Adobe Illustrator Pen Tool and Text Block Lessons

Pen Tool Lesson 1

* Select Pen Tool from tool box (shortcut ‘P’)
* Select ‘Practice Line’ graphic style
* Click on the red squares
* Click on Pen tool in toolbox or Ctrl + Shift + A
* Holding shift constrains the angle of the line

(to change constrain angle Menu – Illustrator – Preferences

or Alt + K)

Pen Tool Lesson 2 Bezier Points

* Pull handles of curves out in the path of travel, ie if drawing left to right, pull the handle out to the right in the direction of the next point.
* Anchors and handles can be modified in Preferences

(Menu – Illustrator – Preferences or Ctrl + K)

* + Selection & Anchor Display

Pen Tool Lesson 3 Corner point

* The 3rd line creates a ‘Corner’ point instead of ‘Bezier’
* 3 ways to get corner point
  + click on point to collapse half a handle (only works on last point drawn)
  + hold Alt
  + convert button anchor point menu

Pen Tool Lesson 4 Adjusting Curves, Deleting Points

* Use the Direct Selection tool, white arrow (shortcut ‘A’) to adjust the handles
* Add a point to line with Pen tool when + shows at bottom right of tool
* Delete a point in line with Pen tool when - shows at bottom right of tool

Pen Tool Lesson 5 Maze Tip

* Floating point (hold space bar while dragging out handle)
* Use modifier keys (Alt, etc…)

Pen Tool Lesson 6 Text and Paths

* Draw the line
* Select Type/Text tool (shortcut ‘T’)
* Hover over line and wait for tool icon to change, then click to begin typing

(make sure left align text is selected, easier to control text on a path)

Text Blocks Lesson 7 Types of, Anatomy of

* 3 types of text
  + Point type
  + Area type
  + Text on a Path
* Point type
  + Has an Edge, non changeable
  + Shows left, center, right align with small cyan box along edge at respective alignment
  + Edges can be turned off, Menu – View – Hide/Show Edges (Ctrl + H)
  + If bounding box on, Menu – View – Hide/Show Bounding Box

(Ctrl + Shift + B) pulling on bounding box frame will change the shape of the text

* Area type
  + Has changeable frame
  + Can be made into columns, Menu – Type – Area Type Options (Ctrl + E)
  + Can be linked to other polygon text blocks
    - Any filled polygon can be made into Area Type Frame
* Text on a Path
  + Has a changeable Edge with Anchor Points
    - Direct Select arrow modifies points
  + 3 vertical lines perpendicular to path edge
    - cursor changes depending on which vertical line hovered over
  + Can be linked to other paths
  + Selecting the center vertical line and pulling to opposite side will flip text