Today we are going to learn how to make a vector graphic on Illustrator, were going to skip the drawing portion first to learn how to use the tools, and then we will come back and sketch a design we would like to make and then create it in Illustrator from the drawing. We will also learn how to scan a drawing in and turn it into a vector. Finally, we will use what we have learned about creating illustrations in Illustrator and layouts and create a Webpage or Magazine layout.

Lesson:

1. The first thing we have to learn is how to create an object. This is the most basic thing you can do in Illustrator aside from using the pen tool. Objects are things like circles, squares, rectangles, triangles, stars, polygons, and other free-form shapes.
   1. Open Illustrator and click on the shape tool (the square on the tools panel). If you hold your mouse down on the little triangle on the tool, you will see the other tools below. Select any shape you want -> click and drag to make that shape on the artboard.

b. Click the stroke button on the tools panel so it is in front of the stroke button, then find the red swatch in the swatches panel.

c. Click Edit on the menu bar -> Cut -> Press and hold SHIFT, then draw your object again.

d. Type 5 in the width text box and 3 in the height text box. Press Tab. Click Ok.

2) Resizing an object. At anytime you can show an objects bounding box. The bounding box is a rectangle whos size matches the width and height of the object. When the bounding box is visible, it shows selection handles or small white squares that you can drag to resize the object. The free transform tool works almost identically to the bounding box for resizing an object. The transform panel shows you specific height and width values for an object.

a. Create another object similar to the one you made previously, but smaller.

b. Click window on the menu bar -> Transform -> Selection tool (black mouse pointer) -> Click your object to select it.

c. Click the small object you made.

d. On the transform panel, double click the W text box, type 1, press tab (which automatically selects the H text box), type 1, then press Enter.

e. Click the larger object to select it, click View on the menu bar, click show bounding box.

f. Drag the middle handle on the right edge to resize the width of the object to any size.

g. Click the smaller object, click the free transform tool, then drag any of the handles to change the size and make it wider than it is tall.

h. Click the black mouse tool, cut one of the two objects (right click->cut), click view, guides, show guides.

i. Pull down one horizontal guide directly into the center of your artboard, and one vertical guide directly into the center of your artboard to evenly split the board into four sections.

j. Resize your object to fit perfectly with all four sides touching each edge of one of the boxes you created with the guides.

3) Duplicating an object. Many things you do in illustrator require you to duplicate objects. You have many options to duplicate objects in illustrator. The most essential method involves copying and pasting an object, or dragging and dropping a copy of an object.

a. Click View-> fit artboard in window -> verify that your object is selected -> Edit -> copy.

b. Click Edit -> Paste.

c. The second method to copy and paste involves keyboard shortcuts. To copy, press CTRL+C and to paste, press CTRL+V.

d. Click Edit -> Undo Paste -> Edit -> Paste in Front. This allows you to paste in front of an object.

e. Click on the object you pasted -> click the upper left anchor point -> press and hold shift -> without releasing the mouse button, drag to the right until the upper-left anchor point is on top of the upper right anchor point of the original object, then release the mouse button.

f. Click the blue swatch in the swatches panel.

g. Press and hold SHIFT+ALT, then drag the blue object straight down to create a third object. (Pressing alt creates a copy)

h. Click Object on the menu bar-> Transform -> Move. (this opens a dialog box letting you have the ability to tell illustrator what distance you want to move the object).

i. Type -4 in the horizontal text box, press tab, type 0 in the vertical text box, press tab.

j. Click copy, then change the fill color of the new object to a green of your choice.