

Drawing for thinking.

Everyone doodles.

We all make marks on paper—it's natural! Doodles and drawings can help us listen, think, plan, see connections, get ideas, write better stories, and improve our memory.

Ideas. Not art.

This kind of drawing is not about making pretty pictures. It's about the process, not the outcome. Embrace any imperfections. Keep going

Why drawing?

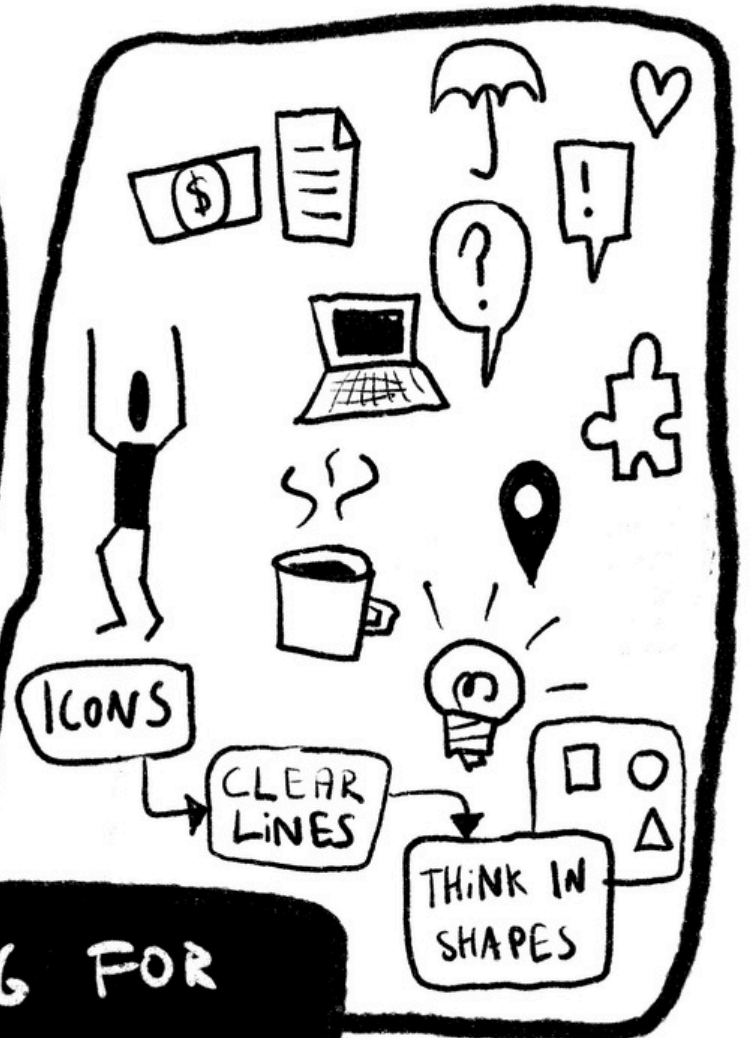
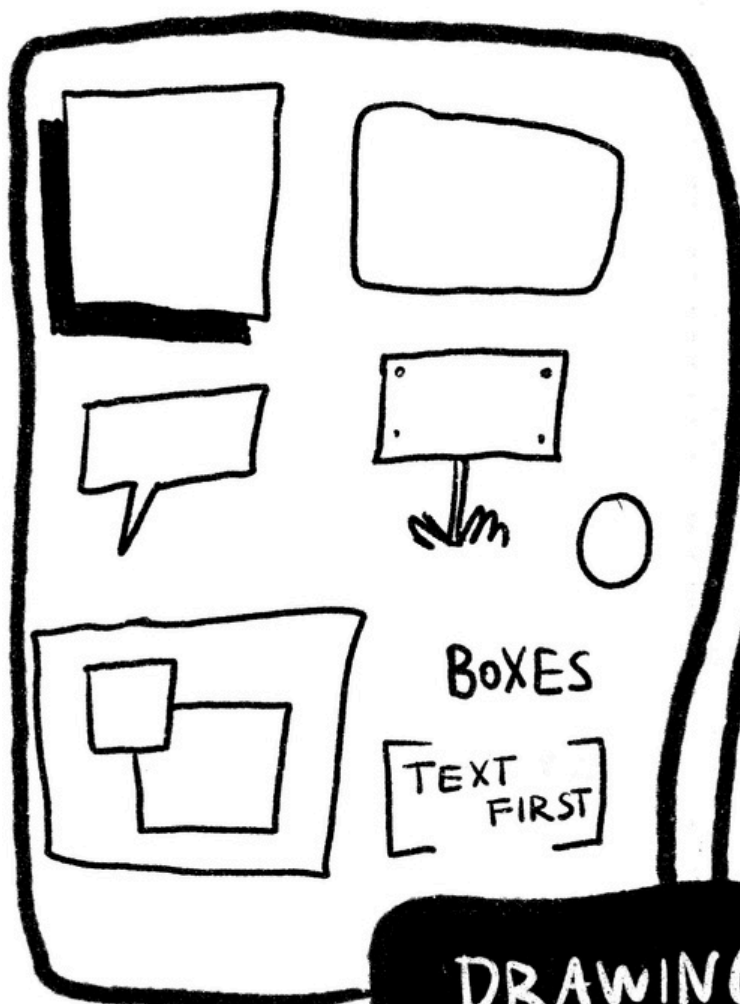
It gets you away from the screen and all its distractions. There are never tech issues, and the battery lasts for ages.

What to draw?

Brainstorms, plans, slides, storyboards, notes, to-do lists.

How?

- Clear lines
 - Be bold and deliberate, and draw where you mean to draw. Don't worry about mistakes.
- Boxes
 - Straight, rounded, speech/thought bubbles, signposts, arrows.
 - Different boxes for different information
 - Words first then put the box around them
 - You can use a box to contain multiple boxes.
- Connectors
 - Arrows and lines.
- Icons
 - Steal! There are well-established icons for all kinds of things. Use them! Use a lightbulb for ideas, question marks for thinking, etc.
 - There are plenty of icon libraries online; one example is flaticon.com
 - Think of simple shapes and combine them. Don't think of the whole thing in one go; break it down
 - With more drawing, you'll build up your visual language
- Figures
 - Stick figures stand there and can't do anything! Instead, use a head, torso and limbs. This "stick person 2.0" can be posed and accessorised.
- Colour
 - Keep it simple; I usually add one colour at the end.
- Layout
 - Comic strip, path, radial, or a talk
 - Be flexible - it might need to change as you go. No worries. It's about ideas, not art.



DRAWING FOR THINKING

