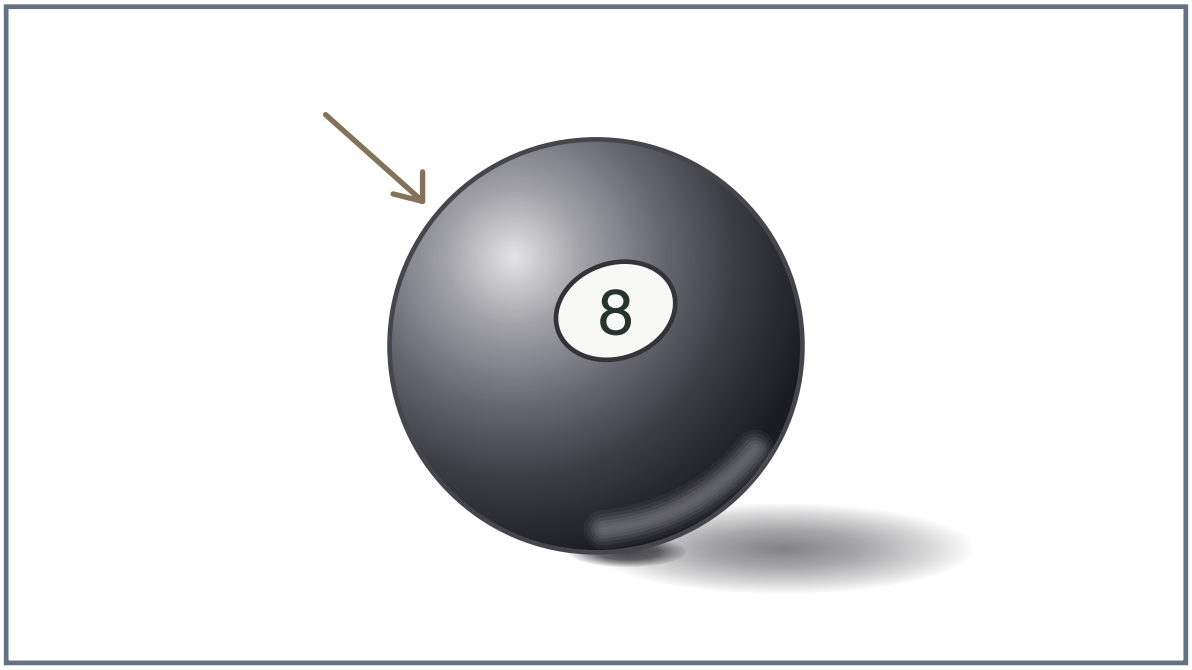
Draw a Shaded Sphere

Reference | Worked example | A4

Original prompt

Worked example: shade an eight-ball lit from the upper left.



Answer

Start with a light circle. Add a tilted oval for the white number circle on the upper front and sketch an upright 8 inside it. Shade the dark surface in layers: mid tone, darker core shadow on the lower right, a thin reflected-light band near the lower edge, and a clean highlight on the upper left. Add an oval cast shadow on the surface below, darkest where the ball meets it.

Reasoning

The oval follows the sphere's curve, the core shadow sits opposite the light, and the cast shadow anchors the ball to the surface. The highlight stays on the dark surface, not the white circle.

Check

Check that the white circle curves with the ball, the darkest tone is opposite the highlight, and the cast shadow touches the ball's base.