The TikZlings package

drawing animals and beings in TikZ



samcarter
https://github.com/samcarter/tikzlings
https://www.ctan.org/pkg/tikzlings

Version v2.2 - 2025/01/05

Introduction

The TikZlings are a collection of little animals (and beings) drawn in TikZ. It is the next evolutionary phase of the TikZmarmots package extending it with further animals (and beings) and also adding the ability to natively use many of the accessories known from the TikZducks package.

This package is work in progress, therefore I would be happy to hear your feedback and ideas how to improve the package. The head version of the source code can be found on github. com/samcarter/tikzlings, including a bug tracker – please make constructive use of it! If you seek any other assistance (not bug reports/feature requests), I suggest asking a question at topanswers.xyz/tex. A more stable package version can be found on CTAN (https://www.ctan.org/pkg/tikzlings) and is included in both MiKTEX and TEXLive as TikZlings.

Acknowledgements

I'd like to thank the friendly and helpful community of T_EX users for their suggestions, feedback and help to create this package and find a suitable name for it. As a thank you all the TikZlings have a name which is in some way or another connected to the users of T_EX .

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The TikZlings

The TikZlings package is a collection of packages. It can either be loaded as a whole with **\usepackage{tikzlings}** or the subpackages containing the individual animals (and beings) can be used separately, e.g. by loading **\usepackage{tikzlings-marmots}**.

The basic usage is the same for all animals (and beings). Inside a tikzpicture, the TikZlings can be added via \<name_of_the_tikzling>. For example



will produce a marmot. All usual TikZ and pgf keys can be passed as optional argument to change the appearance. For example scaling and rotating the TikZ lings can be done by

TikZling with options

\penguin[rotate=30,scale=0.5]

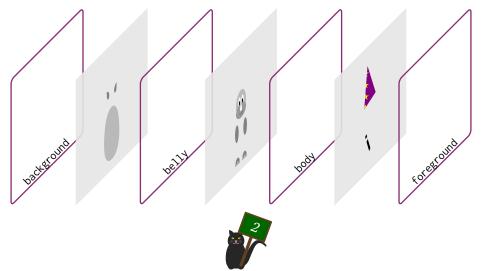


In addition to the standard options provided by TikZ each TikZlings also comes with some additional options which are listed in the following sections. If these additional options consist of multiple words they are available both with and without spaces, for example askphil and ask phil will be treated as the same.

To make customisation of the TikZlings easier, some hooks are provided, which can be redefined by the user in order to add commands at specific layers:

- \<name_of_the_tikzling>hookbackground
- \<name_of_the_tikzling>hookbelly
- \<name_of_the_tikzling>hookbody
- \<name_of_the_tikzling>hookforeground

With regard to the individual components of the TikZlings, they are located in the following z order:



In addition, the hooks **\tikzlinghookbackground**, **\tikzlinghookbelly**, **\tikzlinghookbody** and **\tikzlinghookforeground** are available and will effect all TikZlings.

A short example how the hooks can be used:

```
Hooks

hooks

howcommand{\mousehookbelly}{%
  \fill[red!80!black] (0.55, 1.35) --
    (0.65, 0.3) -- (-0.65, 0.3) --
    (-0.55, 1.35) -- (0.0, 0.9) -- cycle;
}
mouse
```

Another way to use the TikZlings is the TikZ library of the same name. By loading this library, all macros from the normal package can be used. In addition the TikZ library also defines the TikZlings as pic's:

```
Tikz library and \pic
\documentclass{standalone}
\usepackage{tikz}
\usetikzlibrary{tikzlings}
\begin{document}
\begin{tikzpicture}
\path (1,0) pic{bear}
      (2,1) pic[
        coati/body=blue,
        scale=0.5
      ]{coati}
      (3,2) pic[
        thing/hat=red
      ]{penguin};
\end{tikzpicture}
\end{document}
```



List of all TikZlings:

Anteater	5
Ape	7
Bat	11
Bear	14
Bee	17
Bug	20
Cat	23
Chicken	26
Coati	29
Elephant	32
Нірро	35
Koala	37
Marmot	40
Meerkat	43
Mouse	47
Mole	50
Owl	53
Panda	55
Penguin	57
Pig	59
Rhino	61
Sheep	64
Sloth	67
Snowman	69
Squirrel	72
Wolf	74
TikZling	77
Accessories	79



Peter, the anteater

Package name

Package usage

\usepackage{tikzlings-anteaters}

Basic Usage

Basic anteater	
\anteater	

Options

The basic anteater can be modified by changing its colour:



In addition to the colour of the body, the colour of the eyes can be adjusted:

Eye colour

\anteater[eye=red]

And the anteater can lift its legs:

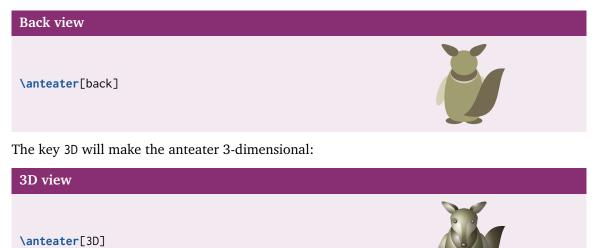
Walking

\anteater[leftstep]
\anteater[rightstep,xshift=2cm]





To view the anteater from behind:



And finally the contour key will only draw the outlines:

Contours

\anteater[contour=black]





Sandra, the orangutan

The ape was kindly contributed by @NuzzleTOO. It is named after an orangutan who was freed from living alone in a zoo in Bueonos Aires and taken to a sanctuary for great apes after temporarily becoming legally a non-human person.

Package name

Package usage		
<pre>\usepackage{tikzlings-apes}</pre>		

Basic Usage

Basic ape	
\ape	

Options

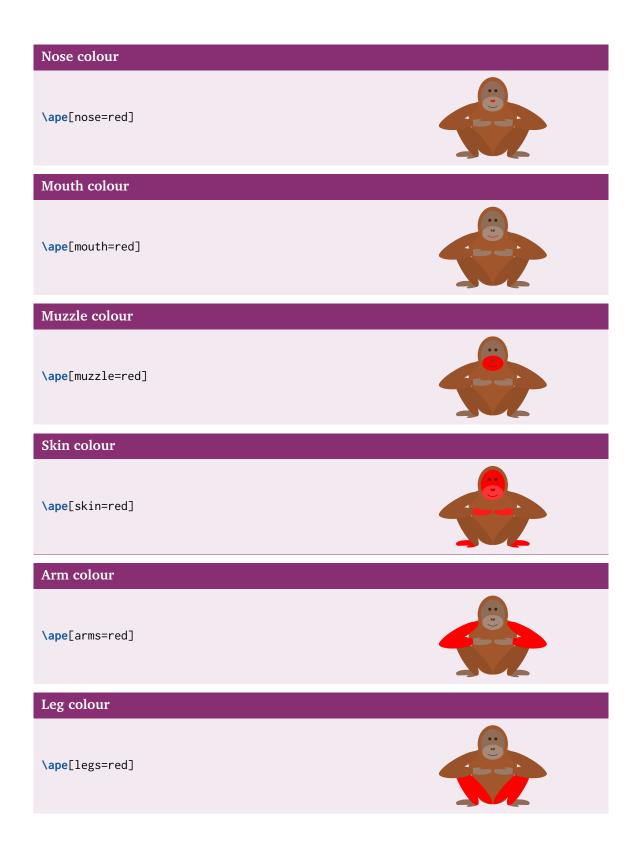
The basic ape can be modified by changing its colour:



In addition to the colour of the body, the colour of various body parts can be adjusted:

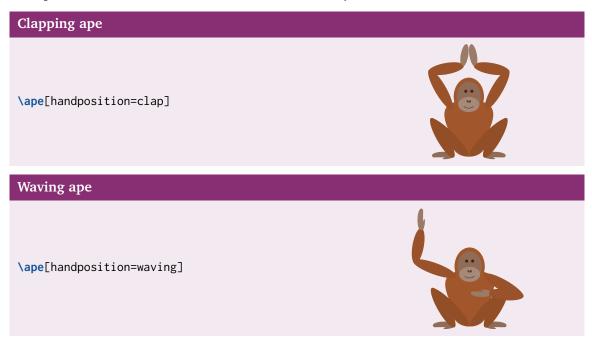








The ape make can make use of it hands in different ways:



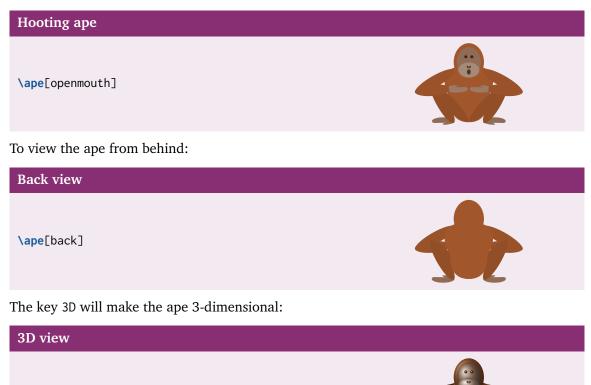
Including the gestures of the three mystic apes **Mizaru** (see no evil), **Kikazaru** (hear no evil) and **Iwazaru** (speak no evil):



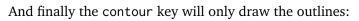
As shortcuts, these three apes are also available via **\ape**[seenoevil], **\ape**[hearnoevil], **\ape**[speaknoevil] and **\ape**[mizaru], **\ape**[kikazaru], **\ape**[iwazaru].



To see a hooting ape:



\ape[3D]







Natalie, the bat

Named after a dear friend from my undergrad studies

Package name

Package usage

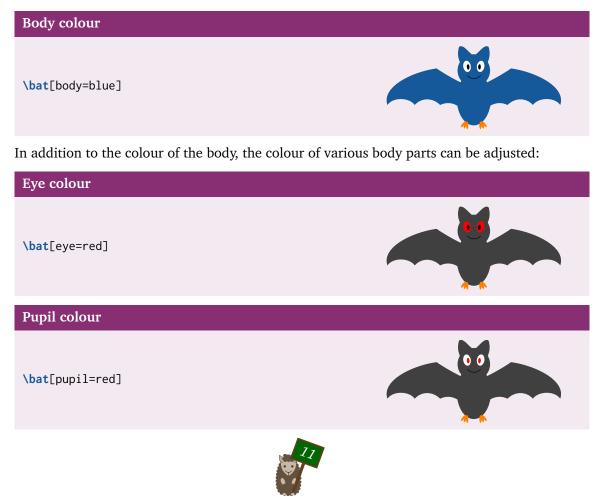
\usepackage{tikzlings-bats}

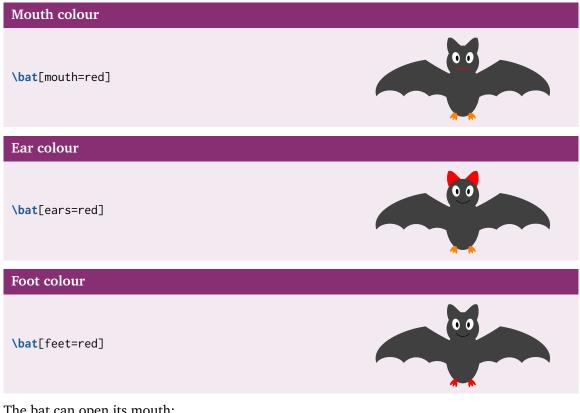
Basic Usage



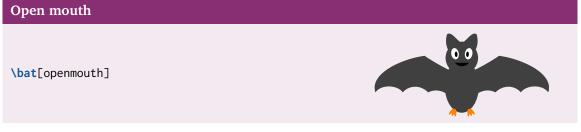
Options

The basic bat can be modified by changing its colour:





The bat can open its mouth:



With the wings option, one can adjust the spread of the wings. It accepts values between 0 and 1:



To turn the bat into a vampire bat, the teeth option can be used:

Vampire

\bat[teeth=white]





To view the bat from behind:



The key 3D will make the bat 3-dimensional:

3D view \bat[3D]

00

2000

And finally the contour key will only draw the outlines:

Contours

\bat[contour=black]



Bär, the teddy bear

If you look very closely at the group picture in TUG goes to Rio you can spot the real Bär in it

Package name

Package usage

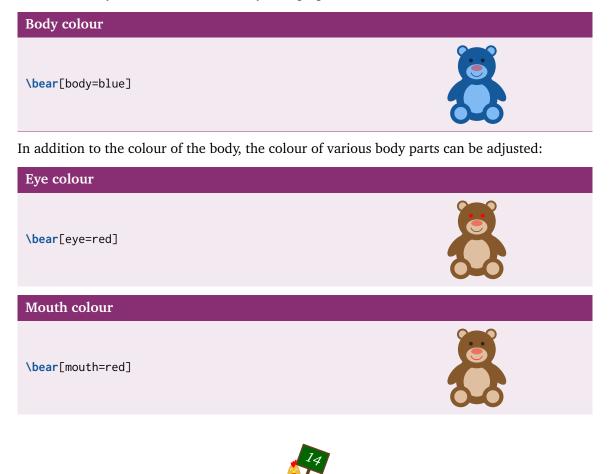
\usepackage{tikzlings-bears}

Basic Usage

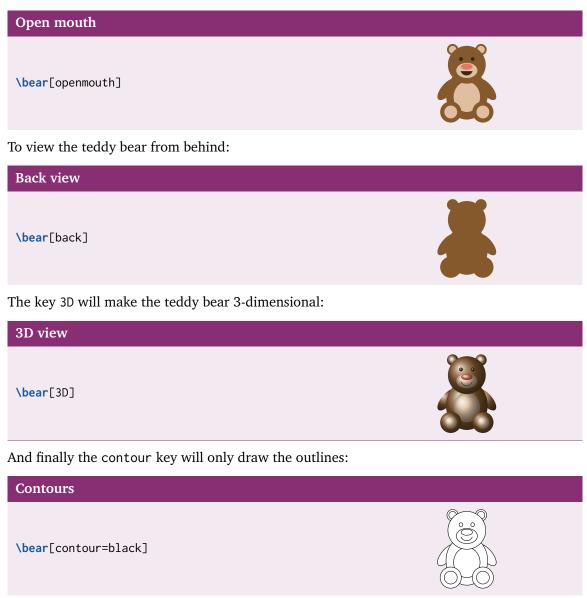
Basic bear	
\bear	

Options

The basic teddy bear can be modified by changing its colour:



The bear can open its mouth:



Extension

The Bär and Ulrike Fischer wrote the fantastic bearwear package, that provides many different clothing options for the TikZbears. All the other TikZlings admire them for the nice clothing!

A short example:





Many more options and examples can be found in the package documentation https://ctan.org/pkg/bearwear.



Beeing, the bee

The bee was kindly contributed by @marmot

Package name

Package usage

\usepackage{tikzlings-bees}

Basic Usage



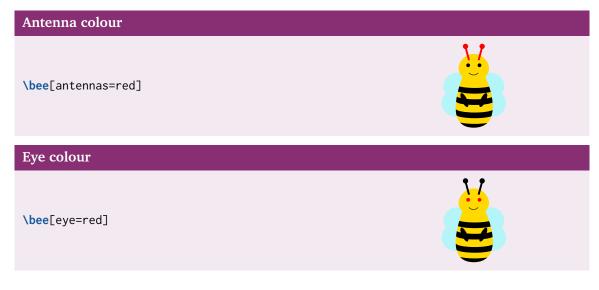
Options

The basic bee can be modified by changing its colour:

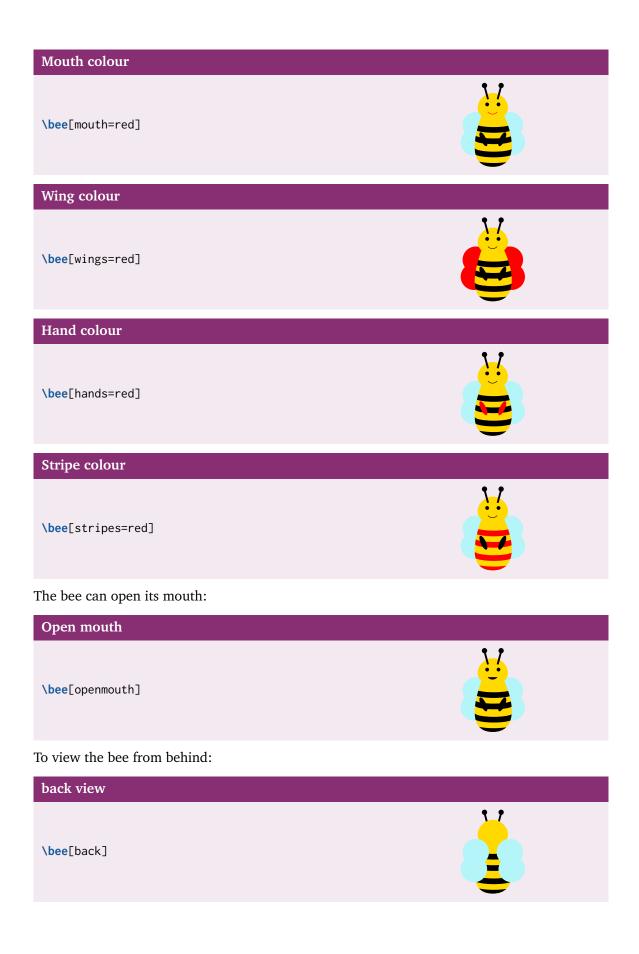
\bee[body=blue]



In addition to the colour of the body, the colour of various body parts can be adjusted:

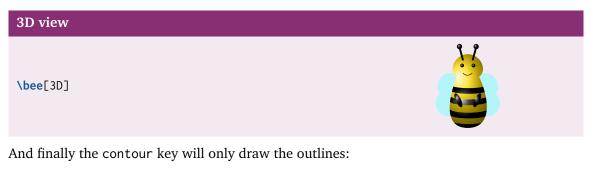








The key 3D will make the bee 3-dimensional:



Contours

\bee[contour=black]





Marie, the bug

For a French girl who likes ladybugs – the name comes from the German word for ladybug "Marienkäfer"

Package name

Package usage

\usepackage{tikzlings-bugs}

Basic Usage



Options

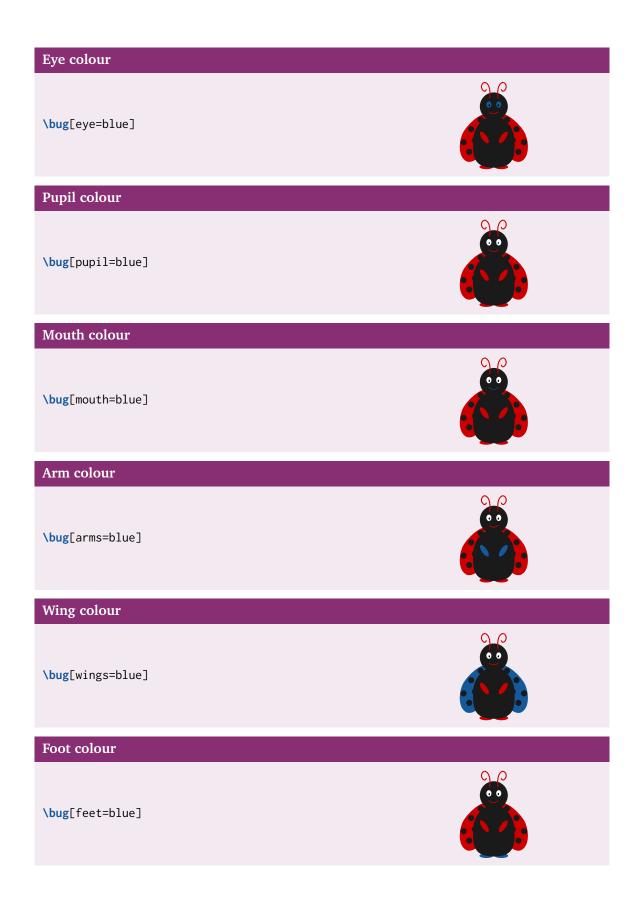
The basic bug can be modified by changing its colour:



In addition to the colour of the body, the colour of various body parts can be adjusted:









The bug can open its mouth:



And finally the contour key will only draw the outlines:





MisTikZelees, the cat

Named after the worlds best singing cat

Package name

Package usage

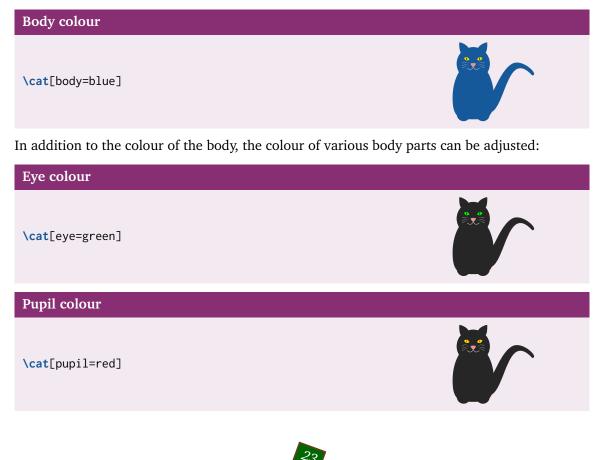
\usepackage{tikzlings-cats}

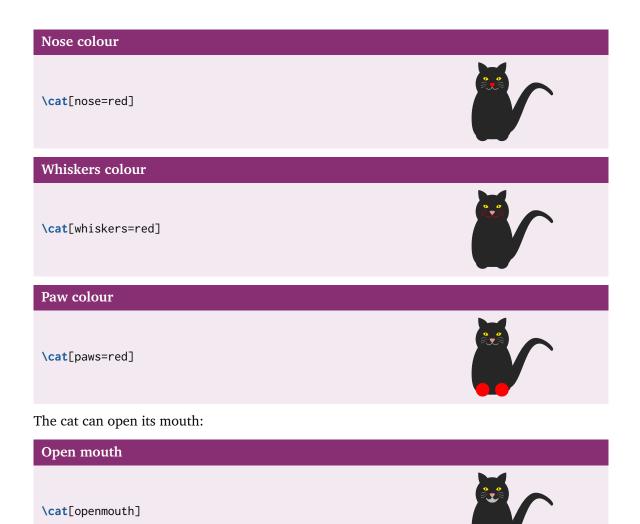
Basic Usage

Basic cat	
\cat	

Options

The basic cat can be modified by changing its colour:





The shape of the pupil can be changed with the pupilwidth option:

Width of pupils

\cat[pupilwidth=0.015]





Additionally several predefined widths exist:

Predefined pupil widths

\cat[narrow pupils]

\cat[medium pupils]

\cat[wide pupils]

\cat[very wide pupils]

There is also the special option schroedinger. This cat is both alive and dead as long as you did not compile your document. Be prepared for a possibly disturbing scene when you open the pdf, this option is not suited for sensitive TikZlings.

Schrödingers cat	
<pre>\cat[schroedinger]</pre>	R.I.P.
To view the cat from behind:	
Back view	
\cat[back]	
The key 3D will make the cat 3-dimensional:	
3D view	
\cat[3D]	
And finally the contour key will only draw the outlines:	
Contours	
<pre>\cat[contour=black]</pre>	
25	

Paulette, the chicken

Paulette is named after the French word for chicken "poulet"

Package name

Package usage

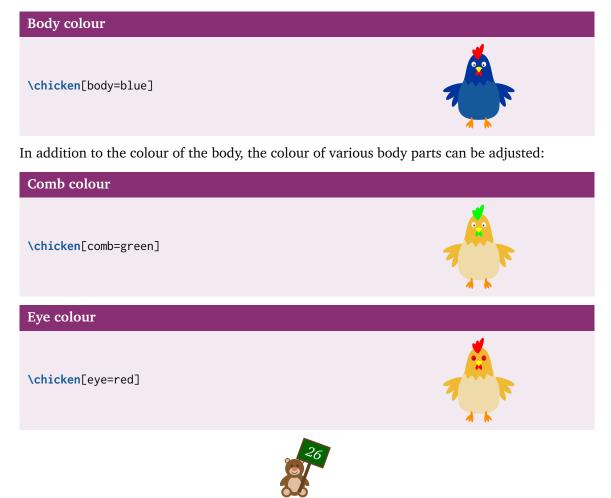
\usepackage{tikzlings-chickens}

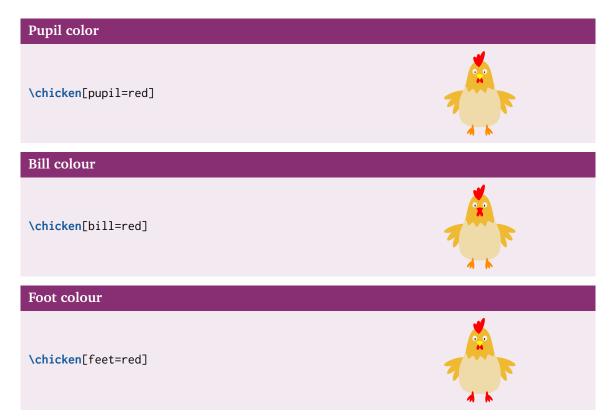
Basic Usage

Basic chicken	
\chicken	

Options

The basic chicken can be modified by changing its colour:





There is also the special option baby which will draw a baby chicken called *Pio*:

 Baby chicken

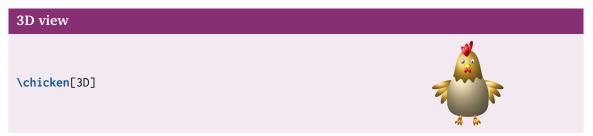
 \chicken[baby=yellow]

 To view the chicken from behind:

Back view

\chicken[back]

The key 3D will make the chicken 3-dimensional:





And finally the contour key will only draw the outlines:

Contours

\chicken[contour=black]





007, the coati

Named after a coati living in the zoo of Mönchengladbach

Package name

Package usage

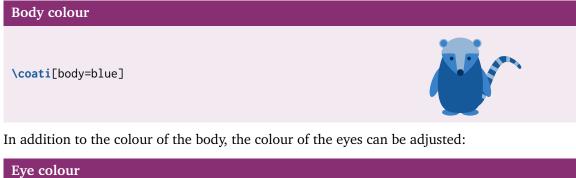
\usepackage{tikzlings-coatis}

Basic Usage



Options

The basic coati can be modified by changing its colour:







The head of the coati can be rotated, but please don't overdo this, otherwise his neck might break!



For the head an alternative sidewards facing head is available. It can be combined with the rotatehead option.

Sidewards head \coati[sideward]
And the coati can lift its legs: Valking \coati[leftstep]
\coati[rightstep, xshift=2cm]
To view the coati from behind: Back view \coati[back]

The key 3D will make the coati 3-dimensional:

3D view

 \coati[3D]



And finally the contour key will only draw the outlines:

Contours

\coati[contour=black]



Johannes, the elephant

The namesake of Johannes loves elephants

Package name

Package usage

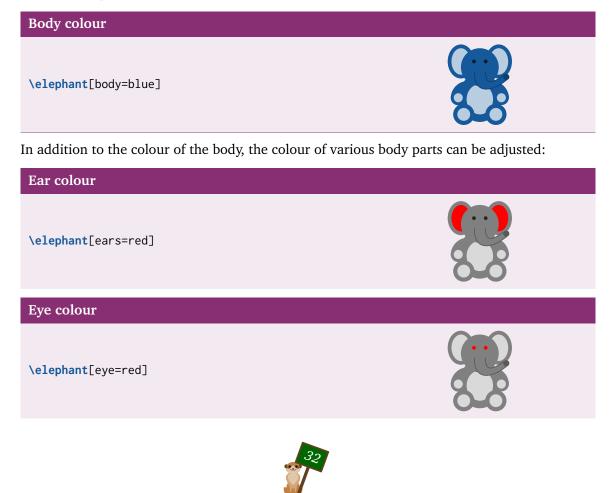
\usepackage{tikzlings-elephants}

Basic Usage

Basic elephant	
\elephant	

Options

The basic elephant can be modified by changing its colour:







And finally the contour key will only draw the outlines:

Contours

\elephant[contour=black]





Sieglinde, the hippo

For the winner of the 2019 Groundhog Challenge

Package name

Package usage

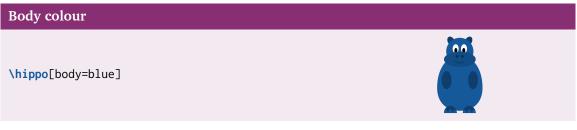
\usepackage{tikzlings-hippos}

Basic Usage

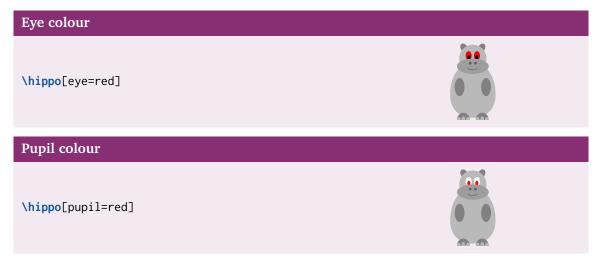


Options

The basic hippo can be modified by changing its colour:



In addition to the colour of the body, the colour of various body parts can be adjusted:





Mouth colour

\hippo[mouth=red]

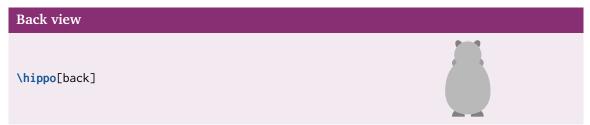
The hippo can open its mouth:

Open mouth
\hippo[openmouth]

The hippo can also do its nails:

Toe colour \hippo[toes=red]

To view the hippo from behind:



The key 3D will make the hippo 3-dimensional:



And finally the contour key will only draw the outlines:





Will, the koala

The koala was generously contributed by @marmot and is named in honour of a ${\it I\!H}_{\rm E}\!X$ developer from Down Under

Package name

Package usage

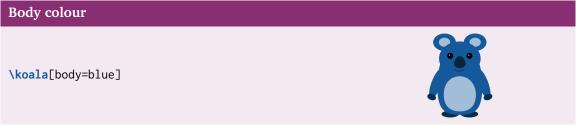
\usepackage{tikzlings-koalas}

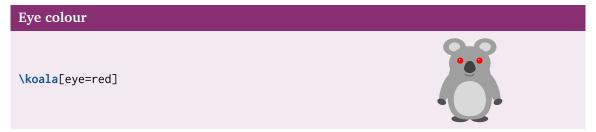
Basic Usage

Basic koala	
\koala	

Options

The basic koala can be modified by changing its colour:







Mouth colour

\koala[mouth=red]

\koala can open its mouth:

Open mouth

\koala[openmouth]

\koala[openmouth]

It can also blush

It can also blush

It can also blush

It can also blush

state a nap:

Sleep

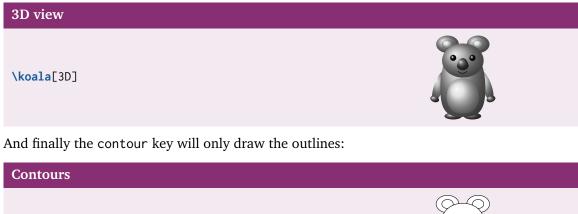
\koala[sleeping]

To view the koala from behind:





The key 3D will make the koala 3-dimensional:



\koala[contour=black]





Phil, the marmot

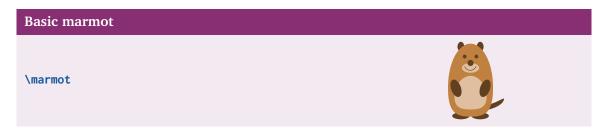
Phil got his name from Punxsutawney Phil, the famous weather forecasting groundhog

Package name

Package usage

\usepackage{tikzlings-marmots}

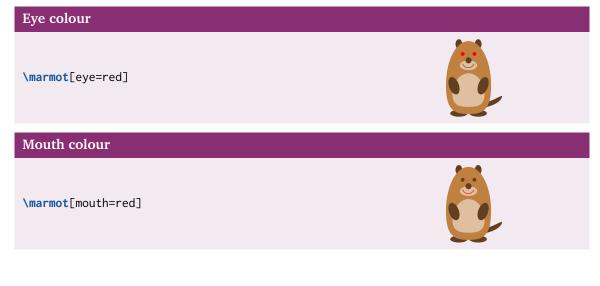
Basic Usage



Options

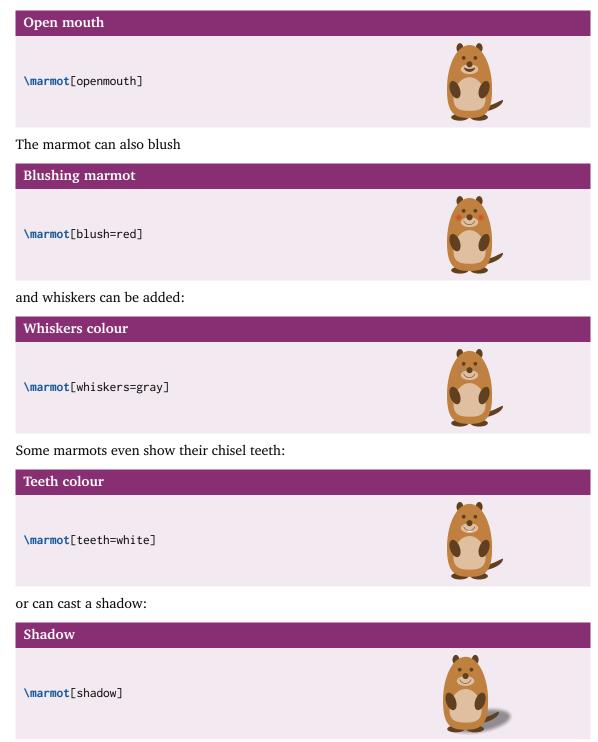
The basic marmot can be modified by changing its colour:





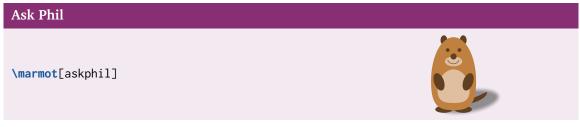


The marmot can open its mouth:

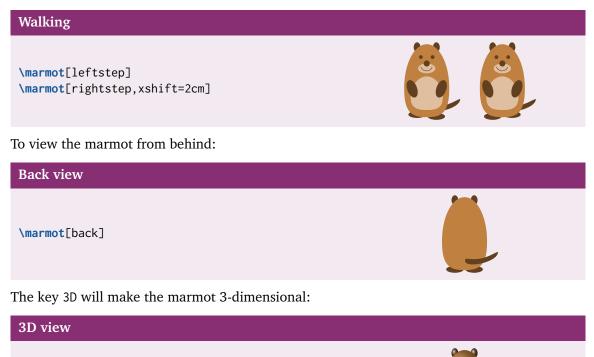




This ability is important if you want to ask Punxsutawney Phil¹ on Groundhog Day how the weather is going to be. With a probability derived from the statistics of 120 Groundhog Days² the option askphil might or might not result in a shadow.



If a good weather prognosis is derived, the happy marmot can dance by lifting up its left and right foot:



\marmot[3D]

And finally the contour key will only draw the outlines:



² https://www.livescience.com/32974-punxsutawney_phil-weather-prediction-accuracy.html



¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Punxsutawney_Phil

Ambrogio, the meerkat

The Meerkat was first created by Carla for the Great TikZlings Extravanganza 2022³. Ambrogio got his name from the patreon saint of his home town Milan, Saint Ambrogio

Package name

Package usage
\usepackage{tikzlings-meerkats}

Basic Usage

Basic meerkat	
\meerkat	

Options

The basic meerkat can be modified by changing its colour:

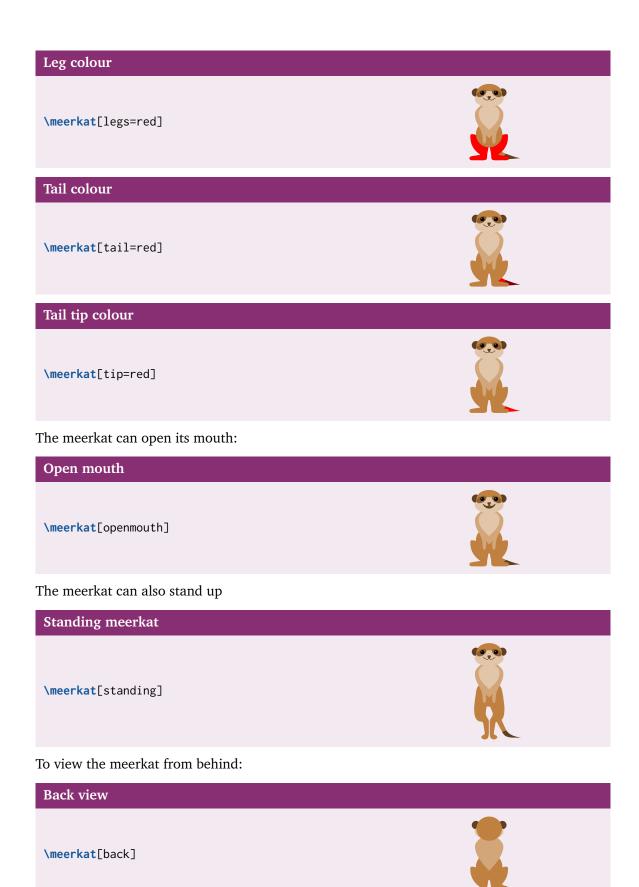




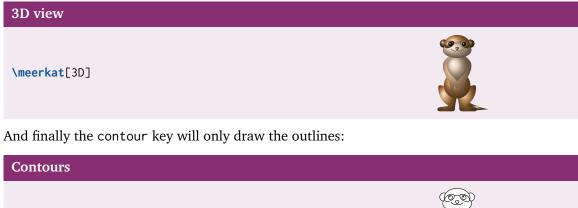
³ https://github.com/TikZlings/Extravaganza2022







The key 3D will make the meerkat 3-dimensional:



\meerkat[contour=black]





Tokz, the mouse

The idea for the mouse came from an Italian ET_EX user – Tokz is a combination of the Italian word for mouse and TikZ

Package name

Package usage

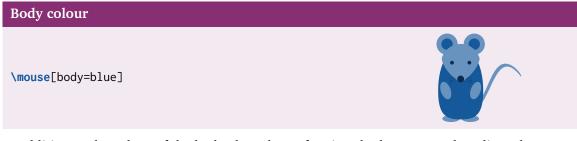
\usepackage{tikzlings-mice}

Basic Usage

Basic mouse	
\mouse	

Options

The basic mouse can be modified by changing its colour:







Whiskers colour

\mouse[whiskers=red]

The rotation angle of its arms can be adjusted:

\mouse[rotatearms=40]

Rotating the arms

And the mouse can lift its legs:

Walking \mouse[leftstep]
\mouse[rightstep,xshift=2cm]

To view the mouse from behind:

Back view
\mouse[back]

The key 3D will make the mouse 3-dimensional:





And finally the contour key will only draw the outlines:

Contours

\mouse[contour=black]





Wilhelm, the mole

The mole was added in celebration of the international mole day and is named after the chemist Wilhelm Ostwald

Package name

Package usage

\usepackage{tikzlings-moles}

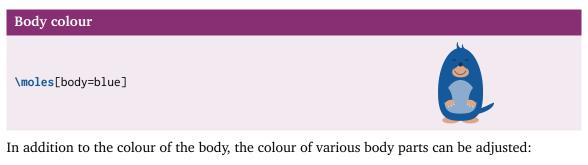
Basic Usage

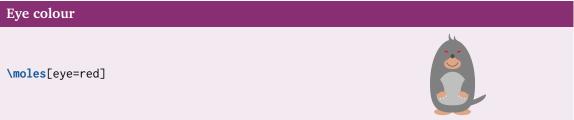
Attention: In contrast to the other TikZlings the macro name is the plural form to avoid conflicts with siunitx and similar packages.



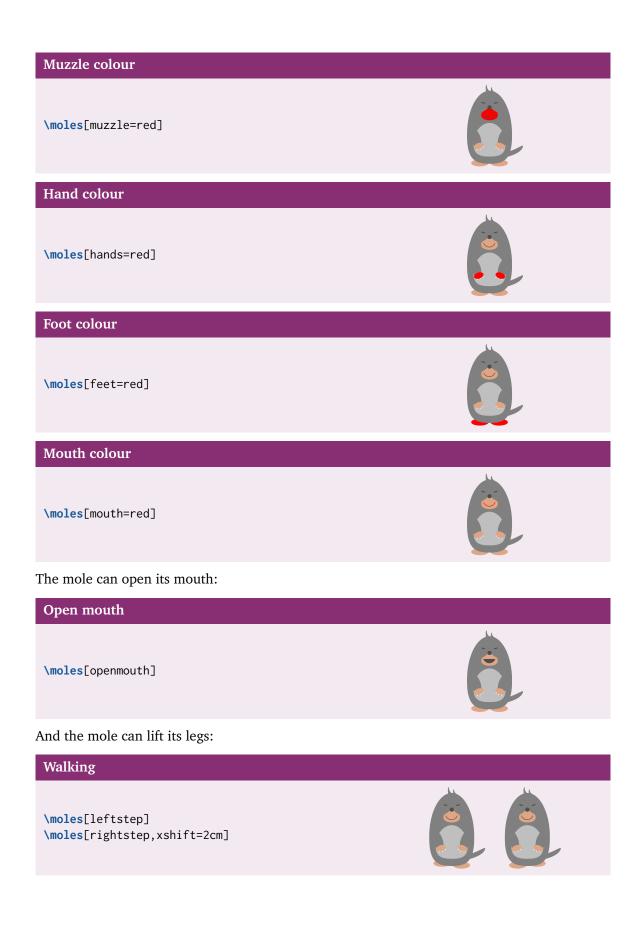
Options

The basic mole can be modified by changing its colour:











To view the mole from behind:



3D view

\moles[3D]



And finally the contour key will only draw the outlines:

Contours

\moles[contour=black]





Jake, the owl

The owl Jake was inspired by the avatar of one of the world's top TikZperts

Package name

Package usage

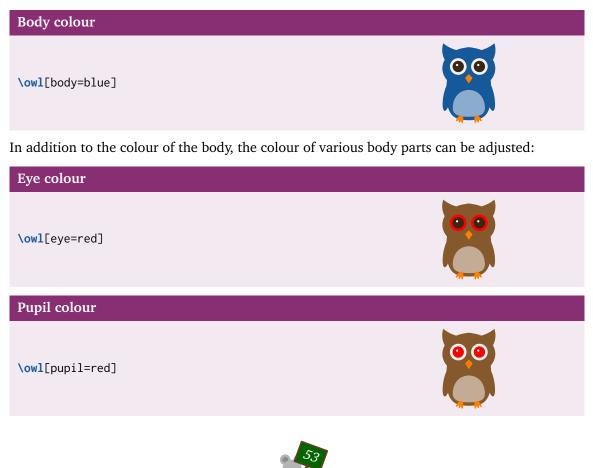
\usepackage{tikzlings-owls}

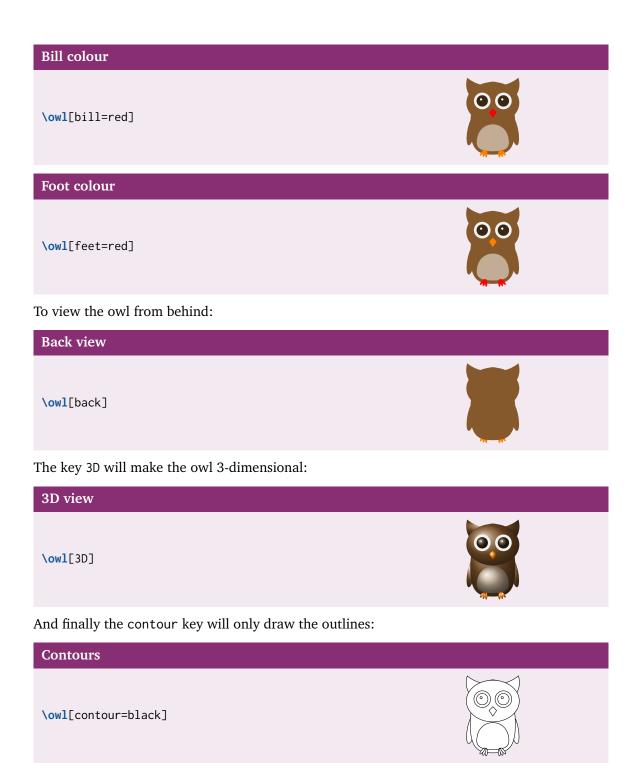
Basic Usage

Basic owl	
\owl	

Options

The basic owl can be modified by changing its colour:







Meng Meng, the panda

Meng Meng is named after one of the pandas at the zoological garden Berlin

Package name

Package usage

\usepackage{tikzlings-pandas}

Basic Usage

Basic panda	
	C.O
\panda	• •
	• •

Options

The basic panda can be modified by changing its colour:



Eye colour	
\panda[eye=red]	
	••
Pupil colour	
<pre>\panda[pupil=red]</pre>	• /
	$\bullet \bullet$



Mouth colour	
\panda [mouth=red]	6.0 N
	• •

The panda can open its mouth:

Open mouth	
\panda [openmouth]	6.9 • •

To view the panda from behind:

Back view	
\panda[back]	
(panad_social)	

The key 3D will make the panda 3-dimensional:

3D view	
\panda[3D]	

And finally the contour key will only draw the outlines:

Contours	
\panda [contour=black]	



Tux, the penguin

Dedicated to the Linux mascot

Package name

Package usage

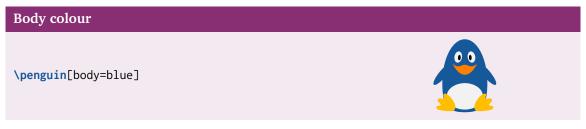
\usepackage{tikzlings-penguins}

Basic Usage

Basic penguin	
\penguin	

Options

The basic penguin can be modified by changing its colour:











Ms Piggy, the pig

Added on February 5th, 2019 to commemorate the Chinese year of the pig

Package name

Package usage

\usepackage{tikzlings-pigs}

Basic Usage



Options

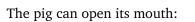
The basic pig can be modified by changing its colour:





Mouth colour

\pig[mouth=red]



Open mouth
\pig[openmouth]

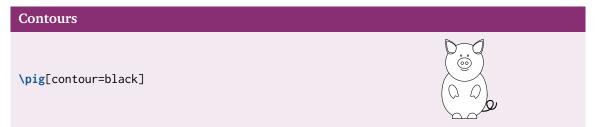
To view the pig from behind:



The key 3D will make the pig 3-dimensional:



And finally the contour key will only draw the outlines:





Dürer, the rhino

Named after Albrecht Dürer who painted an amazing rhino merely based on stories

Package name

Package usage

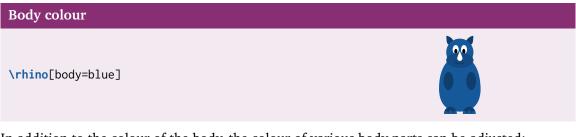
\usepackage{tikzlings-rhinos}

Basic Usage

Basic rhino	
\rhino	

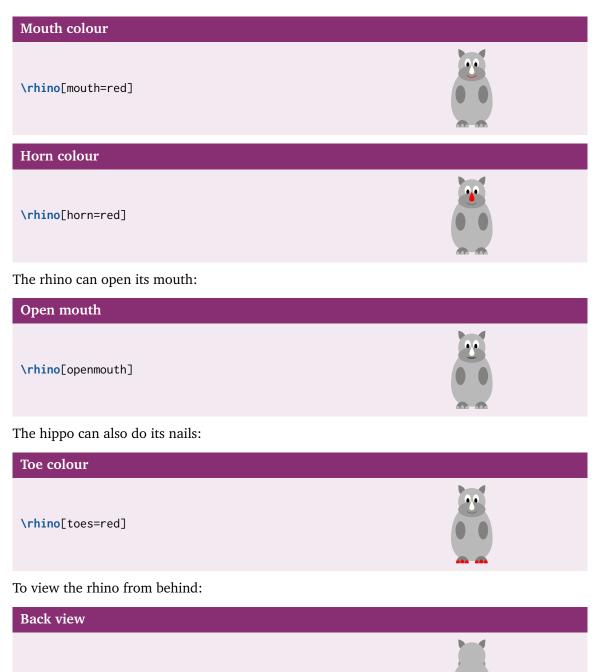
Options

The basic rhino can be modified by changing its colour:









\rhino[back]

The key 3D will make the rhino 3-dimensional:





And finally the contour key will only draw the outlines:

Contours

\rhino[contour=black]





Mókollur, the sheep

The sheep was kindly contributed by @Plergux. Mókollur is a bit silly and likes to goof off. This sheep's favourite food are boiled potatoes.

Package name

Package usage \usepackage{tikzlings-sheep}

Basic Usage

Basic sheep	
\sheep	

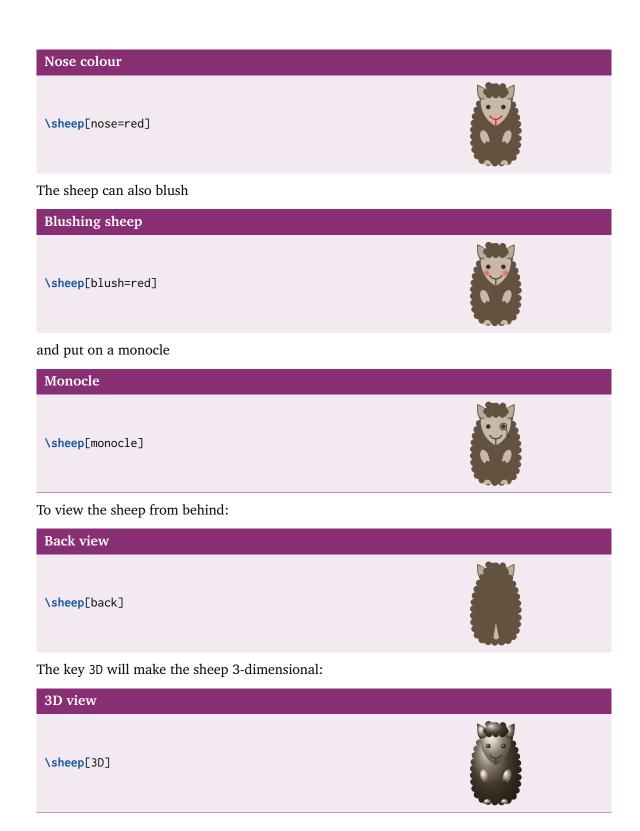
Options

The basic sheep can be modified by changing its colour:











And finally the contour key will only draw the outlines:

Contours

\sheep[contour=black]





Riley, the sloth

One of good souls behind the TugBoat once met a sloth called Riley

Package name

Package usage

\usepackage{tikzlings-sloths}

Basic Usage



Options

The basic sloth can be modified by changing its colour:



The sloth can open its mouth:





Yuki, the snowman

Yuki is the transcription of the Japanese word for snow

Package name

Package usage

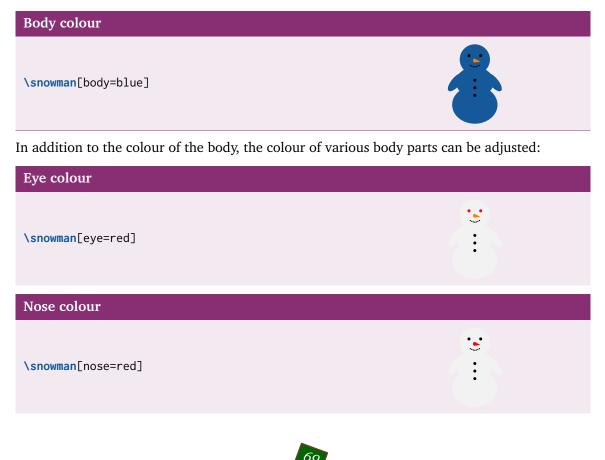
\usepackage{tikzlings-snowmen}

Basic Usage

Basic snowman	
\snowman	···

Options

The basic snowman can be modified by changing its colour:



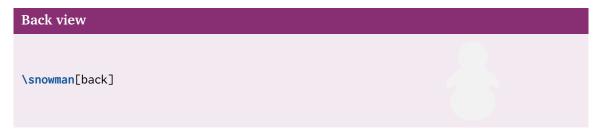
Mouth colour	
\snowman[mouth=red]	
Button colour	
\snowman[buttons=red]	

The snowman can open its mouth:

Open mouth	
\snowman[openmouth]	• •

The biggest enemy of the snowman are raising temperatures:

Global warming	
\snowman[globalwarming,tophat]	
To view the snowman from behind:	



The key 3D will make the snowman 3-dimensional:





And finally the contour key will only draw the outlines:

Contours

\snowman[contour=black]





Ratatosk, the squirrel

named after the squirrel from Norse mythology who climbs around Yggdrasil

Package name

Package usage

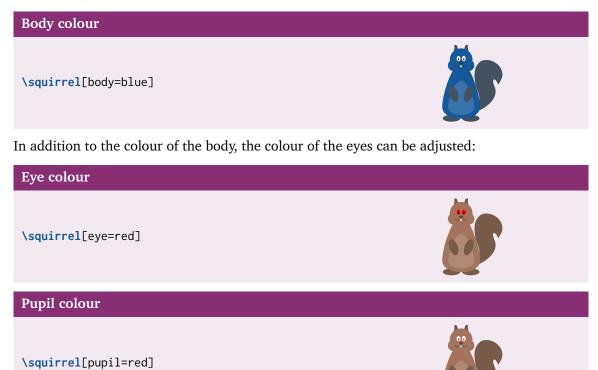
\usepackage{tikzlings-squirrels}

Basic Usage



Options

The basic squirrel can be modified by changing its colour:





Mouth colour

\squirrel[mouth=red]

The squirrel can open its mouth:

Open mouth

\squirrel[openmouth]

And the squirrel can lift its legs:

Walking

\squirrel[leftstep]
\squirrel[rightstep,xshift=2cm]

To view the squirrel from behind:

 Back view

 \squirrel[back]

The key 3D will make the squirrel 3-dimensional:

3D view

\squirrel[3D]



And finally the contour key will only draw the outlines:

Contours

\squirrel[contour=black]



Westy, the wolf

The wolf was kindly contributed by @cfroccajr. It is named "Westy" for the Western CT State University, whose new mascot is a wolf.

Package name

Package usage

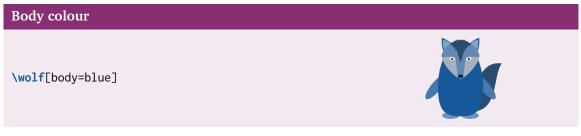
\usepackage{tikzlings-wolves}

Basic Usage

Basic wolf	
\wolf	

Options

The basic wolf can be modified by changing its colour:



In addition to the colour of the body, the colour of the eyes can be adjusted:





Pupil Colour

\wolf[pupil=red]

The rotation angle of its arms can be adjusted:

Rotating the arms

\wolf[rotatearms=40]

And the wolf can lift its legs:

 Walking

 \wolf[leftstep]

 \wolf[rightstep,xshift=2cm]

To view the wolf from behind:







And finally the contour key will only draw the outlines:

Contours
\wolf[contour=black]



Rani, the TikZling

The full name of this TikZling is "Random", but everybody just calls them "Rani"

Package name

Package usage

\usepackage{tikzlings}

Basic Usage



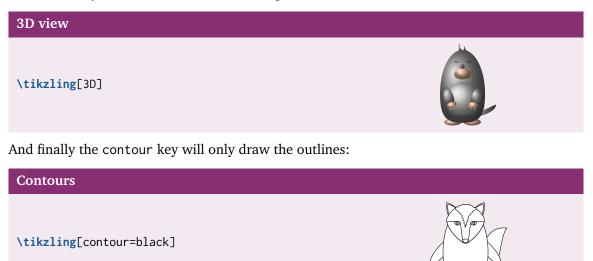
Options

Options common for all TikZlings are supported for the **\tikzling**. These are the ability to change the body colour





and the 3D key, which will make the TikZlings 3-dimensional:



If an option of a specific TikZling is used (for example sleeping, which only the koala and sloth can do) this option will only work for these TikZlings. For all other TikZlings, the option will be silently ignored.

In addition all usual TikZ and pgf keys can be used in the optional argument as well as the accessories presented in the following section.



Accessories

To customise the TikZlings the package provides a number of accessories which can be added to all the TikZlings simply by adding the respective keyword as optional argument:



For most of these items, the colour can be customised:

Customisation	
<pre>\koala[crown=orange!50!yellow]</pre>	

Unfortunately it is very difficult to create accessories that will fit all the different shapes of the TikZlings. Therefore it is also possible to add them separately as optional argument of the **\thing** macro, which allows more control of their size and placement:



A list of all available accessories is given below. For completeness the default colours for each key are shown, but actually it is unnecessary unless it should be changed. In case more than one key is shown, all but the first are optional.

Hats









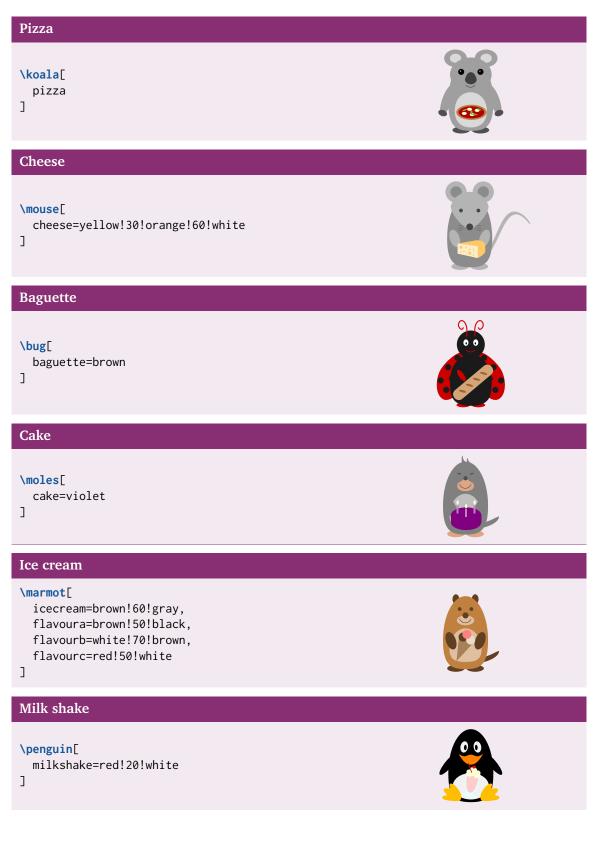




```
Alien antennas
 \penguin[
   alien=green
 ]
 Sombrero
 \marmot[
   sombrero=orange!70!yellow,
   sombreroa= green!70!blue,
   sombrerob= red,
   sombreroc= blue
 ]
Communication
 Book
 \coati[
   book={\tiny\TeX},
   bookcolour=brown
 ]
 Sign post
 \pig[
                                                                          TEX
   signpost={\TeX},
   signcolour= brown!50!black,
   signback=green!40!black
 ]
 Speech bubble
                                                                   T<sub>E</sub>X
 \bear[
   speech={\TeX},
   bubblecolour=gray!30!white
 ]
 Thinking bubble
                                                                           T<sub>E</sub>X
 \penguin[
   think={\TeX},
   bubblecolour=gray!30!white
 ]
```



Food



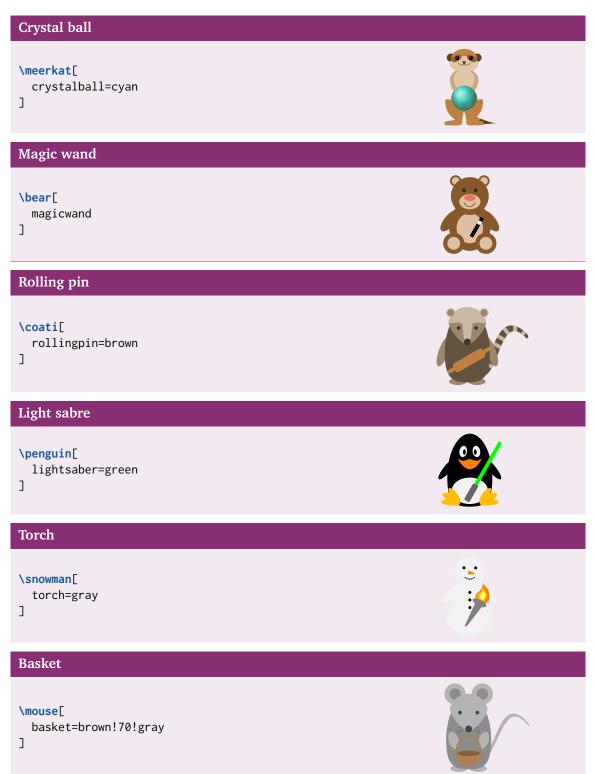




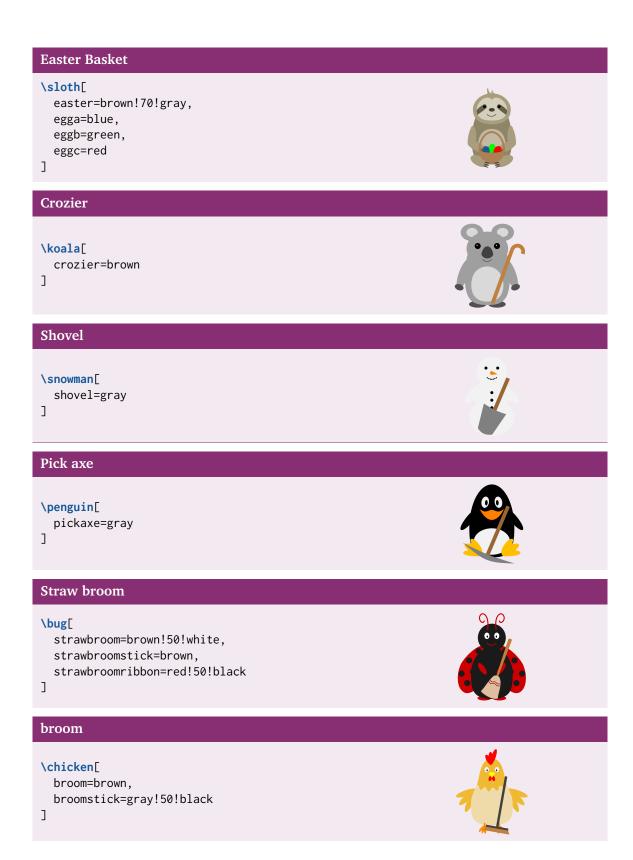
Cricket bat	
<pre>\coati[cricket=brown]</pre>	
Hockey stick	
<pre>\bug[hockey=brown]</pre>	
Football	
<pre>\elephant[football=white]</pre>	



Other items











Random accessories

Given the number of available accessories, it can be hard to decide which ones to use. Luckily, one does not need to decide and pick random accessories instead. There are two macros for this purpose, **\randomhead** and **\randomaccessories**, which will choose a random headpiece and a random other accessories, respectively. Please note, that one needs to initialise these macros with **\shufflethings** to generate the random accessories.



