

# Diagramming

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A good way to get started with visceralization is by diagramming. In diagramming, you sketch out the visualizations you would normally be making in your head, but are putting it on paper first. By putting it on paper, sometimes it's easier to brainstorm and think more clearly about what exactly you want to be visualizing in order to understand the idea more clearly.

So let's walk through one example, this time with link lists. Link lists are a programming technique for storing data. They work by having each piece of data tell you where to find the next piece of data. As you can see, I'm sketching out a basic layout for a link list. Diagrams like this are fairly common in computer science and can really help with understanding abstract ideas. But remember, this is just a first step to start a mental picture of the idea, which is more versatile. Don't worry about making your sketches beautiful, what matters is that they kick start your ability to form a mental image about the idea.

Here, I'm also sketching out an action, in this case deleting a piece of data. This is harder to do on paper than in your mind's eye, but it provides a start. A quick sketch can take a few minutes, but it can help you build a detailed intuition about the idea.