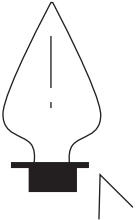


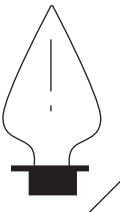
The Pen Tool Symbols



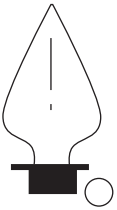
Start a new path -If you want to draw a new path, this is the symbol to look for. If you want to start a new path once you've drawn an open path, click on the pen tool again to let Illustrator know to start another path.



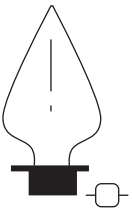
Convert the last point drawn -This symbol lets you know that you are converting the last point drawn. Depending on what the last point was (corner, smooth, or cusp) you can convert to either a corner with one control handle (just click on a smooth point or press and drag from a corner point without any handles), or a cusp (option-drag on a smooth point).



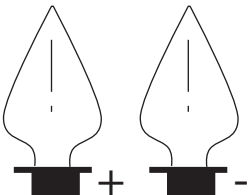
Continue a path -This symbol indicates that you can continue drawing an existing, open path. Click to activate the last point in the path and then continue to draw your path.



Closing a path -When this symbol appears, you are creating a closed path from a once opened path. Once the closed path is created, you will need to use your convert direction point tool to convert any points. (located inside your scissors tool pop-out) A closed path is very important in tracing images. It allows the fill color to completely "fill" the path.



Connect 2 open paths -Two open paths can be connected when you see this symbol. This does not indicate the creation of a "closed path." It is just connecting two open paths into one open path. See below explanation to create a closed path.



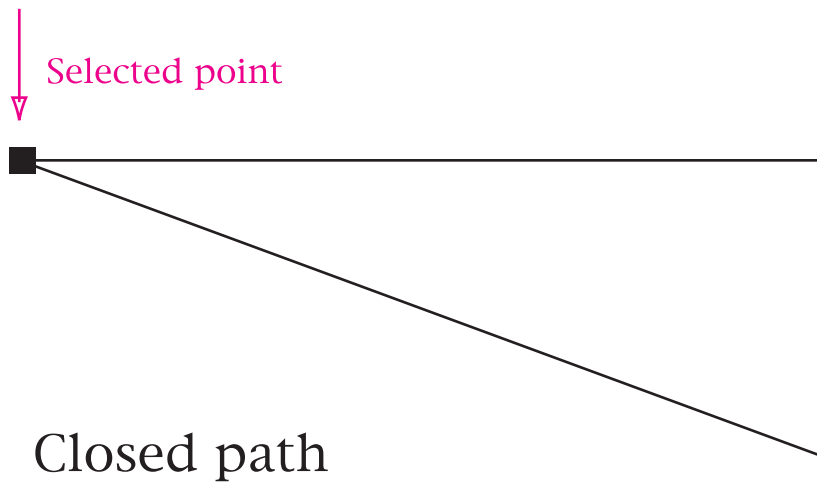
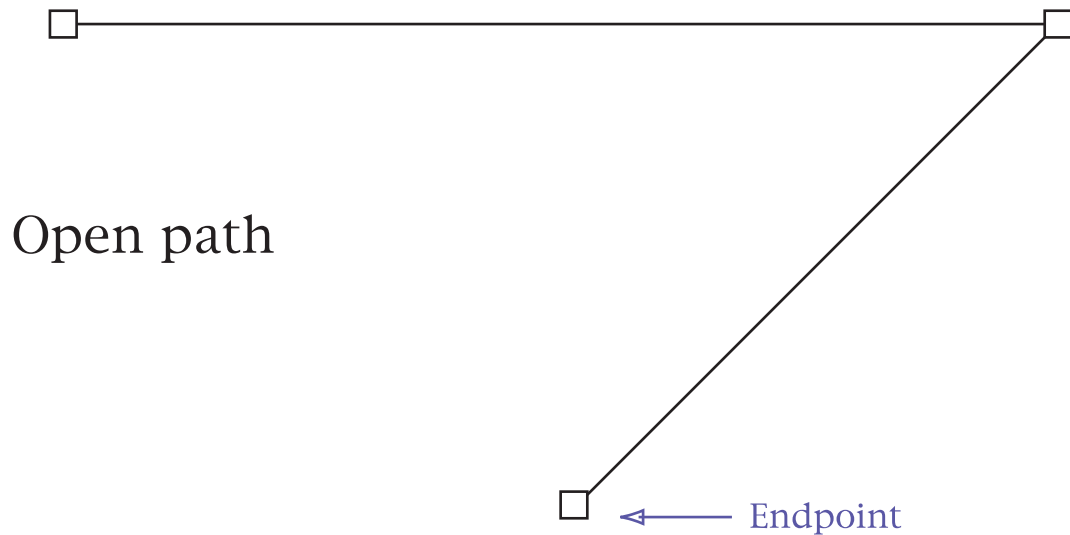
Add/Delete Point on a path - Click with the pen tool on an active path to add or delete a point along the path.

At this point in time, it probably seems really difficult to watch for these symbols- especially when you're just trying to gain control of the pen tool! Just go slowly and make sure you look for the symbols- they are your only indication that the next click will go the way you intend.

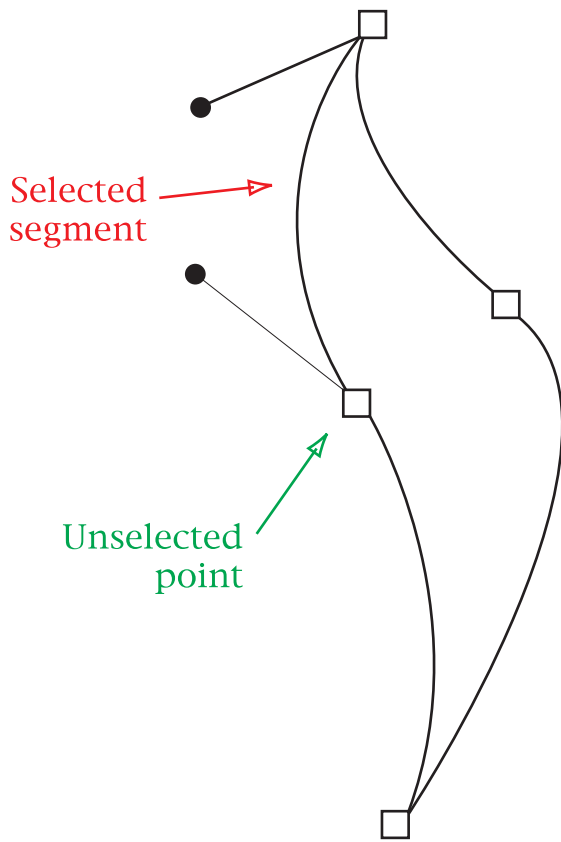
Important Short cuts using the pen tool:

Stay on the pen tool the entire time. (P). Hold down Command for Mac Control for Window this will take you to the last selection tool you have been using. Make sure it is the Direct selection tool. Hold down the Alt/Option will take you to the convert Anchor point tool

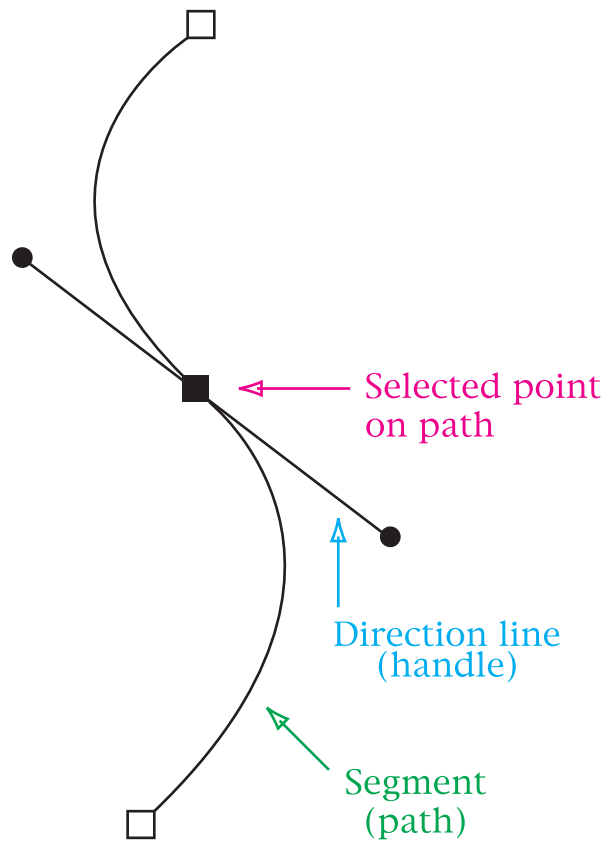
STRAIGHT LINES



CURVES



Closed path



Open path