful 191 Not Helpful 34

Question

Is it best to use blank paper or notebook paper in a regular notebook?



Community Answer

It really doesn't matter what you doodle on. It can be easier to see your doodles on blank paper (because they overlap) but just experiment and find what works best for you.

Helpful 200 Not Helpful 32

Question

Should I keep a doodle journal?



Community Answer

That's entirely up to you. If you enjoy doodling and find yourself doing it often, you might find it helpful to have an easily carried doodle journal and pencil/pen to take with you wherever you go and use on-the-go. Or, you might just prefer finding scrap paper here and there when the mood takes you. Since journals don't cost a lot and you'll often have spare items around the house, the journal might be a good thing to at least experiment with.

Helpful 164 Not Helpful 31

Question

What if my doodles are not looking good?



Perla Medrano
Community Answer

It's all in the eye of the beholder. If you don't like your art, keep practicing until it becomes as good as you want it to be.

Helpful 178 Not Helpful 34

Question

Should a doodle be random or should I choose a subject that is meaningful to me?



Community Answer

It's up to you. Doodles need not be the slightest bit meaningful. It can be simply pretty or maybe showing some occasion, festival, mood, etc. Really, it comes down to how you feel about the doodle as you create it -- if you're in the mood for meaningful, then make it so; if not, then just doodle randomly.

Helpful 145 Not Helpful 32

Question

Is it important to doodle with pen?



Community Answer

No, you can use whatever you like! If you want to be able to erase mistakes, use a pencil. But doodling with pens is more common. It looks a little more intense than pencil, and it's supposed to just be free and spontaneous, so 'mistakes' don't really matter.

Helpful 97 Not Helpful 19

Question

Should I show my doodle to anyone?



Community Answer

As with all things doodling, that's entirely up to you. If you like sharing artwork, then by all means show others. If you want them to appreciate it, be aware that some people might think it's not that interesting though -- reactions are very personal. If you'd rather keep your doodles to yourself, that's cool too. Another option is to just leave them lying about, to add to the joy of people's day when they come across one.

Helpful 108 Not Helpful 29

Question

What if someone says my drawings are bad?



Community Answer

Don't let rude people like that demotivate you. Just keep practicing drawing and over time you'll get better and the people that insulted you in the first place will probably stop. Even if they continue, don't take it too personally, some people are just jerks for no reason.

Helpful 46 Not Helpful 10

Question

How do I make bubble, block, and graffiti letters?



Community Answer

It may easiest to write it normally (with lines), and then trace around it. Then you erase the inside lines, and it's bubble/block letters!

Helpful 119 Not Helpful 38

[See more answers](#)



Tips

- Doodles can be as simple as patterns or a complex and a room full of items.
- Don't worry if it looks "childish." "Childish" doodles are the most expressive, funny, and cute.
- Eventually, you will make your own style of doodling. If you like it, stick with it, or try a new style.
- Use your mistakes as a guideline or just a decorative touch to your "work of art".
- If you are **short on inspiration** -and exceptionally **good at drawing**- just **draw what's around you**. Stare at one point and try to copy it on your paper.
- If you notice that you doodle one item very often, try to make an effort to change it up and stretch your creativity a step farther.
- Be creative and draw real-life objects, but give them a smiling face or a cartoony look. Give them arms and legs, noses and mouths, even some hair.
- Try using different kinds of fillings for some solid objects or add lines to the edges of a drawing or piece of art to add a 3-D effect.
- Never, ever copy somebody's doodles! Getting inspiration from them is great, but

copying doodles is just annoying and unoriginal.

- Draw a person, an animal, a plant or any objects which are familiar to you with their own personality/characters.
- Don't use an eraser. The point of doodling is to move freely, turn defects into effects, just cover the mistakes and don't spend time on making it perfect. It's supposed to look fun and free.
- Doodling is expressing the senses and thoughts.^[6] It's a type of abstract art with no restrictions.



Warnings

- Don't be modest. If your drawing is really good, just say thank you and **smile** -- save your doubts for later!
- Don't be overconfident and obnoxious about your drawings. This means do not take your drawing out and show it to tons of people; it will make them think you're starving for attention.
- Don't even think at all. It will only make you get "stuck". Just draw! If ever you are stuck, you may draw the first thing that comes to your mind.

References

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