Photoshop Pen Tool Practice

The Pen Tool is used to create Vector designs (Paths and shapes that are mathematically created using curves and straight lines that work independently from pixels) Vector Art can be resized and scaled up with out loosing resolution or looking 'pixely'
You can use it to create shapes, trace shapes, or make selections.

Open the Pen Tool Practice PSD document in your 'Assignments' Shared Folder and follow the directions below to get to know the pen tool. Go to file save as and re title: "Your name pen tool practice"

1) **Trace the Square shape** Select the pen tool. Make a new layer above layer one. Select the outline style with no fill on the pen tool palette. Use the pen tool to (layer one)by clicking to add an anchor point on each corner, (hold shift to maintain straight horizontal and vertical lines) when you come back to the original anchor point notice the white circle icon on your cursor (this is the 'close' shape icon)

2) **Use the add anchor point to add points and alter the shape** (drag new handles to create curves), use the delete anchor point to alter the shape, and try converting an anchor point to change it to a curve.

   In your Layer Palette right click on the shape thumbnail you have created on layer one: Click 'Rasterize', Click on your effects and try adding a gradient overlay. Now delete the square shape below
   Make this layer invisible

3) **Now try selecting the circle:** You can use the pen tool to create curves by adding **anchor points** and then dragging the **handles**.
   - You cannot create a curve greater than 90 degrees.
   - Make an anchor point on the top center of the circle, hold the left mouse key as you drag the handle around the curve and place another anchor point at 90 degrees.
   - Press Alt/Option and click in the middle of the handle bars to delete the second handle (this will help control the contour of the curve)
   - Repeat, all the way around the circle. Fill your path with color by selecting……… stroke your path by selecting fx and stroke. Make your layer invisible.

4) **Now try tracing the multi circle shape in Layer 3**
   Repeat steps from # 2 Rasterize shape, fx> Pattern overlay and stroke
   Make layer 3 invisible.

5) **Practice controlling the curves of the pen tool** and creating one shape using multiple shapes with different colors – **Fire Shape**
   - Trace the outer shape of the fire and close, (after you close one shape when you click on the next shape a new layer will automatically be created)
   - Trace the middle shape, and then trace the inner shape.
   - Use fx >color fill to match the colors of each shape to the original fire shape.
   - Move the layers around so you can see all three colors.
   - Merge these three shape layers together and delete the original fire shape.
   - Make fire layer invisible.

6) **Practice controlling the curve of the pen tool-** create shapes with color- select the red outline on the pen tool palette and select the color your want your shape. Create one pear shape, and one stem shape and fill with correlating colors.
   a. Select a gradient on your main tools palette and color swatches with one swatch green and one swatch yellow
   b. Click on the pear layer
   c. Go to fx> Gradient overlay> select 'radial' in style and change the scale until your are happy with the shading to make your pear look 3D
   d. Merge the stem and pear layers
7) **Delete all original layers** (that you used as guides to trace) Label remaining layers as you see fit
   (Pear, Fire, combined circle, circle, etc)
8) Make all layers visible and move them around to create an interesting composition