How to draw a flower

Orange lines are new. Black lines stay. Gray lines are temporary guides; erase them only when the step says. Every picture uses the same scale and position.

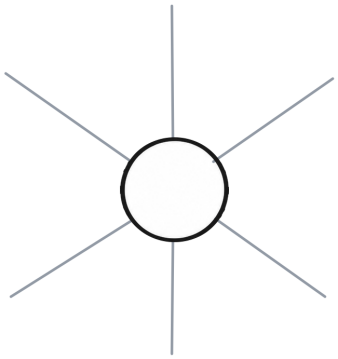
Build a six-petal flower around a small centre, then add a curved stem and two pointed leaves.



1. Place the flower centre

Draw a round centre in the upper third of the page. Leave about two centre-widths on each side and more room below for the stem.

Check: Keep the centre much smaller than the whole flower.



2. Mark six petal directions

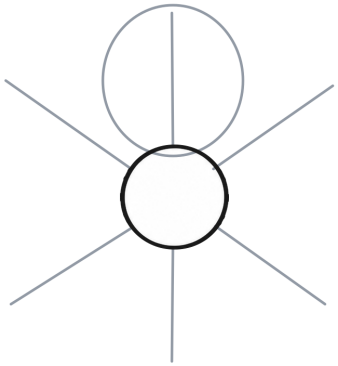
Draw six light spokes from the circle: up, upper right, lower right, down, lower left and upper left. Let each reach roughly one to one-and-a-half centre-widths beyond the circle.

Check: Leave six spaces around the centre; these gray spokes will be erased.

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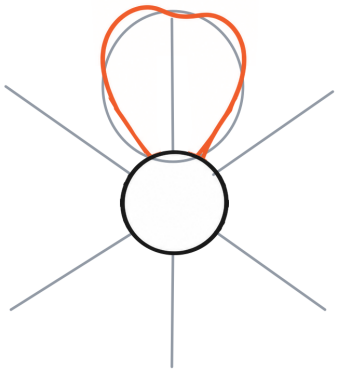
Follow the pictures at your own pace. Check each new shape before moving on.



3. Plan the first petal with an oval

Around the top spoke, draw a light upright oval. Make it a little wider than the centre and about one-and-a-half centre-heights tall. Its lower end touches the centre.

Check: The spoke runs through the middle of the oval.



4. Round the first petal

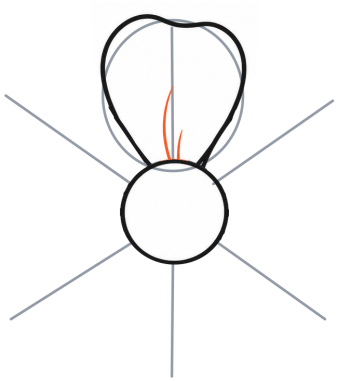
Start at the centre's upper-left edge. Bow outward along the oval, round the top with a shallow dip, then curve down to the upper-right edge. Stop at the centre; do not cross it.

Check: Join both petal sides to the centre.

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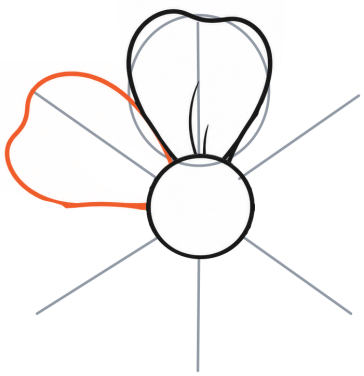
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5. Add two small petal creases

From the petal base, draw one short curve toward the middle and a shorter curve beside it. Taper both to a stop well before the rounded tip.

Check: The two creases stay inside the petal.



6. Build the upper-left petal

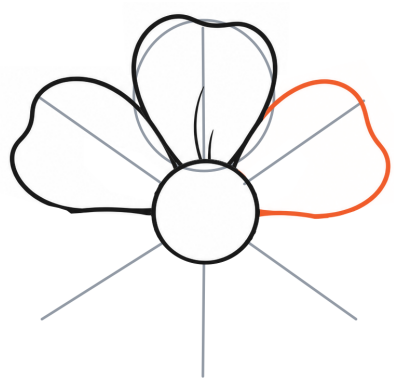
Start partway down the first petal's left side. Curve out around the upper-left spoke, round its broad tip, and return to the centre's left edge. The black sloping edge is already shared.

Check: Draw the new outer curve; do not retrace the shared black side.

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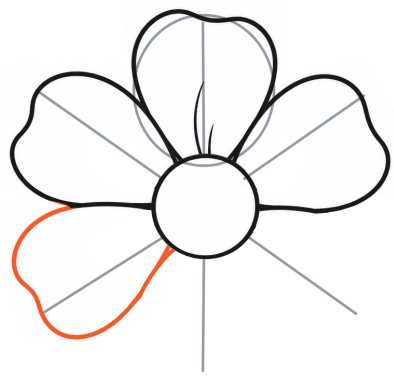
Follow the pictures at your own pace. Check each new shape before moving on.



7. Build the upper-right petal

Repeat around the upper-right spoke. Start partway down the first petal's right side, bow outward, then join the centre's right edge. Keep the existing shared side.

Check: Leave room under this petal for the lower-right petal.



8. Build the lower-left petal

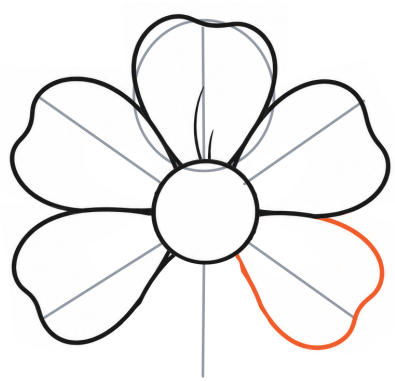
Start at the outer lower corner of the upper-left petal. Curve down around the lower-left spoke, round the tip, then rise to the centre's lower-left edge.

Check: The upper edge is already black; add only the outer and lower curve.

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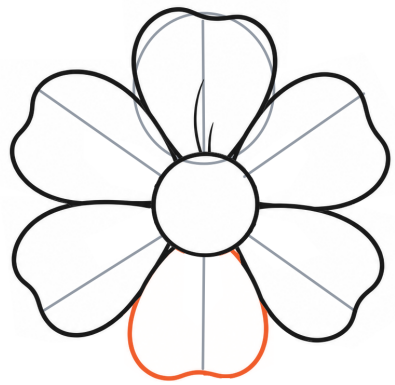
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9. Build the lower-right petal

Repeat from the upper-right petal's outer lower corner. Round the lower-right spoke and return to the centre's lower-right edge.

Check: Keep the space directly below the centre open.



10. Close the bottom petal

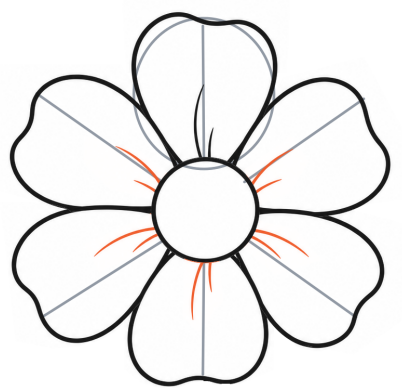
The two sloping black edges below the centre already form its sides. Join their lower ends with a broad rounded U-curve around the downward spoke, adding a shallow dip at the bottom.

Check: Connect the existing sides; do not draw another pair over them.

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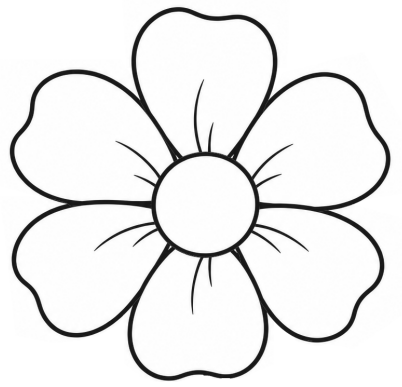
Follow the pictures at your own pace. Check each new shape before moving on.



11. Repeat the small creases

Add two short tapered curves inside each of the five remaining petals, using the first petal as the example. Start near the centre and stop before each petal's middle.

Check: Keep every crease inside its own petal.



12. Erase the petal guides

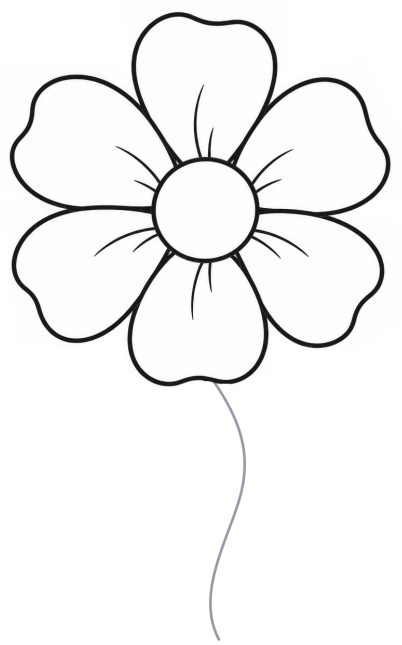
Erase the six gray spokes and the light oval. Keep the centre, all six petal outlines, their shared edges and the small crease curves.

Check: Only the gray construction marks disappear.

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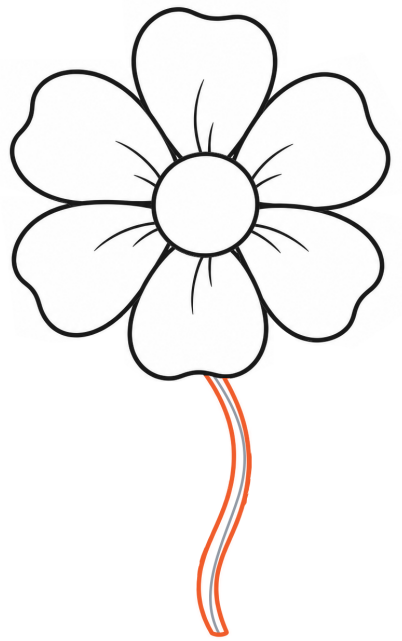
Follow the pictures at your own pace. Check each new shape before moving on.



13. Plan the stem bend

From the bottom petal, draw a light line that bows right, bends back left and finishes beneath the flower. Make it about two-thirds the flower head's height.

Check: Keep enough room beside the lower stem for two leaves.



14. Give the stem two sides

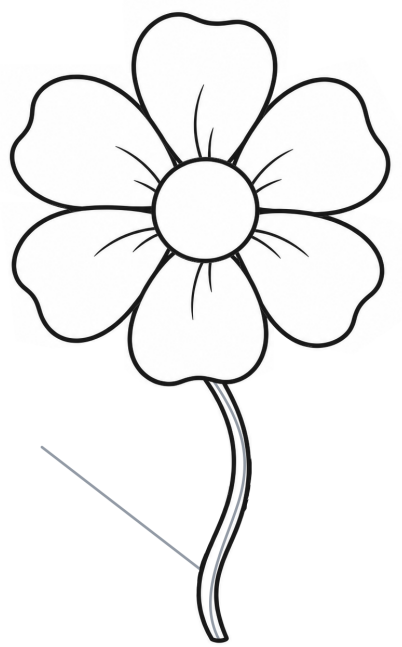
Draw one smooth curve on each side of the gray line. Keep the stem narrow, and join the two sides with a short rounded end. Both upper ends stop at the bottom petal.

Check: The stem stays joined to the flower.

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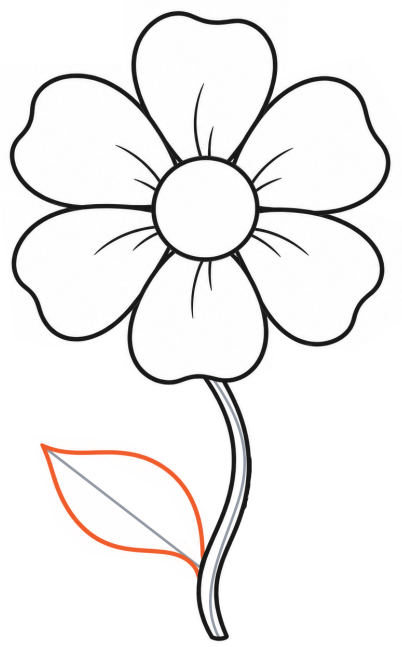
Follow the pictures at your own pace. Check each new shape before moving on.



15. Place the first leaf

Low on the left side of the stem, draw a light sloping line to a tip about one-and-a-half centre-widths left and one centre-width up. This line places the leaf; it is not its final edge.

Check: The tip points away from the stem.



16. Make the first leaf from two curves

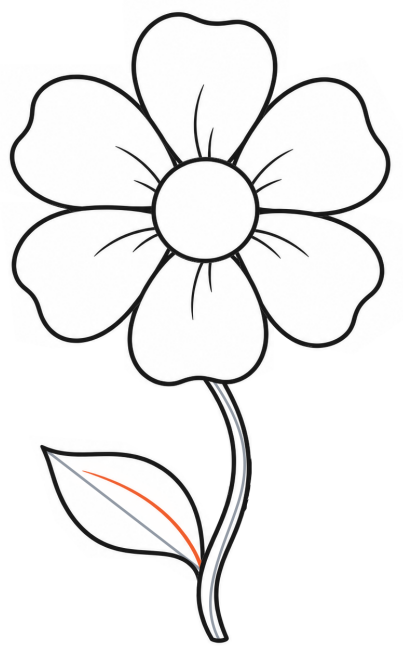
From the stem, bow one curve above the light line to its tip. Return with a second bowed curve below it. Let the leaf be widest in its middle, then narrow both ends.

Check: Both curves meet at the tip and at the stem.

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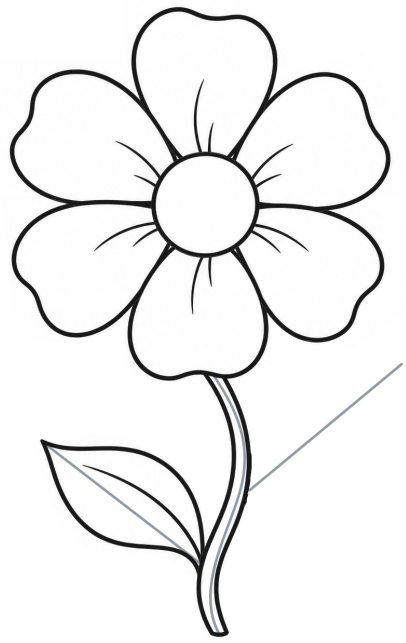
Follow the pictures at your own pace. Check each new shape before moving on.



17. Add the first leaf vein

Starting at the leaf base, draw one curved vein toward the tip. Keep it between the two leaf edges and stop a little before the point.

Check: The vein stays inside the closed leaf.



18. Place the second leaf

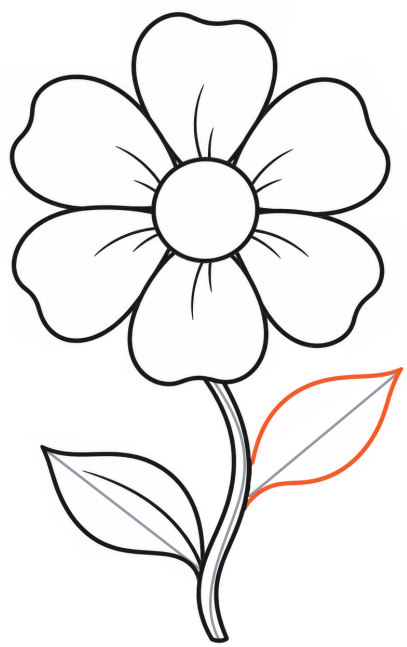
Mark a second light leaf line higher on the right side of the stem. Put its tip about one-and-a-half centre-widths to the right and a little more than one centre-width up.

Check: The two leaves attach at different heights.

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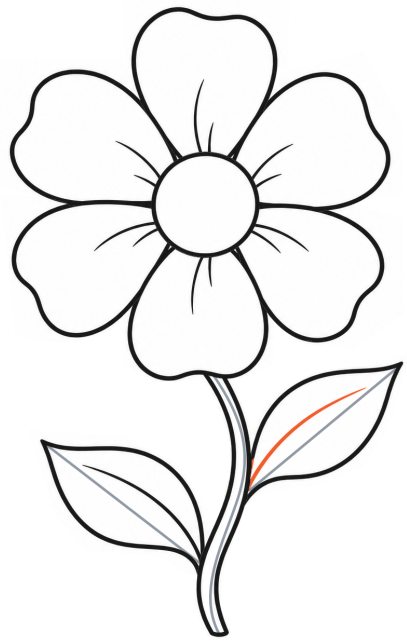
Follow the pictures at your own pace. Check each new shape before moving on.



19. Build the second leaf

Repeat the two bowed curves around the new line. Start and finish at the higher stem join, making a broad middle and one clear pointed tip.

Check: Close the leaf at both ends.



20. Repeat the leaf vein

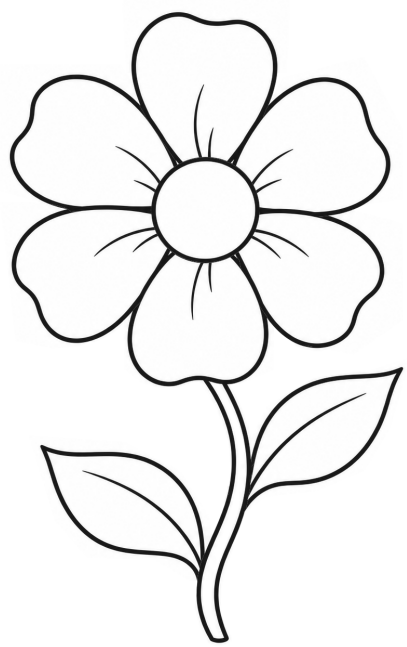
Draw one curved vein from the second leaf's base toward its tip, stopping before the point.

Check: Keep the vein separate from the outer edges.

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21. Erase the remaining guides

Erase the gray line inside the stem and the two light leaf lines. Keep both stem edges, both complete leaves and their curved veins.

Check: Remove gray guides only.

Try drawing it yourself

Use the picture steps to draw here. Print at Actual Size; use a pencil and eraser.

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Your finished drawing

Keep all six petals, the centre, stem and both complete leaves.

22. Check the finished flower

Check six petals around the centre, one curved stem and two complete pointed leaves. Keep all the black lines; colouring is optional.



Make it your own

Choose your own petal, centre and leaf colours after the line drawing is finished.