



Be a superstar illustrator

What you need

- Something to work with, such as chalk, paints, pencils or Plasticine
- Adverts, art books, comics or magazines
- Patience to keep on improving

Olaf Falafel is a children's author, illustrator, dad and a comedian. During the various lockdowns he ran an online Art Club (tinyurl.com/TWJ-olafart). This year, he will be a judge for *The Week Junior's* cover competition, helping choose a reader's creation for the front of the Christmas issue (find out more on page 31). Here are his tips on getting creative. Over to you, Olaf...

"I've recently finished the drawings for a new book called *Unleash Your Creative Monster*. I don't just illustrate children's books, though; I also create murals on walls, designs for T-shirts and images for advertising campaigns.

I love illustrating because it is so varied. Here are my top eight tips for being a superstar illustrator. You never know, it might help you win the competition. And remember – if you have fun with your drawing, you'll be well on your way to becoming a superstar illustrator!"



Olaf Falafel practising his art.



1 Practise. The idea of practising might sound boring but like most things, you'll only get really good at art if you keep doing it.



2 Don't just draw with a pencil – use chalk, clay, collage, paints and more. Try to experiment with how you make your art.



3 Get inspired by adverts, artists, books, cartoons and magazines. Collect things that you like and make an inspiration scrapbook.



4 Don't settle on your first attempt. For my book, I drew about 300 monsters before deciding on my 50 favourites.



5 Drawing hands and expressions can be tricky. If you get stuck, try looking at your own face or hands in a mirror or a phone screen.



6 Ask parents or teachers if they need a drawing. Have you got a band or sports team who needs a poster? Look for opportunities.



7 Ideally, when people see one of your illustrations they should be able to guess that it was you who made it because it is distinctive.



8 Draw things that make you happy. My daughters like to draw anime characters, whereas I enjoy drawing footballers.

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