

Project INSPIRE Course 4 Lesson 4 Tiger

SPEAKER: We are now going to look at a graphic that needs to be created. In the graphic, we have a tree. And we have a person. Then there is a line that goes from the top of the tree past the head of the person down to the ground. We also have a horizontal line going from the bottom of the tree to the bottom of the person to the same point on the ground.

The person is 5 foot tall. The distance from that point on the ground to the person is 8 feet. And the distance from that point on the ground to the tree is 24 feet. So we have quite a few lines in this particular figure. And let's talk about how sometimes this is created.

I'm going to look at the use of Microsoft Word to make an adaptation of that particular graphic. The problem is there are several issues with this graphic that's been created. So first of all, the tree has been made into a circle and part of a triangle. The part of the triangle is the trunk of the tree. And the circle's the top part of the tree. Inside of that circle, there is a texture.

The issue with that particular part of the diagram is the significance of the tree just adds complexity to what's really important in this lesson. All that we really care about is the shape of these triangles. So the tree, even though that left side of the triangle is the height of the tree, it's really not needed for a picture of a tree to be in there.

Same thing with the person. The lines that make the stick figure person are not significant to the problem. So those two pieces could actually be removed completely and just have the lines that signify the height of the person and the height of the tree.

Another thing that's happened is there are braille labels that have lead lines that go to the height of the person and the distance from that point on the ground to where the person is. And there's some text boxes with labels. And we do need to know that it's 5 foot for the height of the person and that it's 8 feet for the distance on the ground.

But it adds complexity to add lead lines when you don't necessarily need lead lines. If we changed or moved where this label was, then we wouldn't even need the lead lines at all. So if we can avoid complexity, avoid additional lines, we'll want to do that when we can.

There's also a line down at the bottom. And the problem with that line is it almost makes a rectangular region or what looks like a rectangular region at the bottom of the triangle. And really, all it is is a length line. So what we're going to do is we're actually going to create a new one that's going to be much more readable for the student for this particular picture.

So I'm going to start by just opening up a blank Word document. Another thing that's helpful a lot of times for graphics is for your layout to be landscape instead of portrait. So I'm going to go ahead and switch it to landscape. I know that I'm going to need a big triangle here. So I'm going to go ahead and go into "Insert" and then "Shapes", and then the shape I'm going to pick is a triangle. There is a right triangle as a choice in the basic shapes. So I'm going to go ahead select that. And I'm doing a click and drag. So I click it and then drag it to the other end.

Now, when I insert that triangle, it's actually shaded. And we don't want to fill that in. We want just the outline. So I'm going to change the shape fill, which is one of the "Shape Styles" in the menu. And I'm going to go no fill. So I just want the outline. Another option in the Shape Styles is the shape outline. So I'm going to go to the shape outline. And this time, I'm going to select black because that's going to give me the highest height.

Also, to make it stick out more, I'm going to change the weight of that triangle to, oh, 4 and 1/2 because that's going to give me a nice, pronounced triangle. Notice one of the sides of that triangle would represent the tree. But I'm not drawing in that tree because it really isn't significant to the problem.

The next thing I'm going to do is just add in another shape. And this time, I'm going to insert a line. So we're going to insert the line vertically inside of the triangle. Now, right now the default is just a blue, really thin line. So I'm going to do the same thing. I'm going to change my shape outline to a black.

And I'm also going to change that shape outline so that it has that weight of 4 and 1/2 again. So that's really where that person was standing. But I'm just going to use a line to signify that as opposed to having a tactile person in there.

Now, the picture we had for the poor creation, the border of the text boxes was around those labels. We don't want to have that border around it. And also, the braille size of the font is too small. So we want to make sure that we're using, in this case, for Tiger a 29 size font. And we want to use the software to convert it so that it doesn't try to make these tactile dots for the label tactile dots instead of actual braille.

So what I'm going to do to accomplish that is go ahead and insert a text box. I'm going to go to Insert and then Text Box. And I'm going to use the draw text box. So the height of the person was 5 feet. So inside of that, I'm going to actually write 5 feet. Sometimes, I like to actually make that a 29 font so we just have somewhat of an idea of how much space this is going to take up.

Now I want to get rid of the outline. So similarly, under my shape format, that shape outline can be no outline. And what I like to do is make one text box be the way I want it. And then I can just copy and paste a couple more because there's two more labels on this particular one. There is a label that is from the person to the point on the ground. And I believe that was 8 feet for that distance and 24 feet all the way across the bottom. So we'll change 5 feet to 8 feet. So I have a text box with 8 feet, and then I'm going to make another one be 24 feet.

I'm going to have to draw a length line. Now, when I draw that length line, I don't want to go clear up to the triangle. I want some space between that length line and the actual triangle. So I'm going to draw another line. I'm going to go from the left side of the triangle when I'm below it to the right side. Make it so it's not slanted so much.

The other thing I want to do is, again, I want it to be black so it'll stand out. So the shape outline will be black. But I don't want it to be the 4 and 1/2 like I had for the triangle. I don't want it to

stand out as much as the main part of the figure. So I'm going to make the weight this time-- let's just go about 1 and 1/2.

And then any time we have length lines, we should have a little vertical or horizontal line that's going to be at each end of the line, end of that main starting point. And we'll do a black again and the same weight. So the other weight I made was 1 and 1/2. So we'll make the weight of this one 1 and 1/2. And again, I can just copy and paste it and bring it over to the other side. So at the end of that line, I have kind of some crosshairs at the beginning and at the end.

Now, at this point, I have all of the important features. Notice I didn't have to use any length lines because I made the figure bigger. I also made sure that I kind of moved that label so that it's closer to what I'm actually talking about. That allows me to not have to use those lead lines.

Let's do a quick save. We always want to save before we do anything. So we'll "Save As". I'll just do it to my desktop. And we'll call it "Example" and save it. Now we're going to go ahead and use the Tiger menu to translate this document.

And my default was portrait. But I wanted landscape. So I can go ahead and change that now back to a landscape orientation so it doesn't run off the screen. I can also change my margins maybe to 1-inch margins so it's a little more centered.

Now, when I did the translation, 5 feet, I now have 5 on one line. And I have feet on the other line. So by expanding that box, I can get the whole 5 feet right on that line. Same thing with the 8 feet. I'm going to extend that braille box so that feet fits up with the 8. And I'm going to do the same thing on the 24, extend the braille part of the box so I have 24 foot across. Now, when I emboss this, I'm actually going to get the print and the braille on the same page.

Notice the simplicity now of I don't have that tree in the way. I don't have that person in the way tactually to clutter that picture. I make sure that my braille is a good distance away from the edges. And if I had to use lead lines, I would. And I would make it a lighter line like that length line or a dotted so that it's different from the actual triangles. But I'm going to avoid lead lines when I can.