Talk Shape Tutorial

Step One - BASIC:
Creating the Talk Shape for dialogue –

1. Open Photoshop.

2. Choose **FILE > NEW.**

3. Make the file pretty large, 1000 x 800 ppi.

4. Name your file "**Talk Shape**."

5. Choose the "**Rectangle Tool**" from the tool box, right above the hand tool. Click and hold on the tool so the Pop Up window appears. Choose "**Custom Shape Tool**"

6. About midway accross the Options bar at the top, is the **Shape Picker**. Click the downward facing triangle and the shape choices will appear.

7. Choose the **Talk Shape**.

8. Choose a **Foreground color**.

9. In the Document area, drag out the Talk Shape. Make it large enough to hold the amount of text you plan to type.

TIP: To change the direction of the stem use Edit > Transform Path > Flip Horizontal.

10. Select the **Type Tool**.

11. In the Character Palette, choose the font, font size, line strength, paragraph orientation and color.

12. When you click in the Document area, a New Type Layer will appear in the **Layers Palette.**

13. Type your message.

NOTE: *If your Talk Shape is not large enough, activate the Shape Layer by clicking on it in the Layer Palette. Use Command-T to select Free Transform and drag the shape to the size you need. (Holding Alt-Shift while dragging will keep the proportions and the transformation centered.)*
TIP: *If you wish to change the Text Instead of the Talk Shape - Select the Text layer in the Layers Palette. Double-click on the text in the Document Area. You may now change your text.*

14. Save - Command-S

Step 2 - ADVANCED:

Creating a Path (Outlining) –

1. Activate the **Shape Layer** in the Layers Palette.

2. Open the Paths Palette. Notice the Shape Layer is a vector Layer.

3. In the Paths Palette, click and hold the Shape 1 Vector Mask and drag it down to the Create New Path icon located at the bottom of the Paths Palette (next to the trash can) to duplicate it. Path 1 will be created.

4. Choose the **Shape tool**.

5. Use **Command-T** to select Free Transform.

6. Drag the box outward. A line will appear around the Talk Shape. (Holding Shift while dragging will keep the proportions and the transformation centered.)

7. Hit enter to transform your path.

8. Click on the Layers tab to return to the Layers Palette.

9. Make a new layer by clicking on the New Layer icon (bottom right of the Layers Palette next to the trash can).

10. Choose the outline color you wish to use as your Foreground color.

11. Select the Paintbrush in the Tool Box.

12. In the Options bar, choose the width of the brush. To create solid lines use a hard-edged (dot) brush.

13. In the Paths Palette select the Stroke Path button (second from the left). Your path will be drawn using your selected Foreground color.

14. Click in the Paths Palette below your path, in an empty space, to deselect the active path and make the path line in your image disappear.

15. Save - Command S.