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How to Draw Manga Eyes

Manga eyes are highly expressive and vary by style (shōnen, shōjo, chibi, etc.). This tutorial teaches a **simple front-facing eye** in 6 clear steps.

Step 1: Draw the Eye Shape

Start by drawing an **arched upper lid** and a **flatter or curved lower lid**.  
Make the eye wide and open — manga eyes are typically much larger than realistic eyes.

A black circle with a white background

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Step 2: Add the Iris

Inside the eye shape, draw a large oval or circle that fills most of the space vertically and touches or overlaps the eyelids slightly.  
Don’t centre it too much — slightly up or down placement creates more emotion.

A black circle with a white background

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Step 3: Draw the Pupil

Inside the iris, add a **dark circle** for the pupil.  
This should sit at the centre of the iris and be noticeably smaller.

A black eye with a black circle

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Step 4: Add the upper lid

A black and white drawing of an eye

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Step 5: Add Light Reflections

To make the eyes appear shiny and alive, add light reflections

A black and white eye

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Step 6: Draw the Eyelashes

Thicken the upper eyelid line and extend it slightly past the edges.  
You can also add a small flick upward at the outer edge for a lash effect.

A black and white eye symbol

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Step 7: Add details and shade

A cartoon eye with a white background

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Step 8: Add the Eyebrow

Draw a soft arch or line **above the eye** — not too close.  
Eyebrows help define emotion:

* Curved = calm
* Angled = intense
* High = surprised

A black and white image of an eye

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

A black and white eye

AI-generated content may be incorrect. Examples of Manga eyes, with eyebrows

A group of eyes with different types of eyes

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

How to Draw Manga Hair

In manga, hair follows a few clear rules:

* It flows in **clumps**, not individual strands.
* It follows the **shape of the skull**, but often exaggerates for style.
* It can reflect **personality** — wild, smooth, spiky, soft, or stiff.

Step 1: Start with the Head Shape

Use a simple circle and jawline. This gives you the base to build your hair onto.

A drawing of a head

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Step 2: Sketch the Hairline and Flow

Lightly sketch a **hairline** — usually follows a soft “M” shape or arch above the forehead.  
Then draw the **general direction** the hair will fall, using light curved lines to map flow.

A drawing of a face

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Step 3: Add Hair Clumps

Sketch big, curved **clumps** of hair instead of individual strands. Think of each clump like a ribbon or leaf—tapered at the ends and wider in the middle.

A drawing of a face

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Step 4: Outline the Hair Shape

Using your clumps as a guide, create the full hair silhouette. Let it extend slightly beyond the head — hair has volume and doesn’t cling to the skull.

A drawing of a person's face

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Step 5: Add Details Inside the Hair

Draw internal lines that follow the direction of the clumps. These give the hair texture and help guide where highlights or shadows will go.

A drawing of a person's face

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

💇‍♀️ Examples of Basic hair styles

A cartoon characters of a person

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

How to Draw Manga Mouths

Manga mouths are simple but expressive. The shape, size, and placement vary depending on mood, gender, and style. This tutorial shows how to draw a **neutral front-facing mouth**, step by step.

Step 1: Draw a Horizontal Line for the Base

Start with a **short, slightly curved horizontal line** halfway between the nose and chin. This is the base of the mouth.

Above the base line, draw a **short curved line** that suggests the top lip. Keep it small and light.

Below the base line, draw a slightly longer, soft curve to suggest the lower lip. This adds shape and volume.

A close up of a mouth

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Join up the lines

A black line drawing of a lips

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Step 2: Adjust for Expression

To change mood:

* Curve the ends **up** for a smile
* Curve the ends **down** for a frown
* Add a small line at each corner to show tension or softness

A black and white drawing of a mouth

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

👄 Examples of Manga Mouths

A group of different facial expressions

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

How to Draw Manga Noses

Manga noses are often **very simple** — especially in front view. The complexity increases slightly in profile or 3/4 view. This tutorial focuses on **basic front-facing noses**.

Step 1: Mark the Nose Position

Place a small dot or dash along the centre guideline of the face, about halfway between the eyes and mouth. This will mark the base of the nose.

Use a small **dash**, **dot**, or **tiny curve** to suggest the nostrils or tip of the nose. In manga, less is more.

A black and white circle with a point

AI-generated content may be incorrect.A drawing of a cross section

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Step 2: Suggest Shadows or Lines (Optional)

Add a **tiny line to one side** of the nose or under it to suggest shadow. This adds depth without over-detailing.

A crosshaired circle with a few lines

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

How to Draw Manga Faces

Step 1: Draw a Circle and Guideline, and define the jawbone

Start with a circle and draw a vertical and horizontal line crossing through the centre. This will help place the features evenly.

Define the jawbone

A black circle with a cross mark

AI-generated content may be incorrect.A drawing of a head

AI-generated content may be incorrect.A drawing of a face

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Step 2: Place the eyes, nose, mouth and ears

Eyebrows sit above, and eyes sit below the horizontal guideline. Place two almond or oval-shaped eyes, spaced one eye-width apart.

The nose is small and sits along the vertical guideline. For front views, a small dot or dash is enough. For side views, use a small triangle or curve.

Place the mouth halfway between the nose and chin. Keep it simple—just a soft curve or a slight “w” shape for a smile.

Ears sit between the eyes and nose, on the sides of the head.

A drawing of a cartoon head

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Step 3: Experiment with Angles

Try drawing faces from different angles (3/4 view, profile, up/down tilt) using the same guidelines.

A drawing of a couple of heads

AI-generated content may be incorrect.A drawing of a head

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Don’t forget the hair!

A drawing of a couple of girls

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Step 4: Add the Neck and Shoulders

* From just under the **ears**, draw two lines curving slightly inward for the neck.
* Then draw **two slanted lines** outward from the base of the neck to form the shoulders.
* Keep the lines soft and light — you can adjust them later depending on the character’s build or clothing.

A drawing of a person's face

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

How to draw Manga Anatomy (Proportions & Posing)

Step 1: Draw the Head

Start with a simple oval or circle to represent the head. This will be used as the unit of measurement for the body.

A black and white oval object

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Step 2: Mark 7.5-8 Heads Down the Page

From the bottom of the head, draw **7 more head-lengths** stacked below. This gives the full body height. The final half-head unit allows for foot space or stylised proportions.

A black and white oval object

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Step 3: Mark the Key Body Landmarks

Use your head units to mark:

A drawing of a group of people

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

📏 Why Manga Characters Look Extra Tall

* **Proportions**: Many manga use the **7 or 8-heads-tall rule**, while real people average about **6.5 to 7 heads tall**.
* A **7- or 8-head manga adult** doesn’t look abnormally tall — it looks refined
* **Legs are longer**: Manga often exaggerates **long legs** to make characters look more elegant or powerful.
* **Style choice**: Taller, slender figures fit dramatic action scenes, fashion, and emotional expression.
* A **4-head child** reads instantly as adorable or young, even if it’s anatomically impossible
* The rules shift by **genre** — shōnen heroes are tall and lean; chibi forms are the opposite

If you’re drawing a realistic adult, 6.5–7 heads is fine. For stylised manga, **go for 7–8 heads** — it’s not realistic, but it looks great on the page. Want a side-by-side comparison of manga vs real-world proportions?

A person standing in front of a chart

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

👶 Children vs Adults

* **Young children** in manga = ~4 heads tall
* **Teens** = 6–7 heads tall
* **Stylised adults** = 7–8 heads tall (or more!)

Step 4: Sketch the Limbs with Simple Lines

Use straight or slightly curved lines to block in:

* **Arms**: from shoulders to just above the 4th head unit (elbows), ending at mid-thigh
* **Legs**: from hips to 6th head (knees), down to 7.5th (feet)

A black and white drawing of a human body

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Step 5: Add Simple Shapes Over the Limbs

Now add:

* **Cylinders** for arms and legs
* **Ovals** for joints
* **Wedge or block** shapes for the chest and hips

This makes it easy to turn the stick figure into a body.

A black and white drawing of a person's body

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Step 6: Tidy Up the Body Shape

Use your simple forms to draw a smooth outline for the body. This is your **final base sketch**.

A black and white outline of a person's body

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

🧍‍♂️ Basic body movements

A group of cartoon characters

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

How to Draw Manga Hands

Hands are tricky — but with a simplified approach, they become manageable. This tutorial breaks down **front-facing open hands** using basic shapes and proportions.

Step 1: Start with the Palm Shape

Draw a **rounded rectangle or square**. This represents the palm — not perfectly square, but slightly longer than wide.

A black outline of a shield

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Step 2: Mark the Knuckles

Draw a **gentle arc** across the top of the palm. This shows where the fingers will attach — they're not in a straight line.

A black and white drawing of a shield

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Step 3: Draw the Fingers

From the knuckle arc, draw **four fingers** using simple rectangles or sausages.

* **Middle finger** is longest
* **Index and ring** are a bit shorter
* **Pinky** is the smallest

Add the thumb, and the details

**✋** Examples of Manga Hands

A black and white of hands with different gestures

AI-generated content may be incorrect.