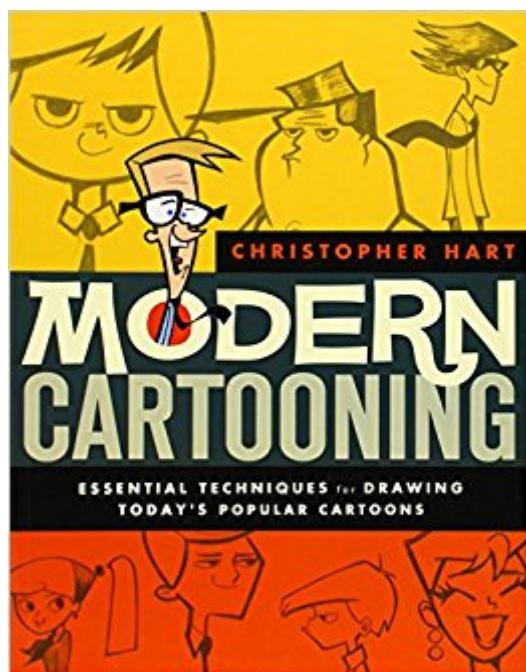


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# Modern Cartooning: Essential Techniques For Drawing Today's Popular Cartoons



## Synopsis

Aimed at beginner artists interested in cartooning and at the countless fans of cartoons, animation, and comics. Not only are cartoons a form of entertainment, but they're an incredibly popular style of drawing! With a fresh and easy-to-follow approach to cartooning, Christopher Hart shows readers basic tips for creating a cast of the most hilarious, outrageous characters inspired by today's cartoons. Chock-full of tips, hints, and step-by-step illustrations, *Modern Cartooning* gives artists of all ages the tools they need to let their imaginations run wild.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

CHRISTOPHER HART is the world's bestselling author of drawing and cartooning books. His books have sold more than 7.4 million English-language copies and have been translated into 20 languages. Renowned for up-to-the-minute content and easy-to-follow steps, all of Hart's books have become staples for a new generation of aspiring artists and professionals, and they have been selected by the American Library Association for special notice.

"First, let's examine the various theories of cartooning from a contextual standpoint. Oh, what the heck, let's just start drawing! You may be wondering if it's possible to create cartoons with personality by beginning at a basic level. You foolish, foolish mortal. You're only half right. The faces you're going to begin with are easy to draw, but they're also pro-level character designs that are highly entertaining and stuffed with personality. You can achieve these results by using a few simple head shapes and filling them with simplified facial features. But there's more

to it than that: The initial construction of the head shape (in this case, a circle) should remain conspicuous even in the final character design. This technique causes the head shape to appear as an obvious feature of your cartoon character. The basic head construction does not just serve as a guideline for the finished drawing; it becomes a caricature of a à œregularâ • head. "

Modern Cartooning is as suggested by most reviewers a beginner's book. The confusion seems to be which beginner. I would suggest there are five types of beginners when it comes to drawing: 1) the three/four year who is exploring the use of crayons on paper and walls, 2) the ten year old who likes to draw people, pets, houses, cars and trees, etc., 3) the junior high or high school student who is thinking about a career in art because family and friends are constantly complementing them on their art, 4) the college art student developing an interested in comics and animation, 5) the 30, 40 or 50 year olds who never went beyond high school art but wants to explore their creativity by drawing and painting. If you like to draw and fit into one of the last three categories of beginners then this book is for you. The problem for the ten year old is less the drawings and more the reading level of Chris's written instructions. I suspect that younger beginners such as the ten year old would end up just looking at the pictures and hopefully doing the step-by-step drawings. They would be better off with one of Chris's good step-by-step drawing books, such his books "The Cartoonist's Big Book of Drawing Animals". However, if they have their heart set on Modern Cartooning and have a parent willing to work together it just might work. If the parent reads and discusses Chris's written instructions and both draw the cartoons, it could be a very positive experience. This all assumes the parent is confident enough in their own drawing skills. Drawing is really about observation. It requires the ability to judge shapes and their placement. Is the body large enough? Is the head positioned correctly? Are the eyes too large, too far apart, or too high or low on the face? Chris's step-by-step drawings are a great help in developing these observational skills. The step-by-step drawings are large, clear and simple enough that each step is easy to follow. It is hard to say how easy or difficult you will find it to draw the cartoons. I'd say they are very easy, but then I've been drawing for more than 60 years and am confident enough in my own drawing skills that I teach kids art. I think these are great drawings for a beginner, the shapes are clear and the steps logical and complete. As long as you follow the steps in order and not just attempt to copy the finished cartoon you should be successful. Remember you will need to practice and draw each cartoon over and over again. You won't become a cartoonist by just reading the book. But repeatedly drawing of each cartoon and reading Chris's comments should result in a noticeable improvements in your cartooning skills. Cartooning is all about the observation of people and their foibles. Chris is a great cartoonist

because he combines both keen observation with a quirky sense of humor. The stereotypical characters he creates are instantly recognizable and outrageously funny. Chris is an excellent teacher for beginners because of his willingness to not only explain what to draw but also point out why. One of the great strengths of Chris's teaching style is he goes beyond just showing what to do. He also shows the design process by including a number of rough drafts that led up to the character's design. This is reinforced in Chris's videos where he is constantly erasing and redrawing while explaining all his reasoning for the changes. Chris covers the basic of character design, starting with the face. A large part of the book deals with the modification of the face and body to get more individuality from the characters. These changes are mostly quite simple, such as making the body taller than the legs. Chris is the expert at taking such simple changes and creating new, unique, but easily recognizable cartoon types. Chris at one point takes this to an extreme and demonstrates how to create an entire cartoon from a single shape. There is a good mix of ages - from babies to seniors, as well as attention paid to both sexes and difference in body types. The emphasis is constantly on creating something new, unique and fun. There is a steady stream of ways to modify the character. This should be encouragement to go back and take now familiar toons and create something new. After each new concept is introduced Chris has a series of step-by-step drawings that illustrate the new ideas. There is a lot here and the beginner cartoonist will benefit from repeated reading and study of Chris's suggestions as they draw and then adapt each character to create something uniquely their own. As mentioned Chris has a YouTube channel. These step-by-step videos greatly enhance the value of Chris's books such as *Modern Cartooning*. Similar cartoons are constructed from basic shapes and then refined while you watch. The entire time Chris is explaining and demonstrating the drawing process. Even kids who might find *Modern Cartooning* a too difficult read would be able to enjoy these videos and draw the cartoon characters. Chris's channel is suitable for student cartoonist of all ages. Recommended, both the book, *Modern Cartooning* and Chris's YouTube channel. I am a retired school teacher and potter. My work can be seen at [davethepotter.ca](http://davethepotter.ca). I teach kids art classes and summer art camps that usually include drawing, painting, paper mache and clay. I make good use of Chris's many how-to-draw art books in my teaching and in my own work.

If you're curious about cartooning but thought you had no gift, take Hart, Christopher Hart, that is, the wonderfully imaginative and whimsical artist who drew the pictures as well as the gifted instructor / cheerleader who wrote the text. He doesn't spend much time droning on about technique and theory (as in, no time at all) he just gets down to the business of showing you how to draw

funny stuff and telling you why stuff is funny. If you have a kid who's into drawing, definitely put THIS BOOK into his or her stocking over the holidays. He or she will thank you forever, even if they never say so.

It is an amazing book, it covers everything you need to know about cartooning! It is absolutely wonderful, as someone who is starting out in cartooning it helped me get far, but it may not be enough information to be a really good cartoonist, but it is great for just starting!

Was interesting & fun. I piddle with it.

Well written, informative and helpful. I enjoyed it very much and use it as a reference all the time.

Is a very basic book, if you are beginning to learn how to draw this book is for you.

A great book. Fun, useful, and interesting. It would be cool if it had some exercises at the end of each chapter to force me to try out specific ideas.

I bought it for my 10 year old nephew and he loves it. He is drawing at least one character a day and is going to make his own comic book.

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