Merging Shapes – a Crescent Moon

There are different ways that you can group or merge shapes together in Illustrator. This method lets you create a crescent moon out of two circles

1. Choose the **Ellipse tool** on the <u>left toolbar</u>. This is underneath the **Rectangle Tool**, so <u>**click and hold**</u> on the Rectangle Tool and choose **Ellipse**

2. Draw a circle – hold **SHIFT** down to make the circle perfect

3. Choose the **Selection Tool** on the <u>left toolbar</u>. This is the **top arrow** – the black one

4. Click on the circle. We need to create a perfect copy, so:

5. **Edit** > **Copy**

6. **Edit** > **Paste**

7. **Move** the circle as needed to create a crescent moon shape on the left

8. **Select both circles**. Hold **SHIFT** down and click on the other circle

9. On the <u>right panel</u>, find the **Pathfinder** section
There are 4 buttons here

10. Click the **second button** – it's called **Minus Front**. This should create a perfect crescent moon shape

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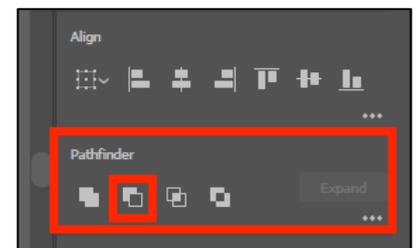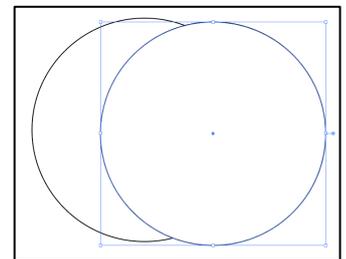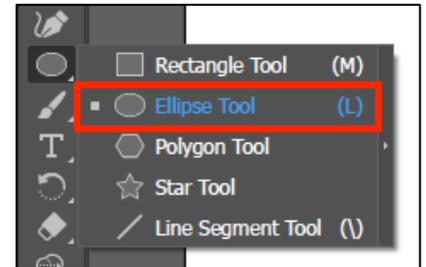
Experiment:
It's a good idea to check what the other buttons do in the Pathfinder section. You can undo (Edit > Undo or Ctrl + Z) and try each of them as they do different things

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11. Now change the **fill colour** and **stroke colour** and **thickness** on the <u>right panel</u>

12. You could experiment with the **Gradient Tool** on the left toolbar if you don't want a solid colour

13. You can tilt the shape by using the **Selection Tool** near one of the corner