**Here are the steps to creating speech bubbles within Adobe InDesign. There is no shapes made ready for use in InDesign, so each speech bubble will have to be drawn by the user.**

- First we can make a rectangular speech bubble. Go to the rectangle tool on the left side panel in InDesign or press shortcut "M"

  Click and drag to make the rectangle.

  If you would like a different corner look, go up to the top of the window in the tool band where you will see a drop down menu that looks like this.
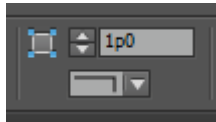
  Choose the corner condition as you'd like. The size/radius of the corner condition can be adjusted by changing the ticker.

  Remember to go to the "stroke" and "color " tabs usually located on the right hand side of the window to adjust the rectangle's line work. Here a 4pt thick red line is used with a yellow infill. If the tabs are somehow off, go to top bar of the window (file, edit, layout …) and click "window", in which you have to option to show/hide different tabs.
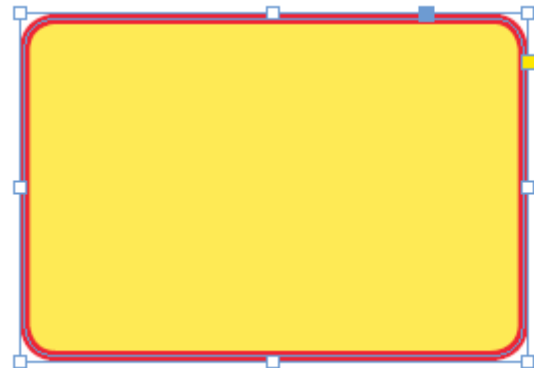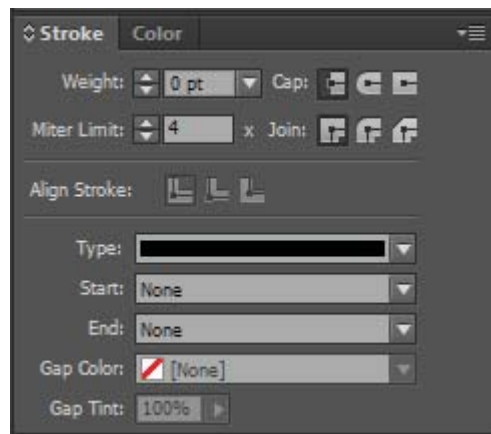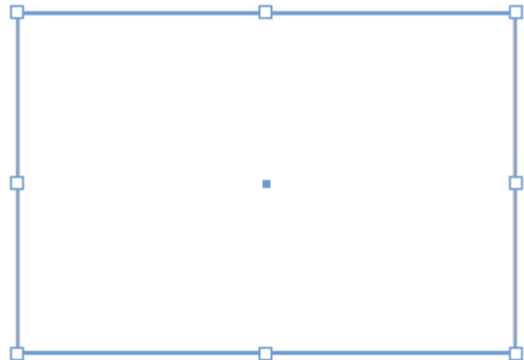
 Now the leader portion can be drawn using the pen tool. Right click on the pen tool to expand for more options. Choose the "Add anchor point tool" or simply press shortcut "="
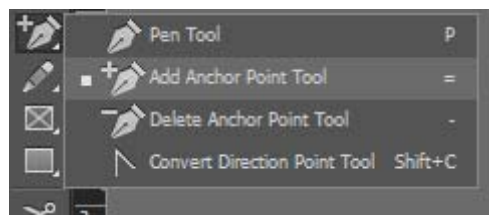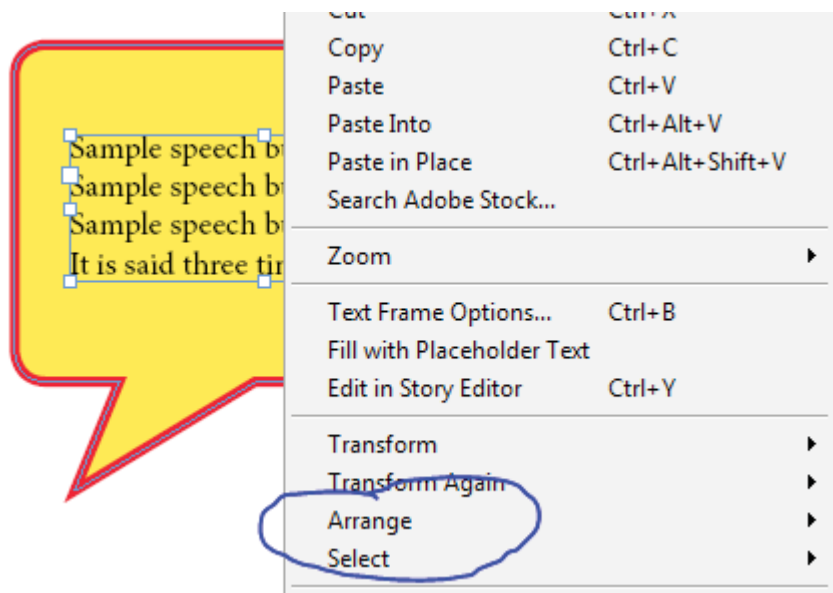
  Click on the existing rectangle outline three times so three anchor points are added to the shape. Now use "direct select tool" or shortcut "A" to select and drag the middle anchor just added on the rectangle. We have a leader.
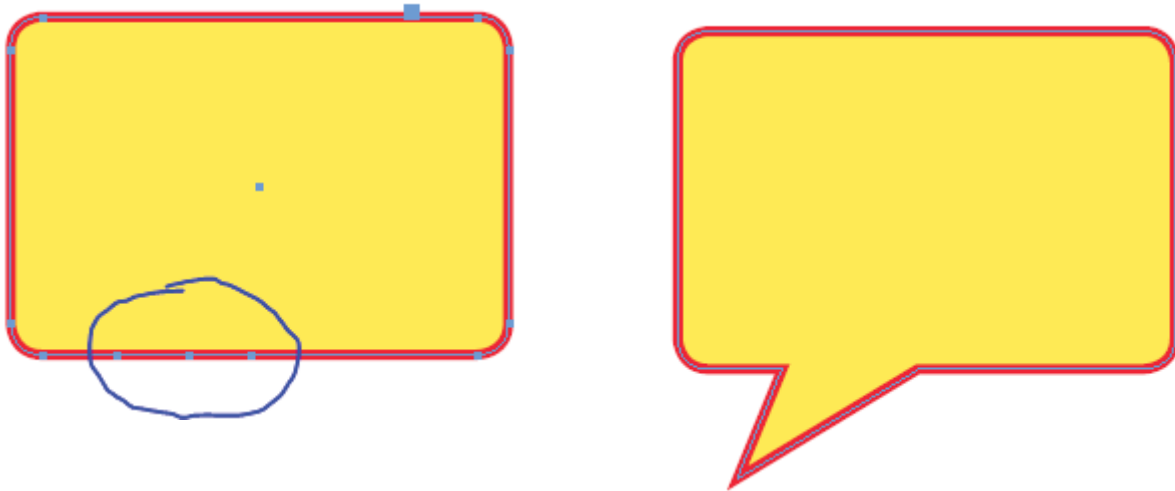
Then use the text tool to add a text box on top. This gives you more flexibility in controlling how the texts look in relation to the speech bubble. Once they look well together, you can always select both of them and group them by pressing "ctrl" + "G"
At any moment, right click on any object and there is a "arrange" option. This can help you move things back or to the front depending on how you want the overlapping to look.

Copy	Ctrl+C	
Paste	Ctrl+V	
Paste Into	Ctrl+Alt+V	
Paste in Place	Ctrl+Alt+Shift+V	
Search Adobe Stock...		
Zoom	▶	
Text Frame Options...	Ctrl+B	
Fill with Placeholder Text		
Edit in Story Editor	Ctrl+Y	
Transform	▶	
Transform Again	▶	
Arrange	▶	
Select	▶	

Sample speech b
Sample speech b
Sample speech b
It is said three tir

- Second, we can make a round speech bubble by simply replacing the rectangle step with a ellipse tool, or shortcut "L". Repeat the rest of the other steps.

Rectangle Tool   M
Ellipse Tool   L
Polygon Tool
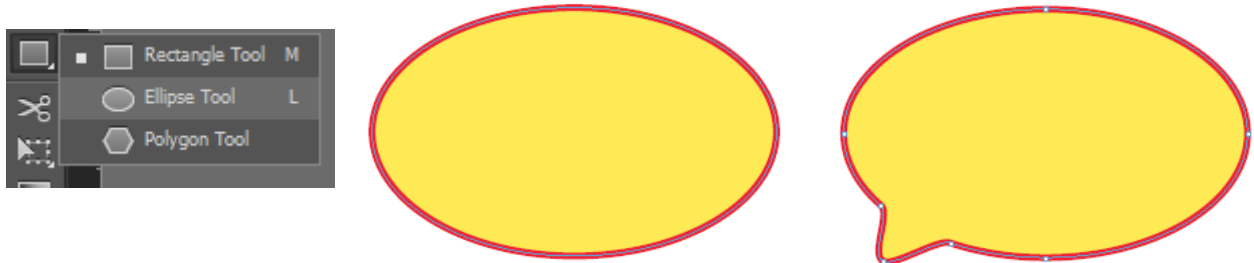
Notice that the leader is not pointy because when the anchors were added, they had to conform to a bezier curvature that the original ellipse has. To make it sharp, use "Convert direction point tool". Click on the tip and it will become a sharp kink.

Sample speech bubbles rock!
Sample speech bubbles rock!
Sample speech bubbles rock!
It is said three times!!
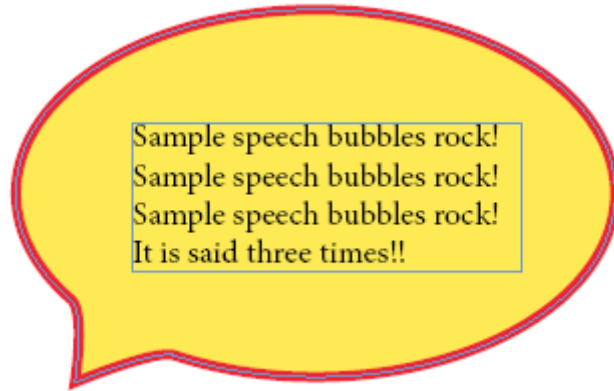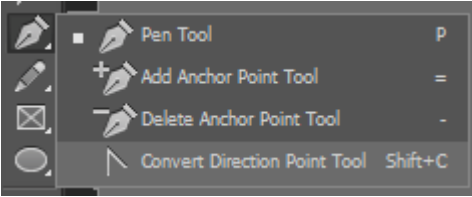
● Third, we can create a more technical call-out style bubble text by simply adding a line leader instead of the more integrated leader.
After creating the shape desired, use the line tool to make the header. Hold down "shift" while drawing to make everything orthogonal on screen. (Or pen tool can be used to create free-form line headers)
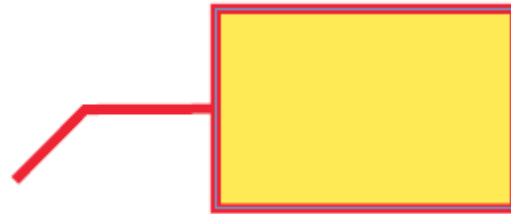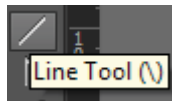

Line segments can be joined together as one path. Go to "object" on top window bar. Go to "paths" then "join" while the segments are selected. This will eliminate the visual break be-tween lines and make them appear continuous.

● Last, we can create custom shaped speech bubbles by drawing with the pen tool.
You can refer to internet tutorials for mastering the pen tool. (For example this one explains the tool well. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uteEdf72-Yg) Also learning about bezier curves helps with understanding how to control the free form shapes created by the pen tool.

The following cloud shape is created by sequential clicks that defines the free form. A simple click means the line would stop and turn sharply at this anchor point. Click and drag to create an anchor point where the line would turn smoothly past it. The longer the control handle is dragged out, the more curvature the line has. When you click back on the very first anchor, the shape is closed.

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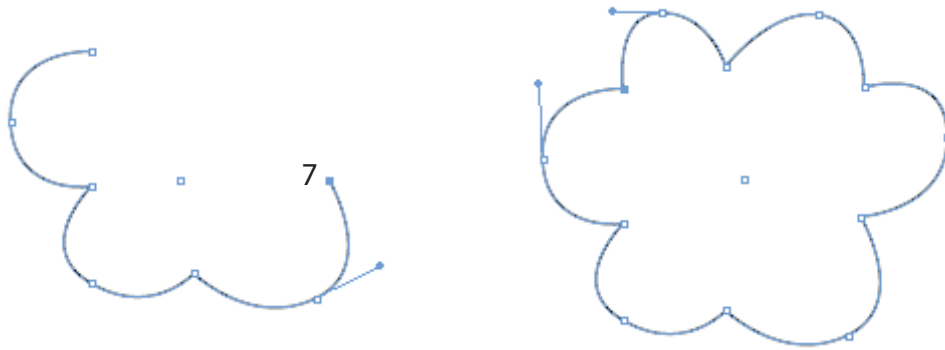
The direct selection tool can select a particular anchor point on any curves. When selected, you can click on the dot end of the control handle to adjust the curvature.