

The **Direct Selection Tool** (shortcut: **A**) is one of the essential tools in Adobe Illustrator. It allows users to select and manipulate anchor points, paths, and segments of vector shapes and objects individually, giving more precise control over their appearance.

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## 1. Accessing the Direct Selection Tool:

- **Shortcut:** Press **A** on the keyboard.
  - **Tool Panel:** Click on the **Direct Selection Tool** (white arrow) from the toolbar.
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## 2. Basic Functions of the Direct Selection Tool:

The Direct Selection Tool differs from the **Selection Tool** (black arrow), which selects entire objects. Instead, the Direct Selection Tool allows for more granular adjustments by selecting parts of an object.

### Key Functions:

Function	Action
Select an anchor point	Click on the anchor point
Move anchor points	Drag the selected anchor point
Select a path segment	Click directly on the path
Move path segments	Drag the selected path segment
Adjust direction handles	Click and drag the handles on curves

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## 3. How to Select Anchor Points and Paths:

### Selecting Anchor Points:

1. Click directly on an **anchor point** to select it.
2. Drag the anchor point to reposition it.

### Selecting Multiple Anchor Points:

- Hold **Shift** and click on additional anchor points to select multiple points.
  - Alternatively, click and drag a selection box around the anchor points.
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## 4. Manipulating Anchor Points:

- **Move Points:** Drag selected points to new positions.
  - **Delete Points:** Press **Delete** after selecting an anchor point to remove it.
  - **Add Points:** Use the **Pen Tool (P)** to add new anchor points along a path.
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## 5. Adjusting Path Segments:

- Click on a **path segment** to select it.
  - Drag the segment to reshape it.
  - Use **direction handles** to adjust the curve of the path.
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## 6. Tips for Using the Direct Selection Tool Efficiently:

- **Shortcut to Switch Tools:**  
Press and hold **Command (Mac)** or **Ctrl (Windows)** to temporarily switch between the Selection Tool and the Direct Selection Tool.
  - **Precise Adjustments:**  
Use **arrow keys** to move anchor points or segments in small increments.
  - **Constrain Movement:**  
Hold **Shift** while dragging to constrain movement to 45° angles.
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## 7. Use Cases for the Direct Selection Tool:

- Refining shapes after creating them with the **Pen Tool**.
- Adjusting curves on paths to create smoother transitions.
- Correcting anchor points for more precise design work.