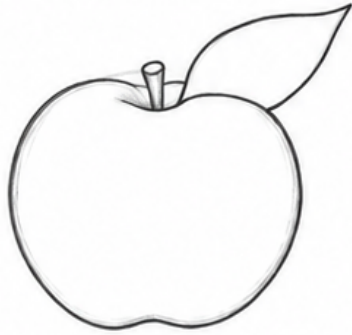
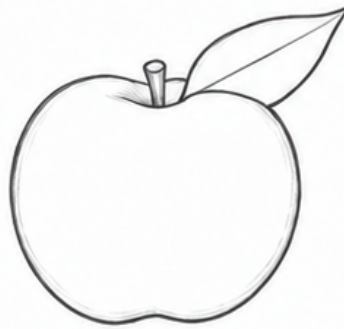


How to draw an apple: form and overlap

Turn a circle into an apple: use a shallow top hollow and two soft lower bulges. The main decisions are form and overlap; choose your own sizes.



Simplest



A little more detail



Best version

Simplest: Keep a plain leaf: only its outer edge is needed. The upper curve is a guide to remove at the end.

A little more detail: Draw one vein from the leaf base up-right to the tip. Keep it inside the leaf.

Best version: Keep the middle vein and add two short side veins from its middle towards the upper leaf edge. Stop them just short of that edge.

“Trial → After checking” pairs show a choice and a local repair. You do not need to copy a diagnostic error. These pencil-style illustrations are AI-generated, not photographs of human or child drawings.

Goal and preparation

One apple with a leaf, viewed from the side; no shading or realistic texture. Choose a curve on a form, explain the overlap order and erase only the covered rear edge.

Use paper, an HB/2B pencil and an eraser. Start with a rough circle, oval and curve. Allow 20–35 minutes, with a break if needed. Around age 7 is a suggestion for learners familiar with these shapes, not an ability rating. To simplify, omit small details but keep both checks. To extend, try all three transfer tasks and choose your own sizes.

Technique 1. A curve on the form

A light curve across the apple helps place the leaf on its rounded surface. Erase the guide after checking.

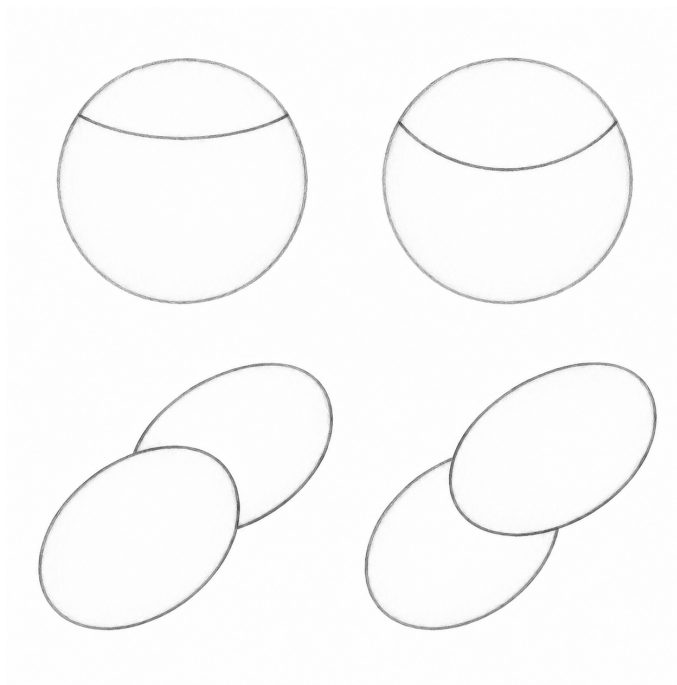
On a simple mass try the two warm-up curves: shallow, then deeper. Choose the one that better describes the selected surface or open circular rim.

Check: The curve endpoints stay on one mass; explain what the curve shows.

Technique 2. Overlap

An opaque foreground shape hides part of the rear shape. Draw two intersecting ovals, choose the front one and erase the covered rear segment. Swap the order in a second trial. Check: where does the rear line end? The criterion is at the foreground edge, not inside it.

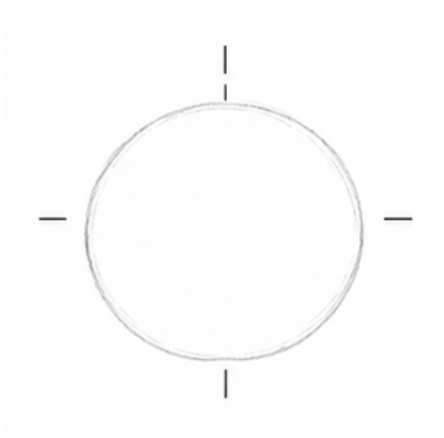
Warm-up



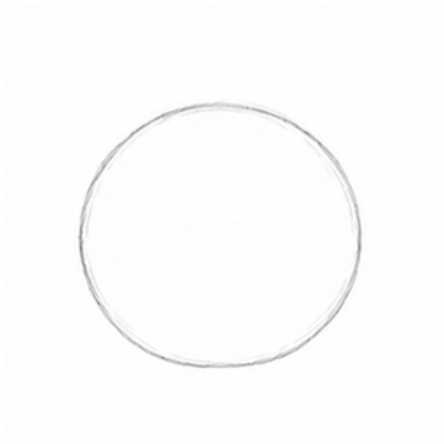
In the margin try the chosen curve twice: shallow and deeper. Name the one that exposes more of the surface. Then overlap two ovals and erase the covered edge; repeat with the other oval in front. The first trial prepares step 2; the second prepares steps 4–5.

Step 1. Place the mass

Trial



After checking

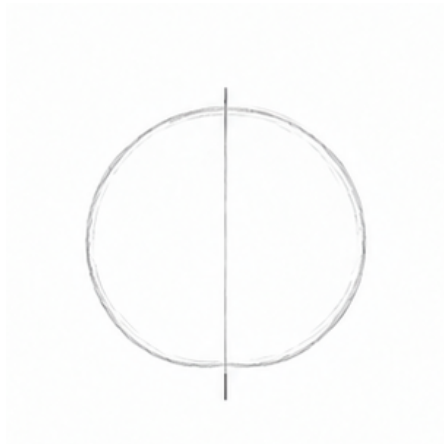


Simplest

Trial



After checking

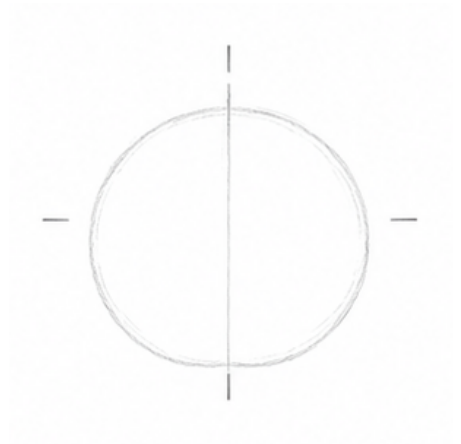


A little more detail

Trial



After checking



Best version

Simplest: Sketch one light circle and check the spare space above it for a leaf. No axis is needed.

A little more detail: Place one apple circle. Add a light axis to the first mass.

Best version: Place one apple circle. Check its top, base and both sides with four short markers; add an axis.

Sketch a light circle in the page middle, leaving half its height above for the leaf.

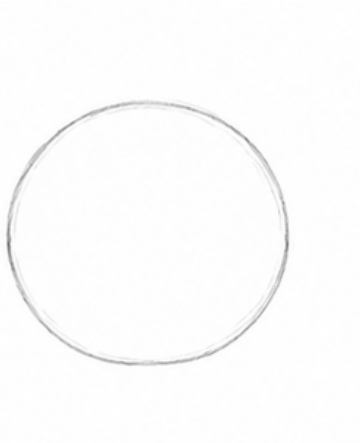
Why: One mass lets you check placement before details.

Check: Is there room for the leaf above?

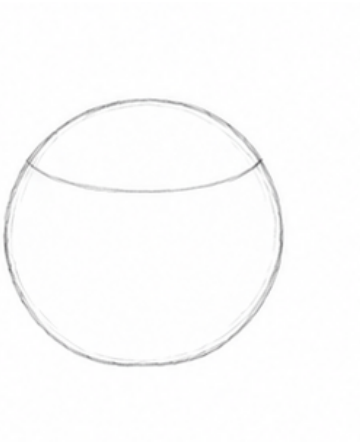
Repair: Soften the circle and move it down.

Step 2. Place a curve and axis

Trial

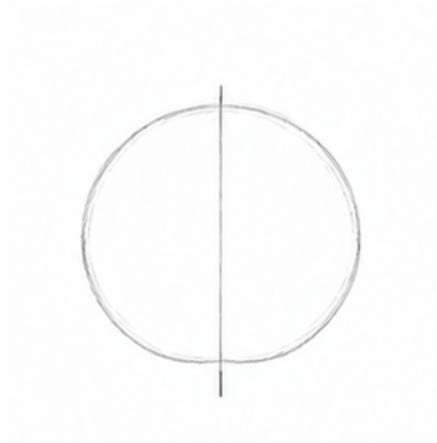


After checking

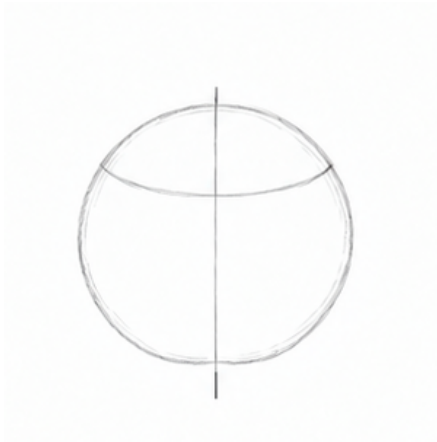


Simplest

Trial

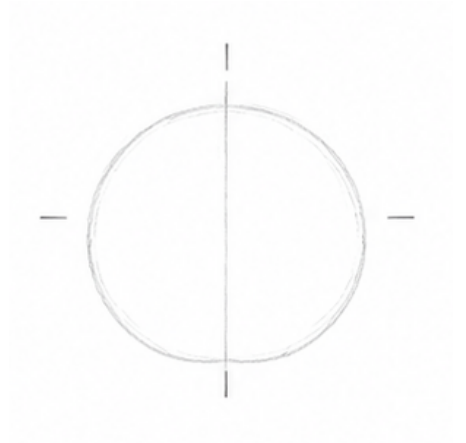


After checking

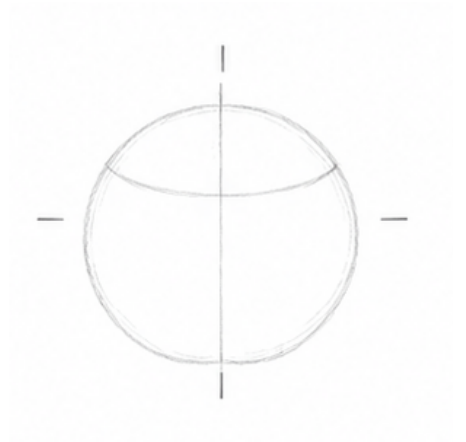


A little more detail

Trial



After checking



Best version

Simplest: Choose the main curve from this step; you may omit a separate axis.

A little more detail: Draw the main curve using the axis. Keep shared arc endpoints when constructing an ellipse.

Best version: Draw the main curve and compare its ends to the side markers. Keep the top and bottom supports light.

Draw a curve in the upper third of the circle, its middle slightly below its ends. Mark an axis towards the lower centre.

Why: The curve describes the rounded top; the axis connects hollow and base.

Check: Does the curve stay inside the mass?

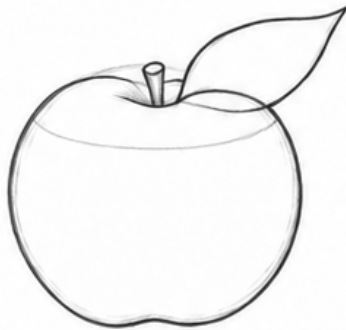
Repair: Shorten its ends at the circle boundary.

Step 3. Find the edge and leaf

Trial

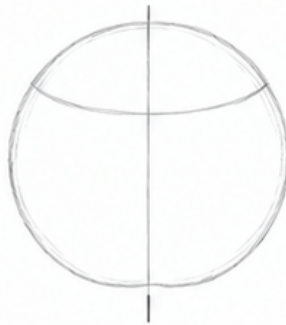


After checking

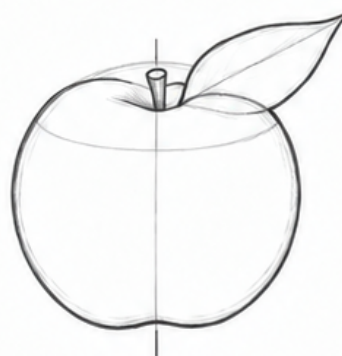


Simplest

Trial

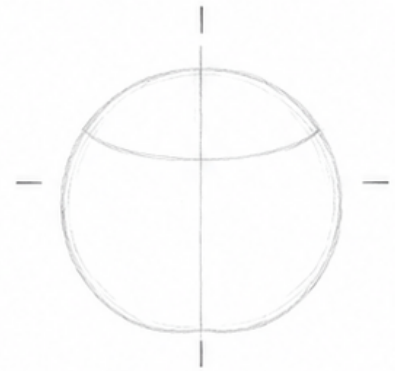


After checking

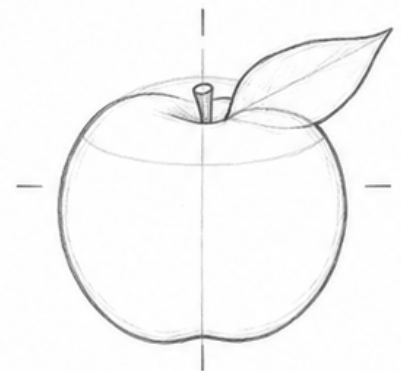


A little more detail

Trial



After checking



Best version

Simplest: Find the hollow at the upper axis, gently widen the sides and form two lower bulges. Direct a leaf up and right from the hollow. Keep the outer edge plain, without internal details. Add a short stalk in the hollow: two close lines with a small rounded top.

A little more detail: Find the hollow at the upper axis, gently widen the sides and form two lower bulges. Direct a leaf up and right from the hollow. Keep the axis light for checking detail placement. Add a short stalk in the hollow: two close lines with a small rounded top. The faint line inside the leaf only marks direction for now; it becomes a vein in step 6.

Best version: Find the hollow at the upper axis, gently widen the sides and form two lower bulges. Direct a leaf up and right from the hollow. Compare the new edge to all four markers; keep them out of the final outline. Add a short stalk in the hollow: two close lines with a small rounded top. The faint line inside the leaf only marks direction for now; it becomes a vein in step 6.

Find the hollow at the upper axis, gently widen the sides and form two lower bulges. Direct a leaf up and right from the hollow. Add a short stalk in the hollow: two close lines with a small rounded top. In the two detailed routes, a faint line inside the leaf marks its direction.

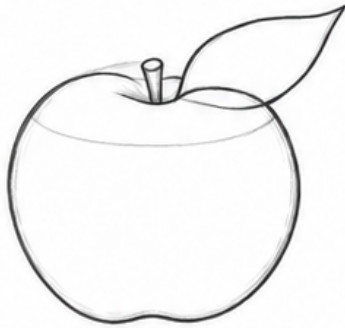
Why: The working edge differs from the circle; the leaf attaches to the top rather than the side.

Check: Is the hollow above the lower centre?

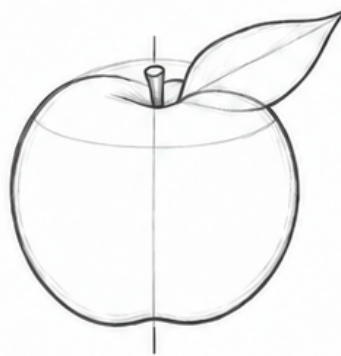
Repair: Erase only the trial circle top and refine the hollow.

Step 4. Choose the hidden edge

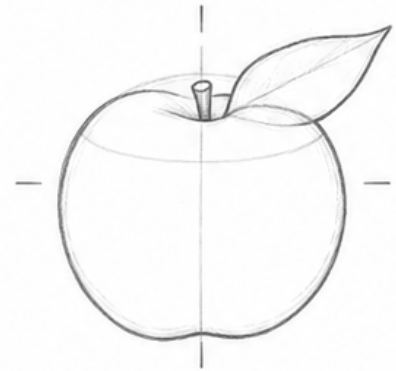
Trial



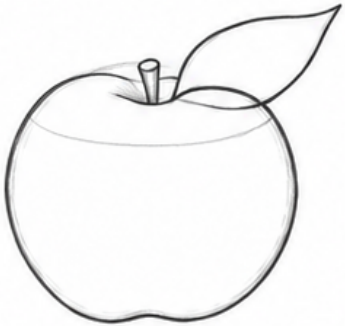
Trial



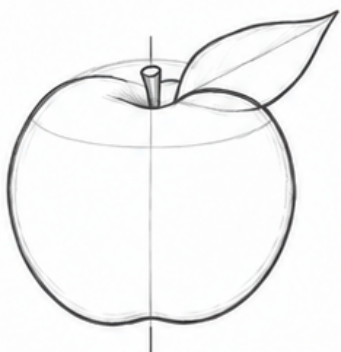
Trial



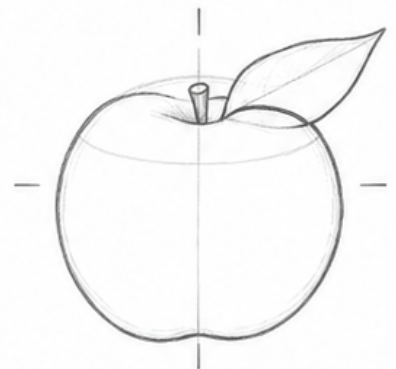
After checking



After checking



After checking



Simplest

A little more detail

Best version

Simplest: At the upper hollow the leaf sits in front of the right rim section. Find the provisional line inside the leaf; it is the erasure candidate. Point to one section to erase.

A little more detail: At the upper hollow the leaf sits in front of the right rim section. Find the provisional line inside the leaf; it is the erasure candidate. Name both covered-line endpoints before erasing.

Best version: At the upper hollow the leaf sits in front of the right rim section. Find the provisional line inside the leaf; it is the erasure candidate. Compare the covered line with the adjacent visible edge: they serve different purposes.

The trial curve inside the lower leaf is the rear apple edge, not a vein. It is a diagnostic comparison. The next step shows its removal in a close-up.

At the upper hollow the leaf sits in front of the right rim section. Find the provisional line inside the leaf; it is the erasure candidate.

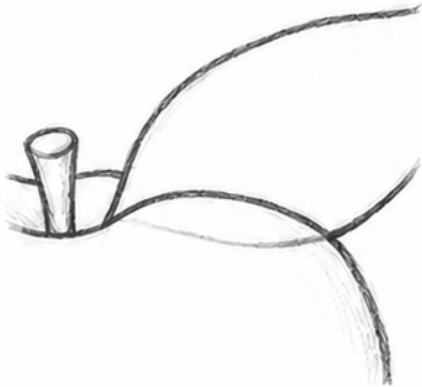
Why: Because the leaf hides part of the upper apple edge, a continuous rear line would make the front shape look transparent.

Check: Can you name the front shape and point to the covered segment?

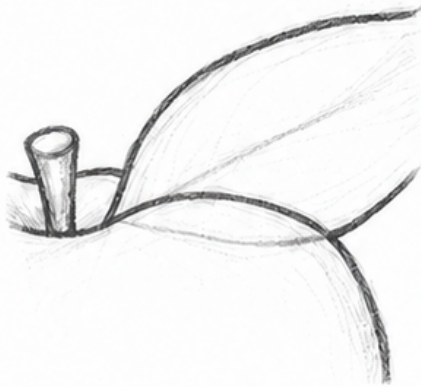
Repair: Do not erase everything: first locate both ends of the covered segment.

Step 5. Erase only the covered line

Covered edge: close-up



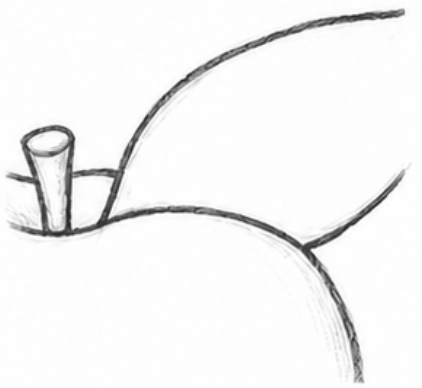
Covered edge: close-up



Covered edge: close-up



After erasing: close-up



After erasing: close-up



After erasing: close-up



Simplest

A little more detail

Best version

Simplest: Stop the upper apple edge at the leaf base. Remove the short section that continued inside the leaf. Keep the foreground outer edge. The close-up shows only the apple top; keep the size of your own drawing.

A little more detail: Stop the upper apple edge at the leaf base. Remove the short section that continued inside the leaf. Check that the visible rear end reaches the front edge. The close-up shows only the apple top; keep the size of your own drawing.

Best version: Stop the upper apple edge at the leaf base. Remove the short section that continued inside the leaf. If the eraser touched an adjacent visible line, restore only its short endpoint. The close-up shows only the apple top; keep the size of your own drawing.

Stop the upper apple edge at the leaf base. Remove the short section that continued inside the leaf.

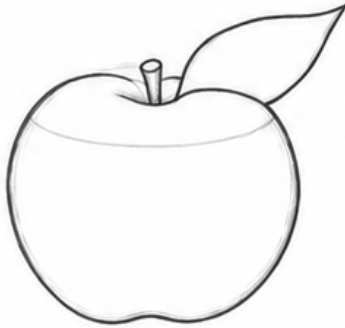
Why: The eraser commits the chosen order: the front form hides the rear one.

Check: Is the previous error line gone, with adjacent visible edges retained?

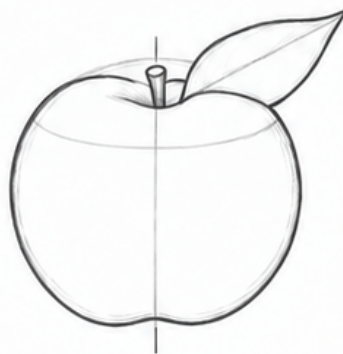
Repair: If you erased a visible end, restore a short line up to the foreground boundary.

Step 6. Add the useful details

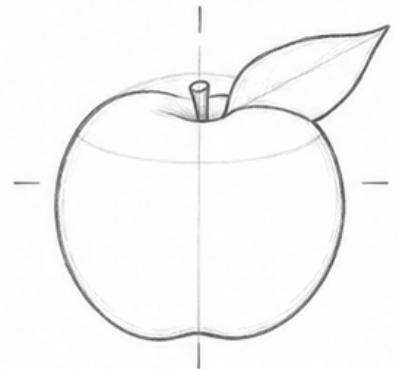
Trial



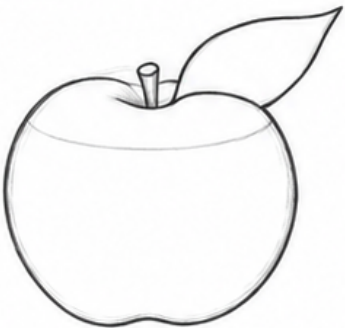
Trial



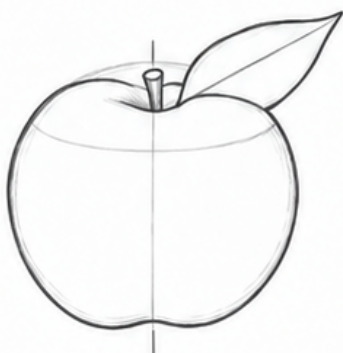
Trial



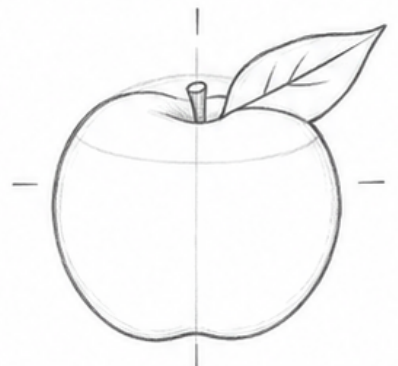
After checking



After checking



After checking



Simplest

A little more detail

Best version

Simplest: Keep a plain leaf: only its outer edge is needed. The upper curve is a guide to remove at the end.

A little more detail: Draw one vein from the leaf base up-right to the tip. Keep it inside the leaf.

Best version: Keep the middle vein and add two short side veins from its middle towards the upper leaf edge. Stop them just short of that edge.

Add only your route's details. Keep the simplest leaf plain; strengthen the middle route's direction line into one vein; add two short side veins in the best route.

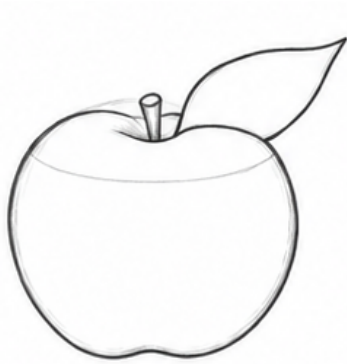
Why: Details use the masses and curves already checked.

Check: Does each detail belong to its form without crossing the neighbouring one?

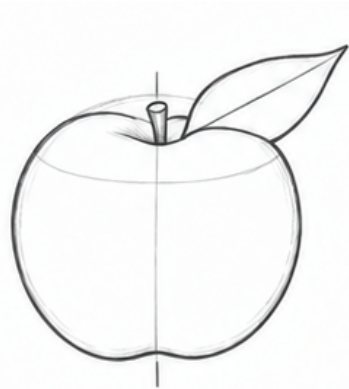
Repair: Erase only the misplaced detail endpoint and shorten it to its own edge.

Step 7. Remove the guides

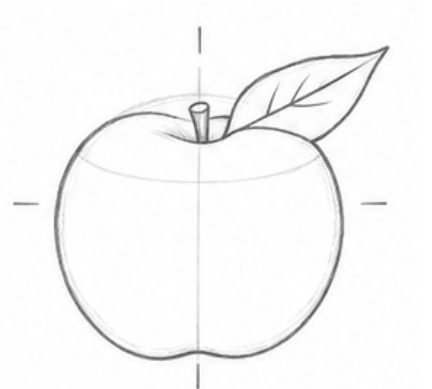
Trial



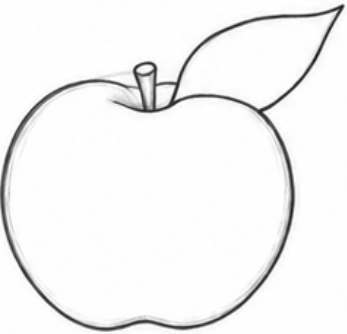
Trial



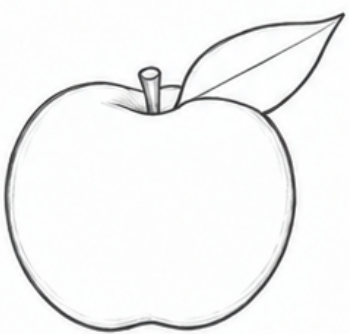
Trial



After checking



After checking



After checking



Simplest

A little more detail

Best version

Simplest: Remove the temporary curve and light masses; retain the plain edge and this route details.

A little more detail: Remove the axis and temporary masses. Keep the details added at step 6.

Best version: Remove the axis, four boundary markers and masses. Keep the chosen curves and step 6 details without adding new ones.

Erase the light masses and temporary guides, keeping the chosen outer edge and explained details. Add no new details.

Why: The guides helped choose the form, but not all are part of its surface.

Check: Is there less construction, with the overlap order intact?

Repair: Restore one needed visible edge if the eraser touched it; do not trace everything again.

If the drawing is unclear

The front form looks transparent. Cause: A covered rear edge remains: the leaf hides part of the upper apple edge. Repair: Stop the upper apple edge at the leaf base. Remove the short section that continued inside the leaf.

The curve does not belong to the form. Cause: Its endpoints escaped the mass boundary. Repair: Soften one endpoint and return it to the side marker from step 2.

There is a gap after erasing. Cause: The eraser touched a visible section beside the overlap. Repair: Restore a short visible end up to the front boundary; keep the hidden line erased.



Covered line: close-up

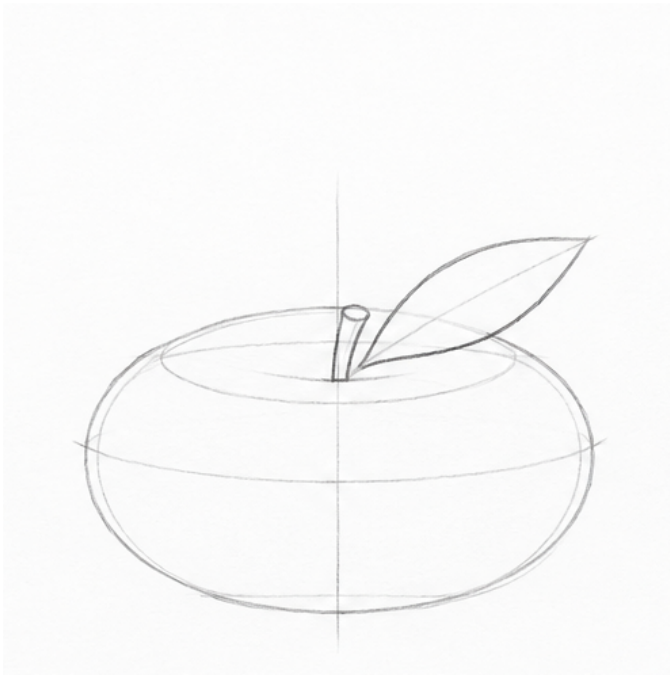


After erasing

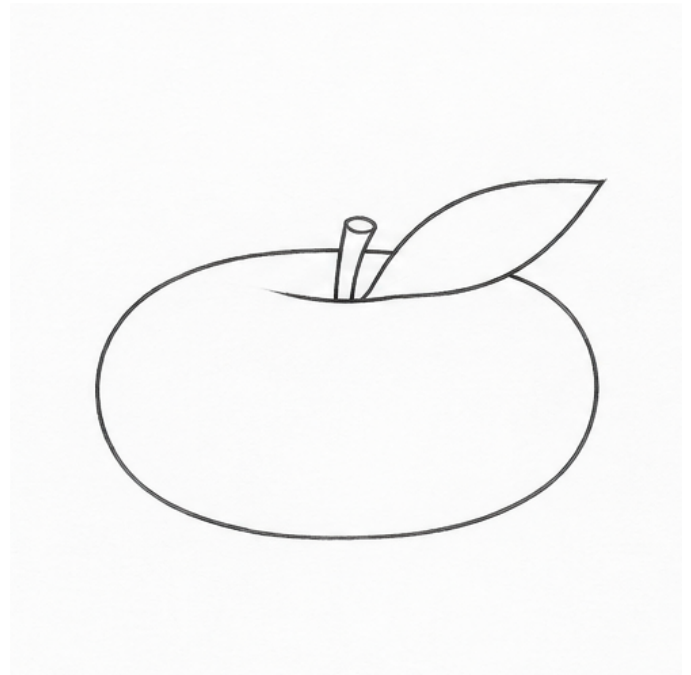
Independent tasks

Choose one new condition below. First construct your own masses and curve, name the foreground form, then draw the edge and erase the covered section. The construction-to-example pair explains the change; build rather than copy a finished outline. Your sizes and uneven lines may differ.

1. A flatter apple



Construction: a new condition



Example after removing guides

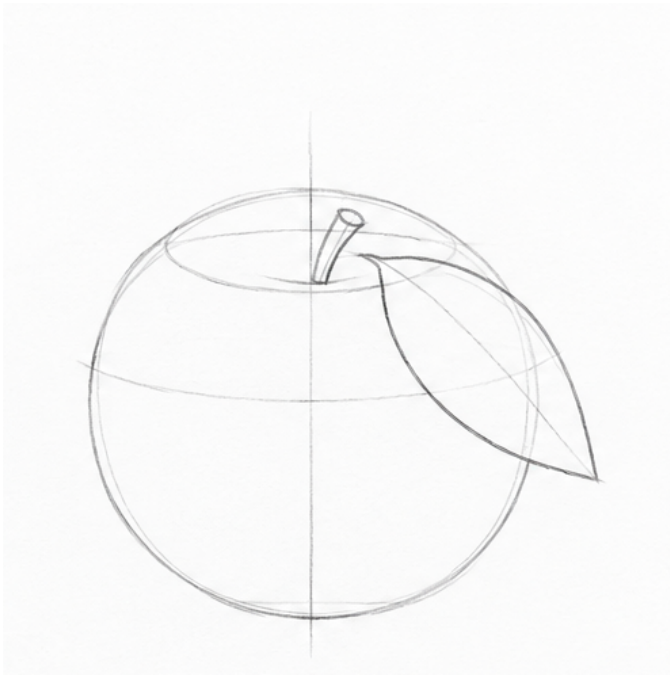
Place a lower mass at the same width. Choose its curve depth and leaf position at the upper landmark again; this is a neighbouring form, not a colour change. The sketch shows a light axis, surface curve and top oval around the stalk base. That oval tests the rounded top; it is not an extra finished contour, so erase it after checking.

Why: The new mass height changes the distance between upper and lower landmarks. Recheck the curve rather than keeping it automatically.

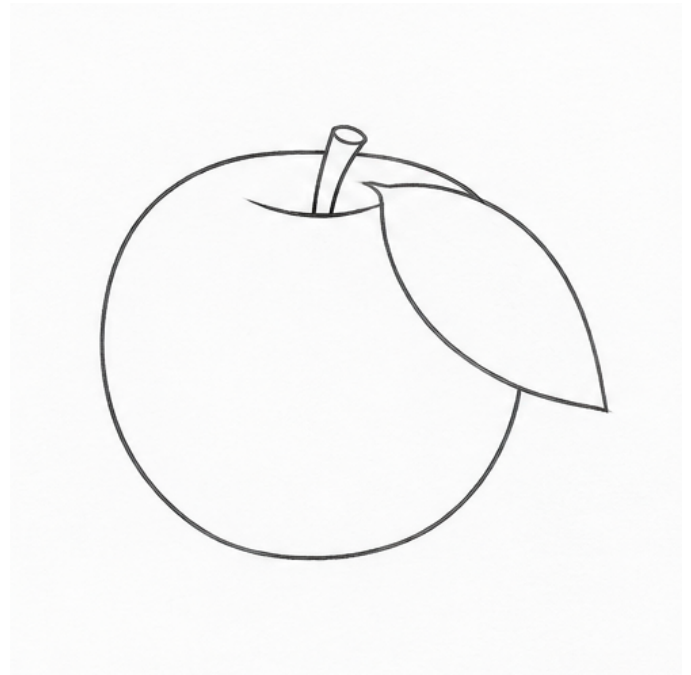
Check: Is the mass lower than before, with the curve inside it and the leaf attached to the new top?

Repair: Raise the lower mass marker; repair only the curve and leaf base.

2. Put the leaf in front of the apple



Construction: a new condition



Example after removing guides

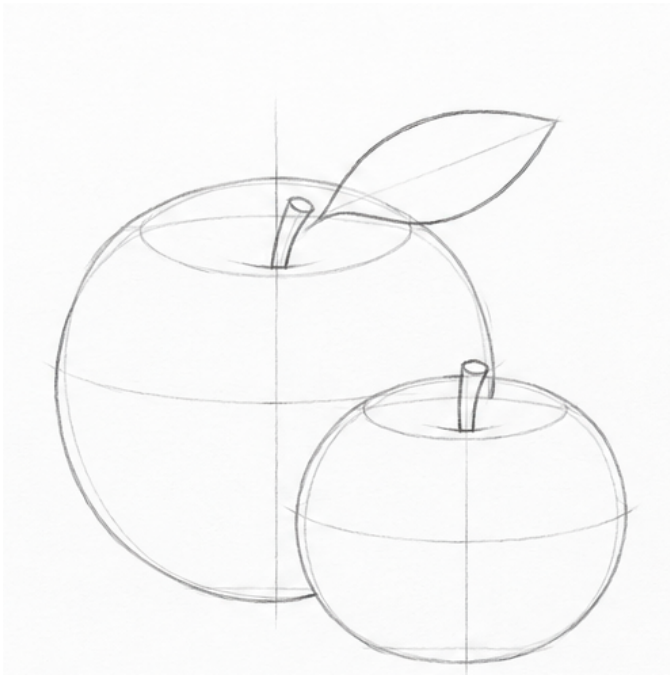
Direct the leaf down and right from the upper hollow. Decide which side segment it now hides. The sketch shows a light axis, surface curve and top oval around the stalk base. That oval tests the rounded top; it is not an extra finished contour, so erase it after checking.

Why: The foreground leaf overlaps the side instead of the previous upper edge.

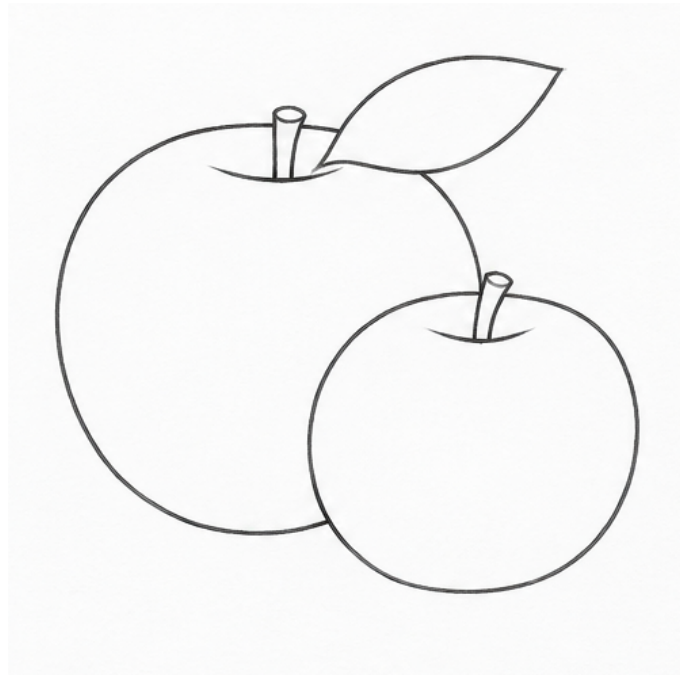
Check: Does the apple side stop at the leaf without crossing it?

Repair: Erase only the covered side; keep the leaf edge.

3. A second apple in front



Construction: a new condition



Example after removing guides

Place a small mass at the lower right in front of the first apple. Choose its hollow and stop the large rear edge at the new front apple. The sketch shows a light axis, surface curve and top oval around the stalk base. That oval tests the rounded top; it is not an extra finished contour, so erase it after checking.

Why: The new arrangement requires choosing the order of two whole volumes.

Check: Is the large outline absent inside the small apple?

Repair: Remove only the covered large apple arc.

Self-check

Name the changed condition, point to a curve on your new mass and show where the rear edge stops. Explain which guide you erased after checking.

Question: Why does the rear edge stop at an opaque foreground shape?

Answer: The foreground shape hides that segment. Continuing the rear edge inside it would suggest transparency. Retain the visible end up to the overlap.

Uneven lines are fine. Explain your chosen curve and where the rear edge stops. The example does not prescribe the only proportions. Structure and illustrations received editorial checks; no classroom trial has been conducted.