How to draw a butterfly

Seven steps, one consistent drawing. Use pencil first, then a fine pen.

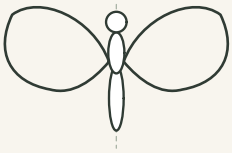
1 / FOLLOW THE SHAPES

1. Guide, head and body



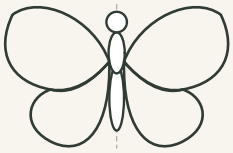
Use the center line to balance the body.

2. Add two larger upper wings



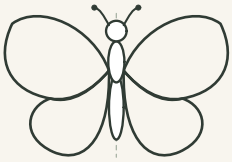
Compare the width on both sides.

3. Add two smaller lower wings



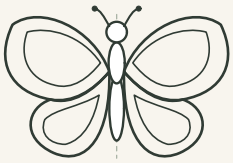
Keep this pair below the upper wings.

4. Draw two antennae



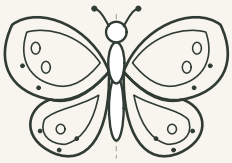
Start both antennae at the head.

5. Add inner wing panels



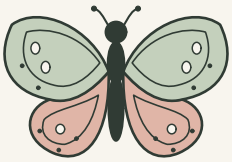
Leave a border inside each wing.

6. Repeat small pattern details



Try paired ovals and a few dots.

7. Ink, erase and color



Keep the center clean; add soft color.

US-Letter paper | Print at Actual Size / 100%. Turn off Fit or Shrink.
Check this line with a ruler: it must measure 5 cm.

5 cm

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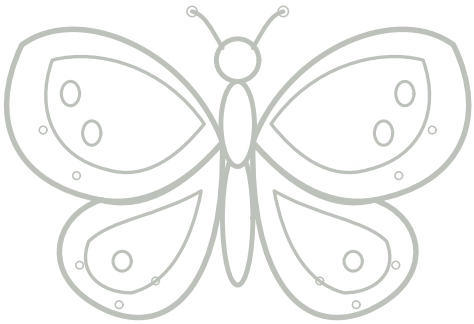
Trace, then draw it again

Use the pale drawing as a guide. Keep your own copy loose and simple.

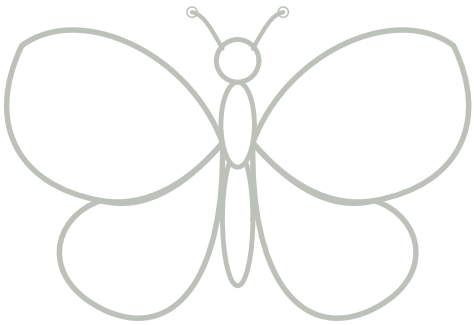
2 / TRACE + COPY

Trace the finished drawing



Copy it here

Trace the outline



Try one small variation

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5 cm

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Make room for a small drawing

Try a journal placement. Keep most of each panel open for your words.

3 / JOURNAL PRACTICE

1. A butterfly beside a short note

2. One decorated keepsake card

3. Two small butterflies above a flower

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5 cm

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