

# Pen Tool

The Pen tool creates more complex shapes by combining both straight and curved lines in the same shape. Shapes created with the Pen tool consist of paths, anchor points and tangent handles.

I can use the pen tool to create complex shapes.

## Students will:

- Review pen tools directed by teacher instruction
- Complete Skills Lesson 2 in Flash

## TEACHER-DIRECTED GUIDED INSTRUCTION

### Pen tool – straight line segment

1. Select the **Pen** tool and start scribbling. Every line you draw is actually a line segment. You can convert curves to straight lines and vice versa once they're drawn. (I'll show you how in a minute).
2. With the **Pen** tool active, click on the stage to make the first point, this point is called an anchor point.
3. Move your mouse to a new area of the **Stage** and click again.
4. Using the **Pen** tool, draw the letter **S**. (Your S may look like a number 5 due to the straight lines. It's okay, don't worry)
5. Double-click the anchor point right before the last anchor point you created to stop adding on to your path and to start a new one. (**The last anchor point will be a solid dot while the others will be filled with white**)
6. Using the **Pen** tool, draw the letter **O** using straight lines. (To complete the path for the letter, connect your last anchor point to your first anchor point.)
7. Double click the **Eraser** tool in the tools panel to clear your stage.

### Pen tool – curved line segment

1. With the **Pen** tool active, select a **stroke** and **fill** color in the **Tools panel**.
2. Now we will create a curved path in Flash, click anywhere on the **Stage** to create your first anchor point.
3. Move your mouse to a different area of the Stage, but instead of clicking to add another point, click and drag your mouse, then let go to add another anchor point.
4. Notice the tiny circular handles that appeared as you were drawing your curved line, it's called **tangent handles** which allows you to control the degree and direction of the curve you're creating.
5. Draw a couple of curved objects using the pen.
6. To stop adding onto your path and to start a new one for a curved line segment, double-click where you placed the last point.
7. Double click the **Eraser** tool in the tools panel to clear your stage quickly.

## **TIPS**

- To undo – CTRL + Z
- Clear stage – double click eraser tool
- To select a fill and stroke – double click the fill object
- To deselect your pen path, try the Escape key on your keyboard
- To draw a new pen path, click the selection tool, then click the pen tool again
- In Edulaunch Skill lesson 2 – when asked to use pen to write your name
  - Make a new layer, then use the pencil tool to write your name
  - Lock the layer
  - Make a new layer then using the pen tool, trace your name
  - Hide the pencil layer