

# Lines (a.k.a. Paths)

## Question

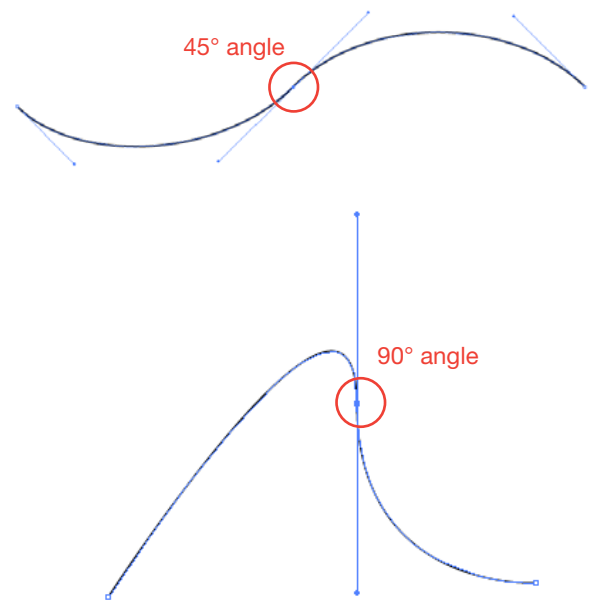
How can I make a smooth curved path?

## Answer

First, to make a path that is smooth and curved without any visible breaks in it you'll need to use the Pen Tool (P). Click anywhere on your document to begin your path with an anchor point. Don't let go of the mouse button. The first anchor point appears, and the Pen tool pointer changes to an arrowhead. Drag to set the slope of the curve segment you're creating, and then release the mouse button. Click and make another anchor point and still holding down the mouse button, drag in a direction that suits your path slope. You may hold down the Shift key while doing this to limit your curve to a certain angle. Holding the Shift key will enable you to make curves using exact 45 and 90 degree angles.

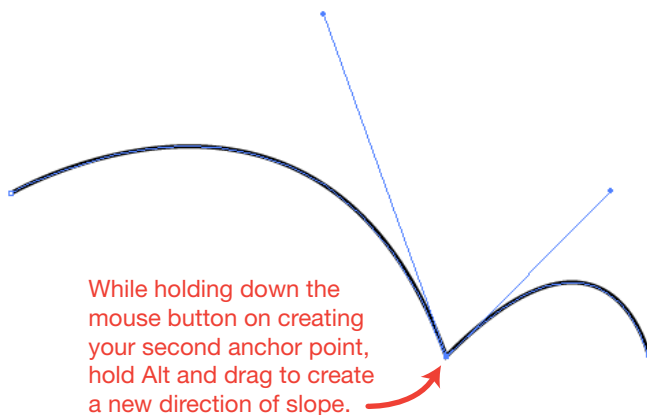
Continue dragging the Pen Tool from different anchor point locations to create additional smooth curves. **To close the path, position the Pen tool over the first anchor point. A small circle appears next to the Pen tool pointer when it is positioned correctly. Click or drag to close the path.**

To leave the path open, Ctrl+click anywhere away from all objects, choose Select > Deselect, or select a different tool in the toolbox.



## Quick Tip:

After you create your curves, you can use the Direct Selection Tool (A) to select individual anchor points or bezier direction points and move them to anywhere you desire to change the direction/size of the slopes.



## Question

How can I make a path with curves of different sizes and direction?

## Answer

An easy way to do this is to make your first anchor point the same way as demonstrated above. Then click on your document to place your second anchor point. Don't let go of your mouse button, instead hold down Alt. This enables you to then drag the direction of your next slope without affecting your first slope. Then when you have the desired direction click and make your third anchor point anywhere on your document. This completes the 2nd slope.

## Exercise! "THE HILLS"

Practice making smooth curved lines with different slopes. Pay attention to the smoothness of your curves and try to make them as smooth as possible. Then, close your paths and add a fill color, creating a sort of hilly landscape.

