

## Assignment-4

Explain what are symbols and symbol library.

How will you create a new symbol and add it to the library?

How will you use the appearance panel to change the property of the symbols?

### Symbols

Symbols are elements, predefined shapes that can be used in Illustrator. Listed in the Symbols panel, these shapes can have multiple occurrences in a document. It is possible to modify them or create new ones easily.

### Using symbols

To add a symbol to an artboard, display the Symbols panel, select the desired symbol, and drag it onto the artboard. As these symbols are vector, you can transform them as you wish. You will notice, however, that there are very few symbols when displaying the panel.

### Symbol libraries

To open a symbol library, click the icon in the lower left corner of the panel and choose a theme. A new panel with many symbols will then appear. You can easily switch between themes using the two navigation arrows at the bottom of the panel.

### Symbol creation

Nothing could be easier than creating a symbol. To do this, you just have to produce a complex shape or illustration, then select it and finally drag it into the Symbols panel. The Symbol Option window will then appear allowing you to indicate whether it is a graphic or video symbol.

### Editing Symbols

Although you can transform the instance of a symbol on the artboard, transforming any component of the symbol requires entering Edit mode. To switch to Edit mode, double-click the instance of the symbol on the

artboard. You will then see a tab appear along with a green line indicating that you are now working in Edit mode. To exit Edit mode and return to normal mode, simply click the arrow. In this mode, you will be able to transform the different components of the symbol. But be careful, this will change the symbol itself and not just its occurrence on the artboard. To change the occurrence without affecting the symbol itself, you must break the link between the occurrence and the symbol. You can do this by pressing the Break Link button in the options or by using the appropriate icon in the Symbols panel.

## Appearance panel

The Appearance panel contains all the specifics, the elements that make up a shape. Not only does it allow you to see the components of a shape, it also allows you to adjust them as well as add or subtract from them.

Using appearance panel In the case of the shape below, we can see that the Appearance panel indicates that the shape includes an orange outline of 6 pt and a blue background, both elements having an opacity adjustment by default (i.e. 100% in normal blending mode). To change the colors, all you have to do is click the color square to choose a different shade. To change the opacity of any of the elements, click the Opacity label (orange underlined with a dotted line), which will display an options panel including opacity, blend modes and a mask creation function.