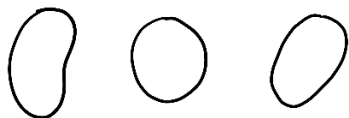


Drawing People Using the Bean Body Approach by artist Kiranjot Kaur

Drawing cartoon people using the “bean body” approach is a way of drawing people using bean shapes. We use beans for reference because beans are round, irregular and unique, just like us! For each step below, you may follow the examples shown or you can try different shapes and configurations to create your own bean body. You will need: a few sheets of paper, a pencil, an eraser, a marker that doesn’t smudge when erased and an assortment of beans for reference.

Bean Body:

Step 1: Choose a bean to use as a reference. Any bean will work! If you do not have beans at home to look at, you can imagine the shape of a bean or use the shapes below to help you.



Step 2: Using a pencil, draw your chosen bean from different angles. We do this to get an idea of what the bean looks like from different perspectives and start thinking about ways you can arrange beans to create your bean body.



Step 3: Pick one of the shapes you have drawn for the torso of your bean body.

Step 4: Either use the same bean shape or another bean shape for your bean body head. The head should be drawn a little smaller than the torso. Add a neck to connect the head to the torso.

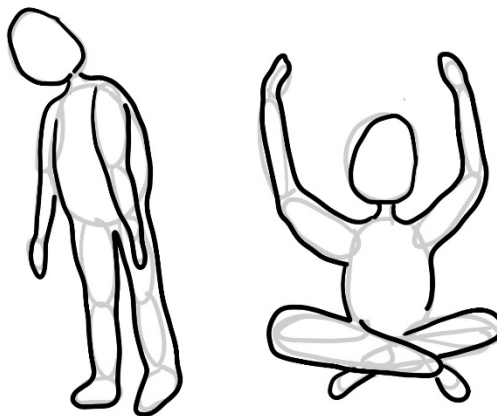
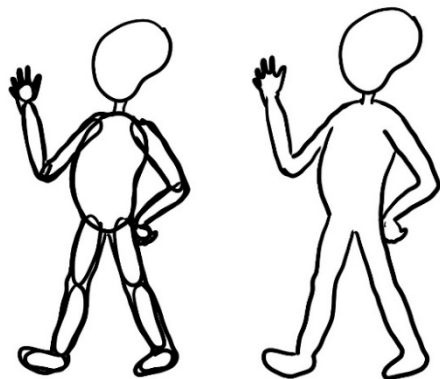
Step 5: Use slender bean shapes to draw the arms and legs of your bean body. Each arm and each leg can be drawn using two segments to show joints at the elbows and knees.

Step 6: Add small beans for the hands and feet. Add fingers to your hands.



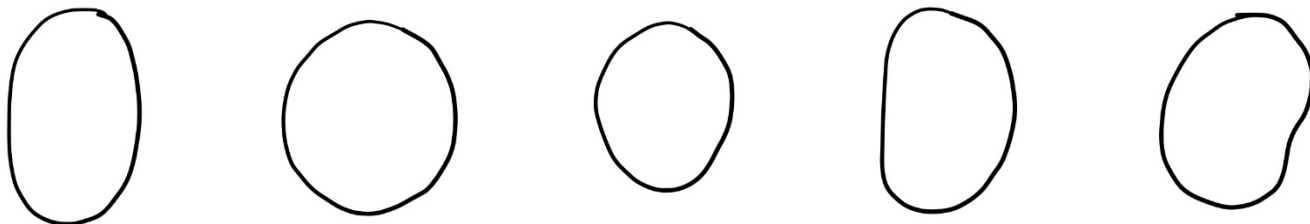
Step 8: Outline your bean body using a marker by tracing over only the lines that you want to keep in your final drawing. Once the marker is dry, erase the pencil lines to reveal your completed bean body!

Some other examples of bean bodies:



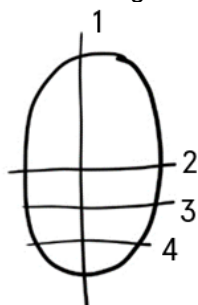
Bean Body Heads and Faces

Step 1: Draw a number of bean shapes for faces.



Step 2: Think about the direction that you want your face to be looking. Draw *proportional guidelines* to help in placing features on your face. The first line should be centered vertically and the second line centered horizontally on the face. The third line should be halfway between the bottom of the face and your second line. The fourth line should be halfway between the third line and the bottom of the face.

For a face looking straight:



For a face looking up:



For a face looking down:



For a face looking to the right:



For a face looking to the left:



Step 3: Add features to your face using the proportional guidelines. Eyes are placed along line 2, the bottom of the nose should reach line 3 and the mouth should be around line 4. Examples of eyes, nose and mouth shapes are below.

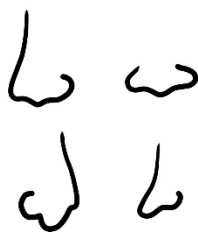
Eyes:



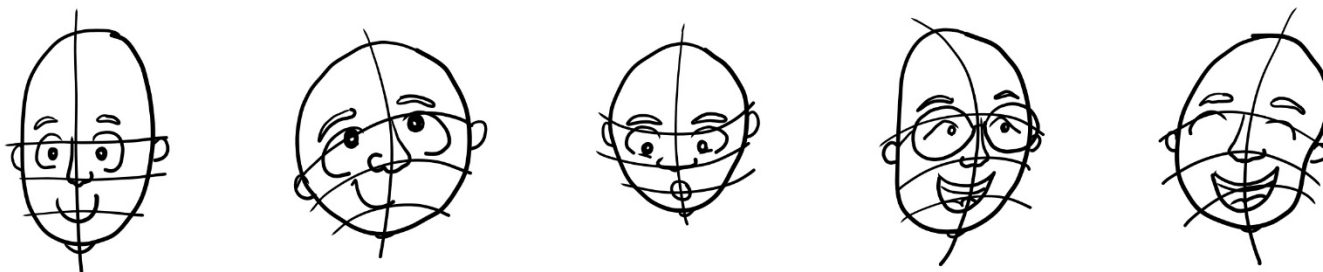
Mouths:



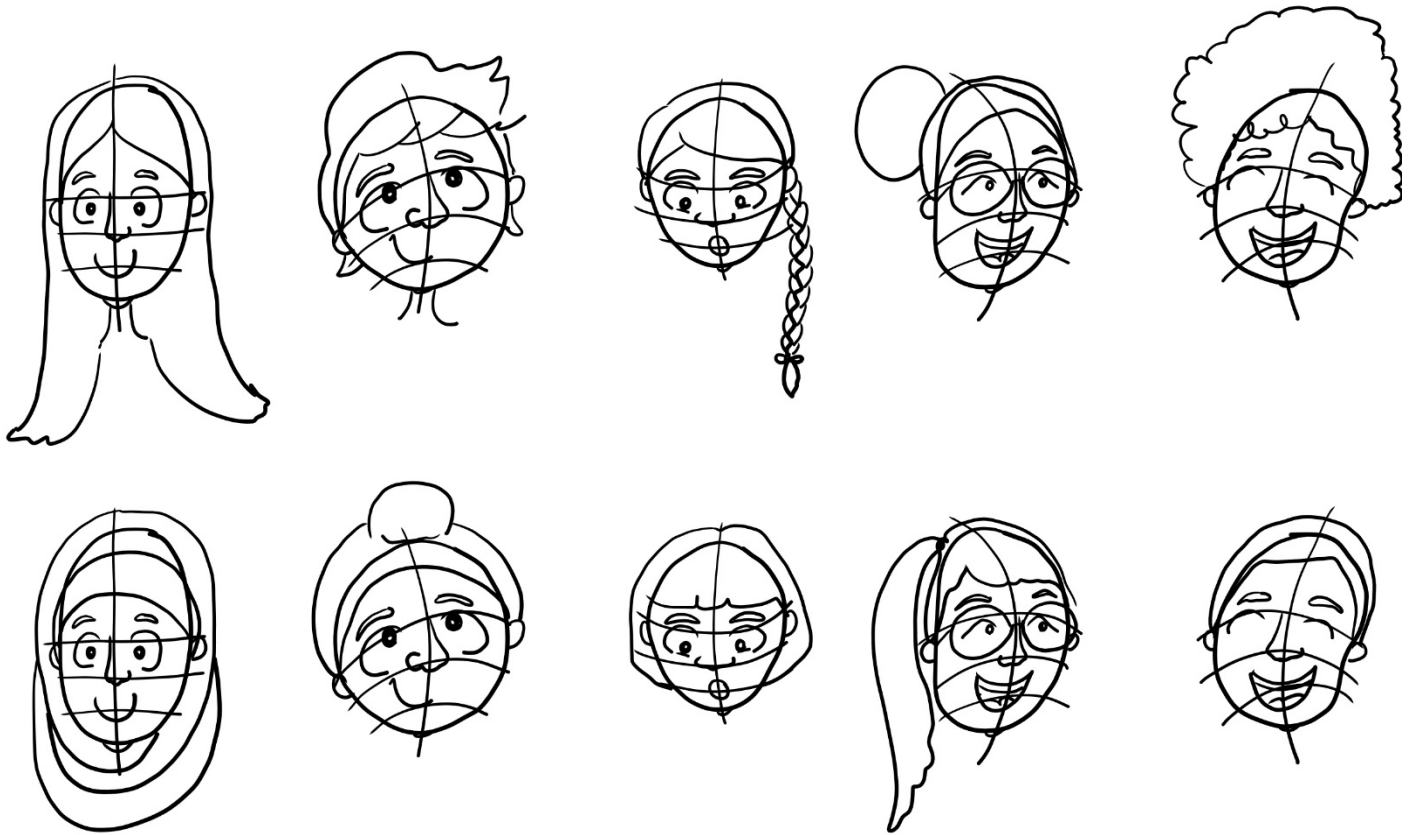
Noses:



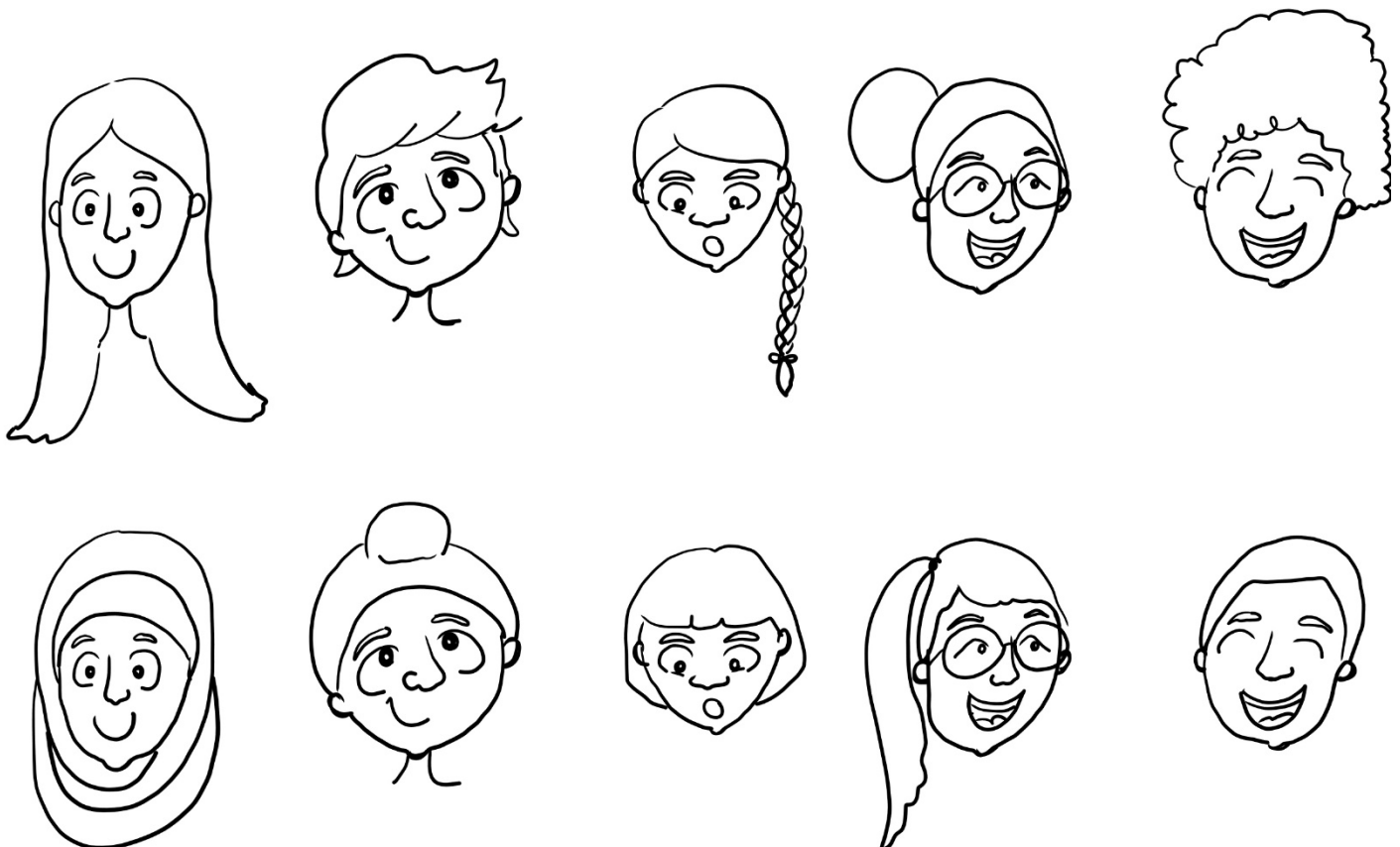
Eyebrows:



Step 4: Add hair to your head. Examples of different hairstyles and head coverings are provided below.

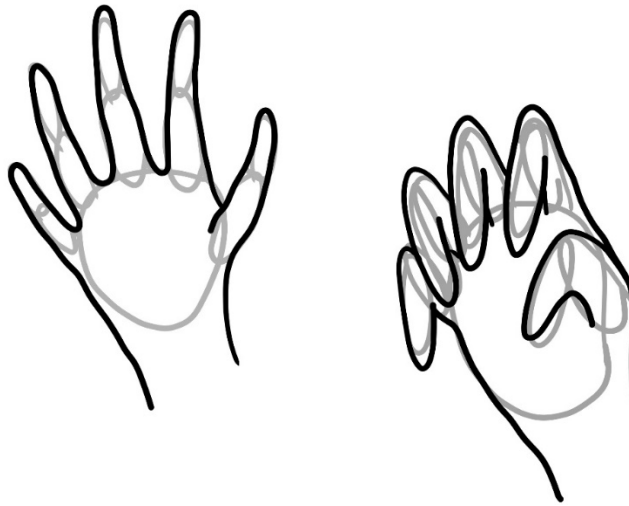


Step 5: Outline your head and face using a marker, tracing only the lines that you want to keep in your final version. Erase the pencil lines once the marker lines have dried.



Details:

To add more details to your bean body, you can segment your body wherever there are joints. Anywhere that your body can move is a joint where two beans connect. For example, a hand can be drawn in detail:



For another challenge, try colouring your bean body in! You can also add clothes and accessories to your bean body:

