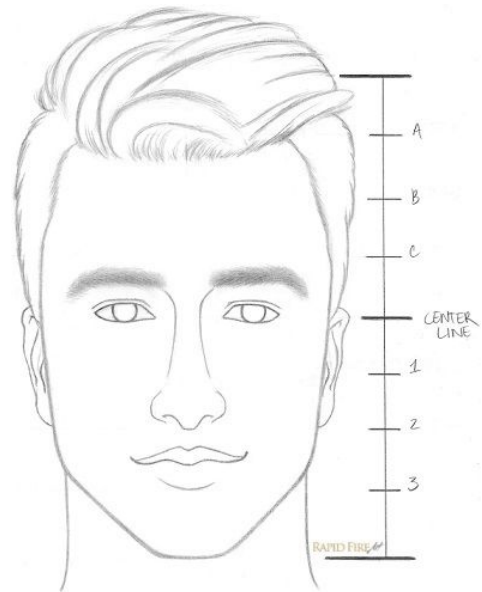


How to Draw a Face in 8 Steps

By Darlene Nguyen - December 7, 2015

Many RFA readers have requested me to write a tutorial on how to draw faces, so here it is! To make it easier to digest, I split the tutorial up into 3 parts: How to draw a face from the front, side and 3/4 view. This is part 1 of 3. I came up with the original methods in these 3 tutorials by measuring over a dozen adult faces, so each tutorial carries over the same measuring techniques.



Part 2: [Drawing Male Faces from the Side](#)

Part 3: [Drawing Male Faces from the 3/4 View](#)

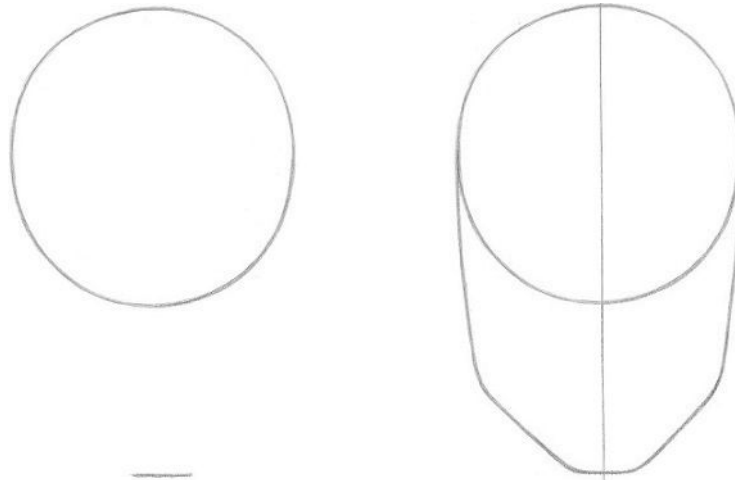
****NEW: [How to Draw Female Face \(Front\)](#)**

Note: Remember to use a blunt HB pencil for these steps. I used a 4B so you can clearly see what I'm doing. Remember, the darker you go and the harder you press, the more difficult it will be to erase your under-layers/guidelines.

Tools I Used ([Find a majority of my recommended tools here](#)):

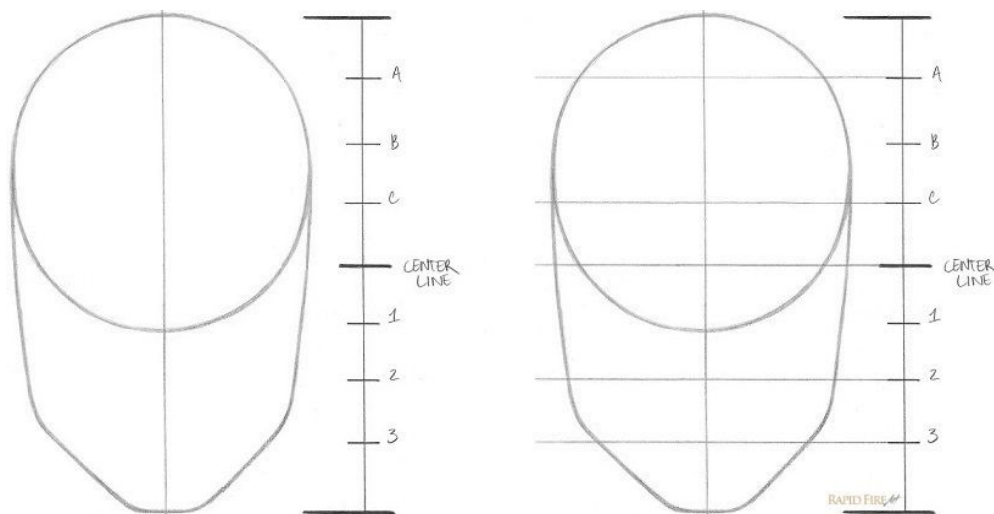
- HB Pencil
- Ruler
- Sakura Electronic Eraser
- Kneaded Eraser
- Canson Recycled Sketch Paper

How to Draw a Face Step 1: Face Shape



Draw a large circle and make a horizontal line below it for the chin. Then sketch the jawline. Draw a vertical line down the center of the face and make sure both sides of the face are symmetrical.

Step 2: Face Guidelines

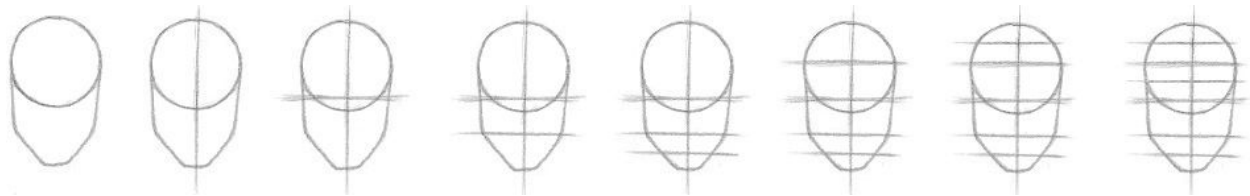


There are 2 ways to do this step: Ruler or no ruler. I recommend using the ruler method for the first couple of faces you draw. Why? Because doing this step without

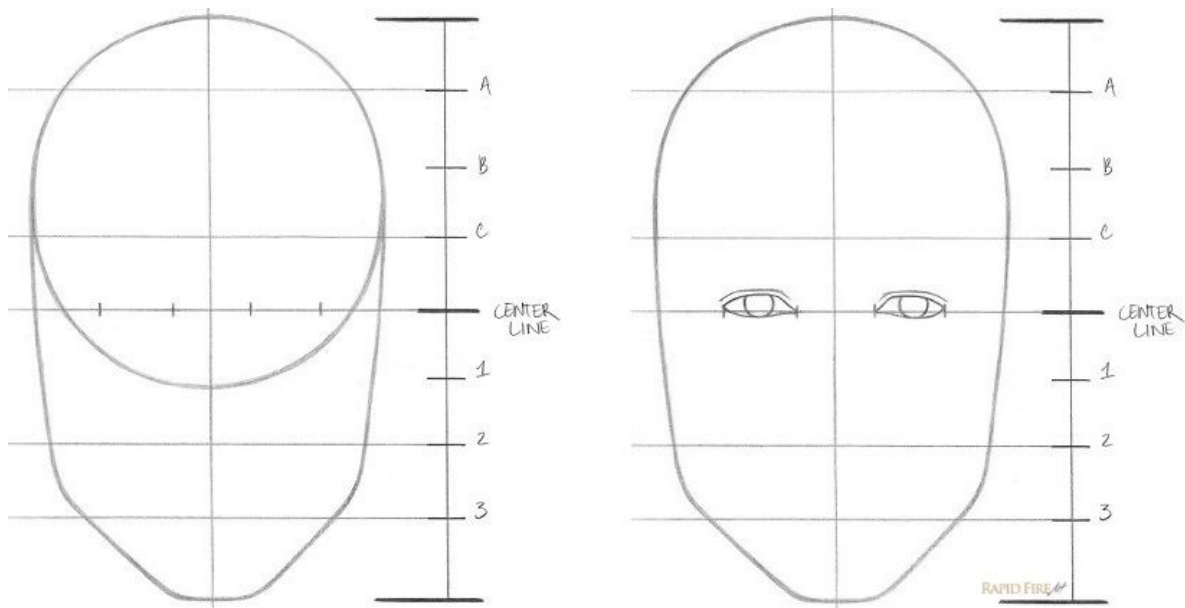
it can throw your proportions off like crazy. Especially if you have trouble locating the 'center' of an object with your eyes. The no ruler method requires you to split multiple sections of the face in half and then in half again.

Ruler Method: Make a ruler beside your drawing that is the same height. The ruler should be marked so there are 8 equal spaces. Always start with the center line. Draw faint lines through the face on the markings labelled CENTER LINE, 2, 3, A, and C. As you get used to this, you won't need to draw the ruler on the side.

No Ruler Method: Without the ruler, I draw lines in this order: CENTER LINE, 2, 3, B, A, C (B is included because it's easier to break the forehead section in half first, especially when you're drawing freehand). See the image below:

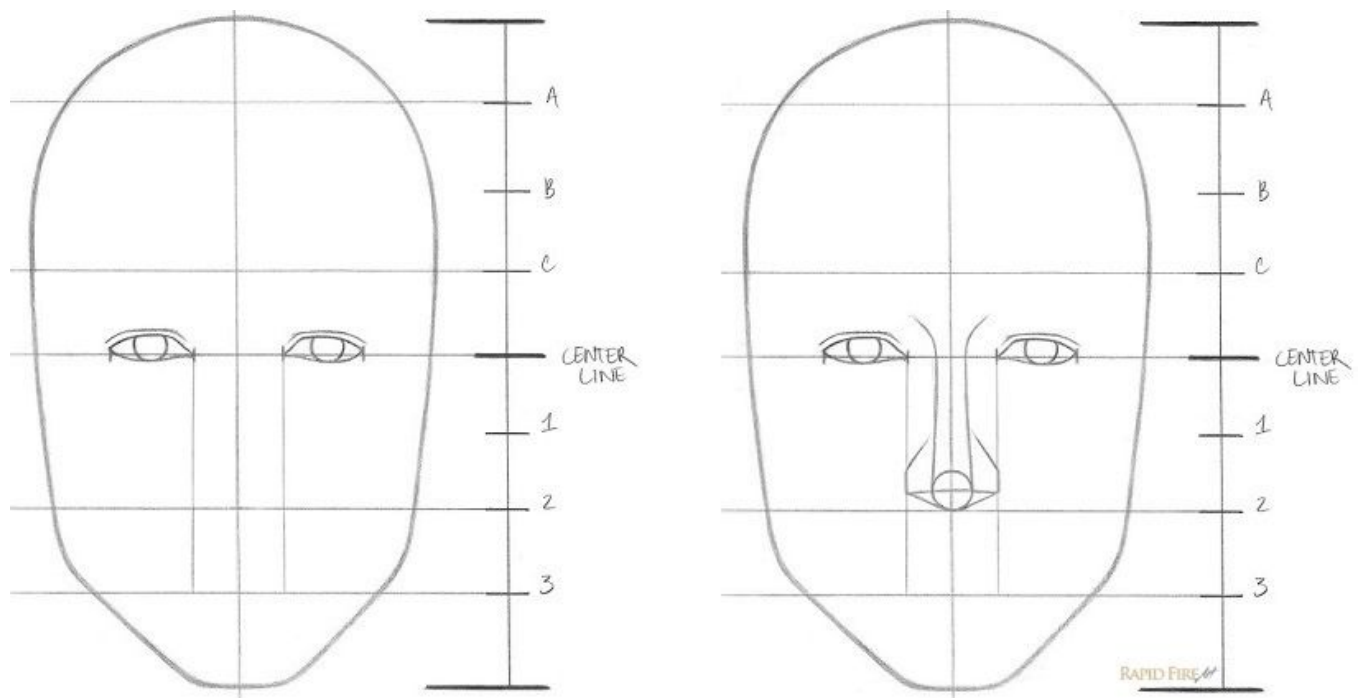


Step 3: Eyes



On the face, mark the center line with 4 ticks spread equally apart. The eyes will sit roughly on this line. Don't be afraid to move slightly above or below the line, since eyes are usually slanted.

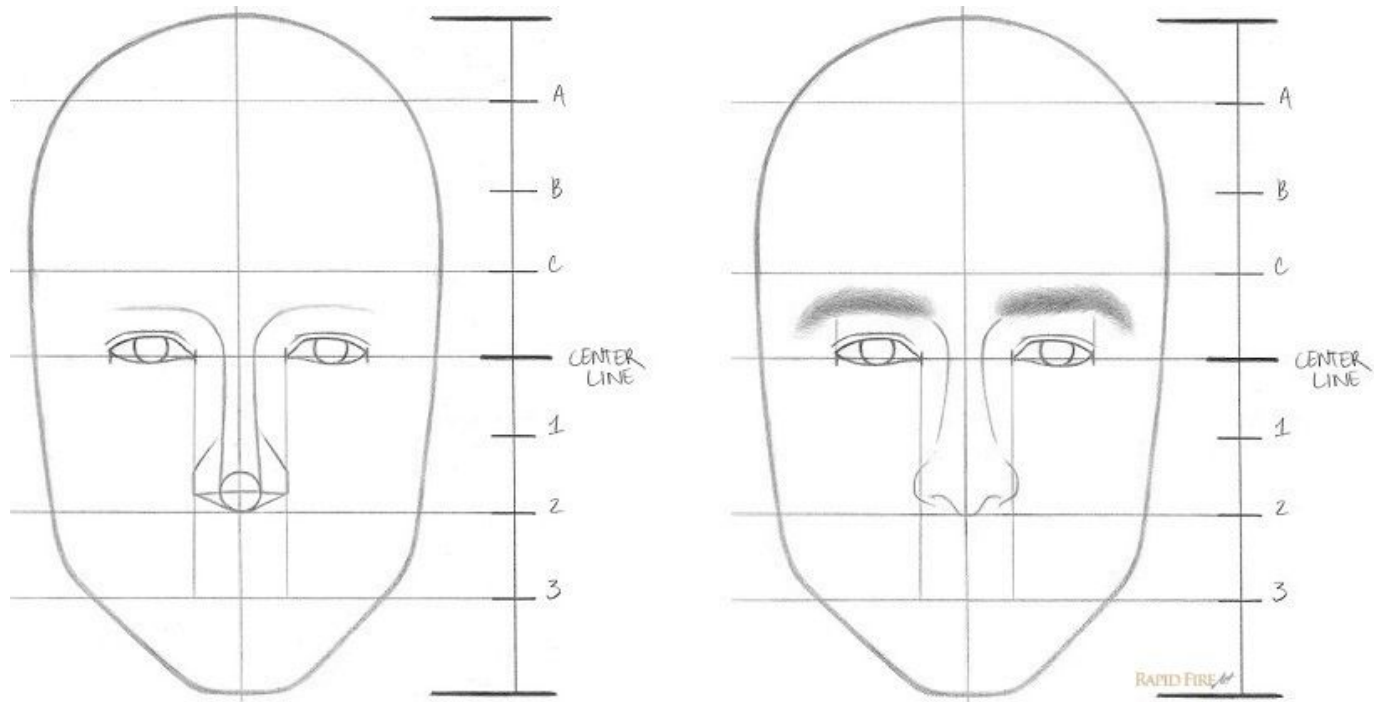
Step 4: Nose



Extend the 2 lines where the inner corners of each eye are located. These guidelines will determine the nose's width. Now that we have a box, it's time to draw the nose. Start with a circle, resting it anywhere between line 1 and 2.

[Click here to see my nose tutorial!](#)

Step 5: Eyebrows

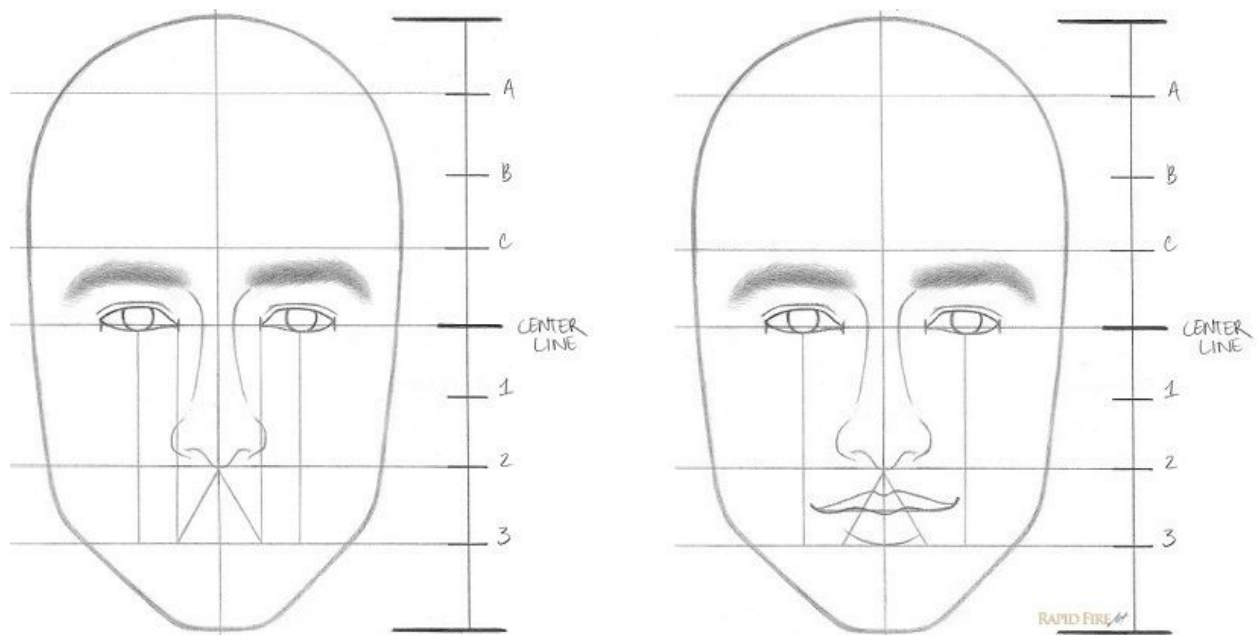


Extend the nose's bridge past the eyelids to define the brow bone (this step is optional). These lines should be very light!

Using a 4B pencil, draw the eyebrows along the brow bone.

[Click here for my in-depth tutorial on how to draw eyebrows!](#)

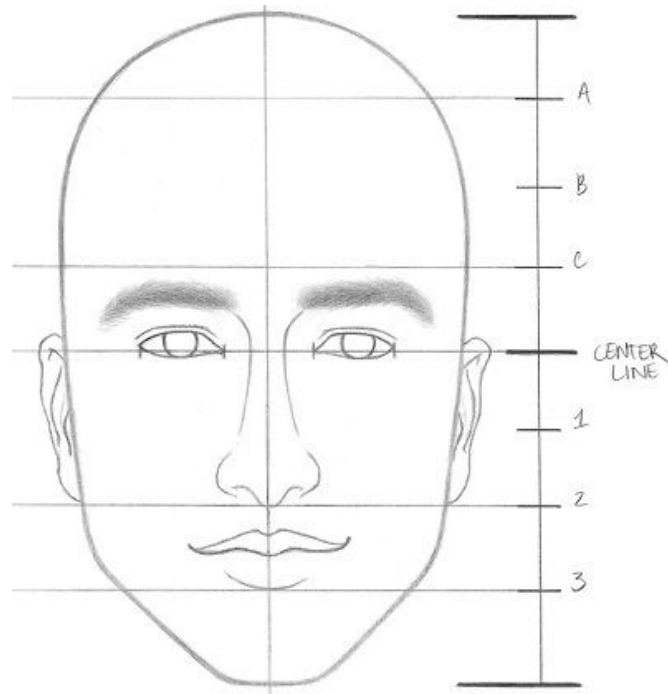
Step 6: Lips



Draw a vertical line down the center of each eye. This will mark the lips' outer boundary. [Click here for my lips tutorial.](#)

If you've already read it, place your triangle in the small box under the nose to start. If you drew the nose well above line 2, extend the triangle so the tip **touches the nose.**

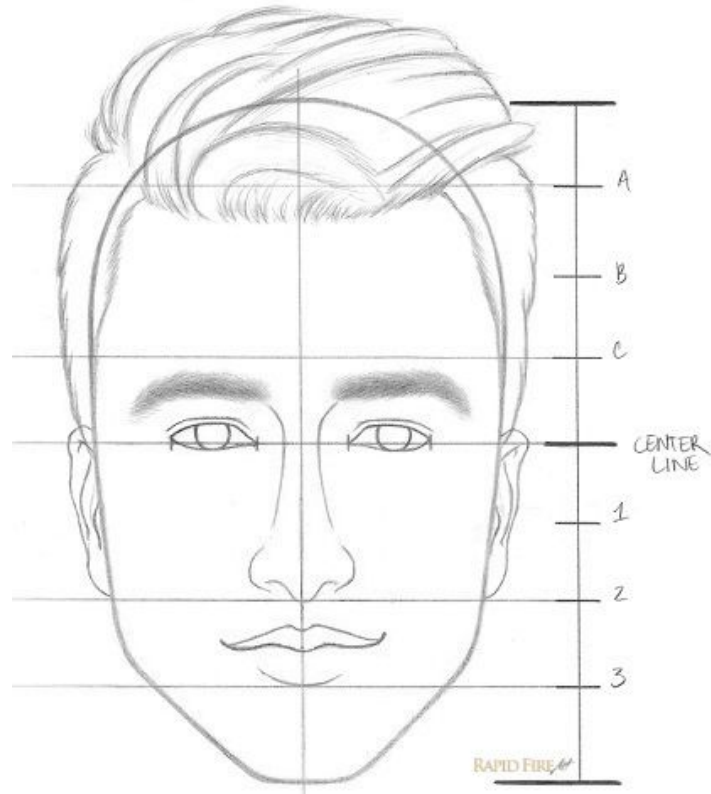
Step 7: Ears



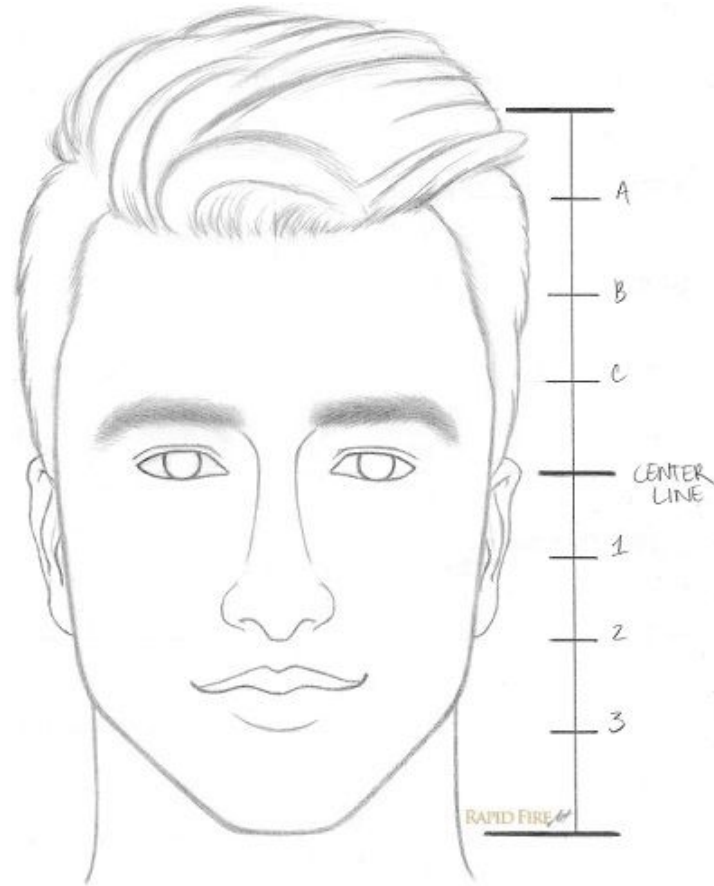
The Center Line and Line 2 mark the general boundaries for each ear.

[Click here for an in-depth tutorial on how to draw an ear from the front](#)

Step 8: Hair



Draw the hairline somewhere in between line A and B. It's up to you how large you want the forehead to be. To draw a receding hairline, go above line A.

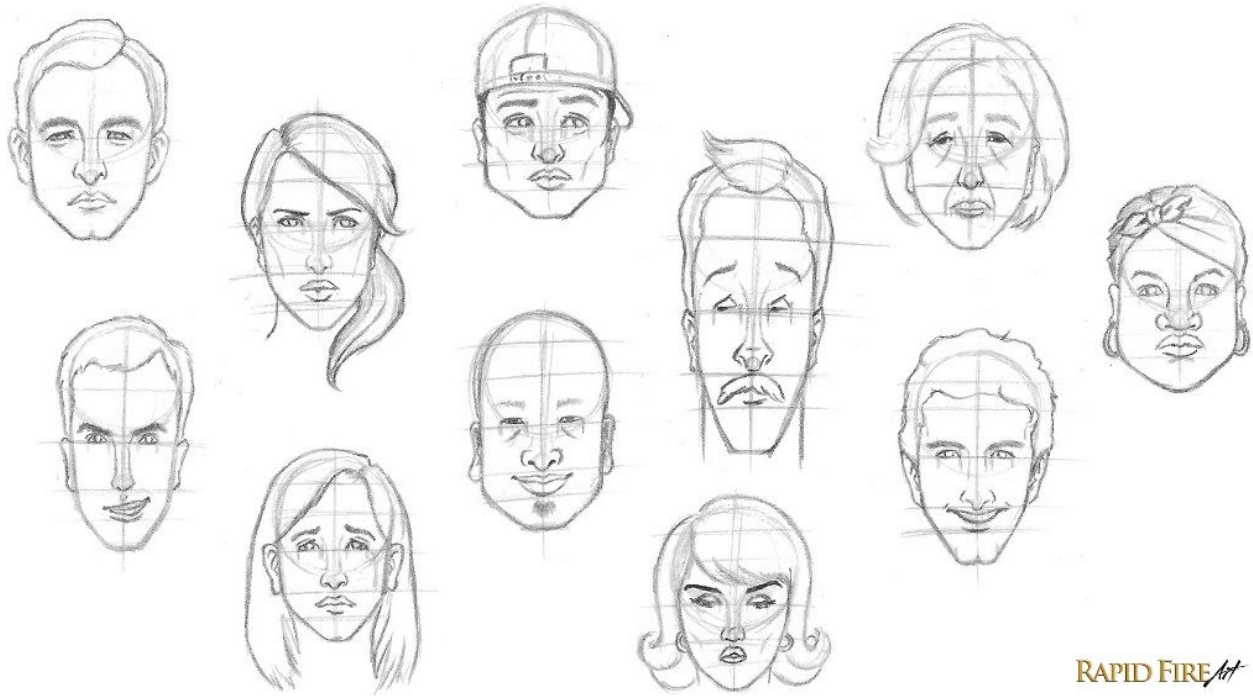


If you have an electric eraser, use it to quickly get rid of all the guidelines that run through your drawing. You can clean up certain dark spots or tight spaces with a kneaded eraser.

[Click here if you want to learn how to shade faces!](#)

Experiment with Drawing Different Types of Faces

As always, you don't need to stick to the exact guidelines above. Take a look at the different faces I made below using rough measurements!



RAPID FIRE *Art*

You can play with different face shapes, test out unique eye and eyebrow angles, nose lengths/widths, etc... Grab a piece of paper and fill it with as many faces as possible! Through this fun exercise, you will be able to draw faces faster with little effort, identify proportional errors when you revisit old drawings, and more.

I hope you guys enjoyed this tutorial on how to draw a face. If you have any questions or requests, leave it in the comments below and I'll get back to you as soon as I can. Happy drawing!!

Other face drawing tutorials:

Part 2: [Drawing Male Faces from the Side](#)

Part 3: [Drawing Male Faces from the 3/4 View](#)

****NEW: [How to Draw Female Face \(Front\)](#)**