# Breaking stroke at some point

Let's say we want to draw that sort of icon:



and if you pay attention to it you can clearly see that the stroke of the tree crown is *interrupted* at this point to continue later.

The thing is that you can't do it directly, meaning that there is no capability here to specify *which point at the path stroke should break at*.

The workaround here is to tweak **Dash** and **Gap** options under the **Stroke** settings. I need to explicitly emphasise that it is not 100% working solution. And on the next step I will show you why.

How **Dash** and **Gap** basically work is they are specifying the space between the stroke segment drawn on the screen of your shape.
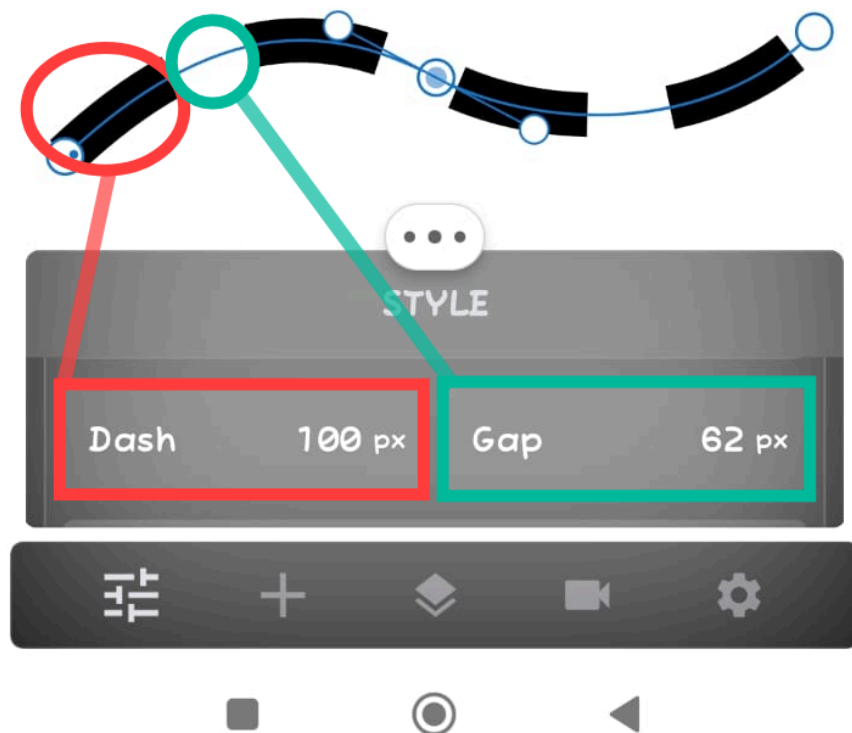
While it may seem at first that if the **Gap** is told to be 62 pixels, it will be the same everywhere the same, it's not actually the case. All line segments are being drawn from some specific point, a starting one, on the shape which is hard to predict on complicated shapes especially which we are dealing with above:

STYLE

| Dash | 47 px | Gap | 95 px |
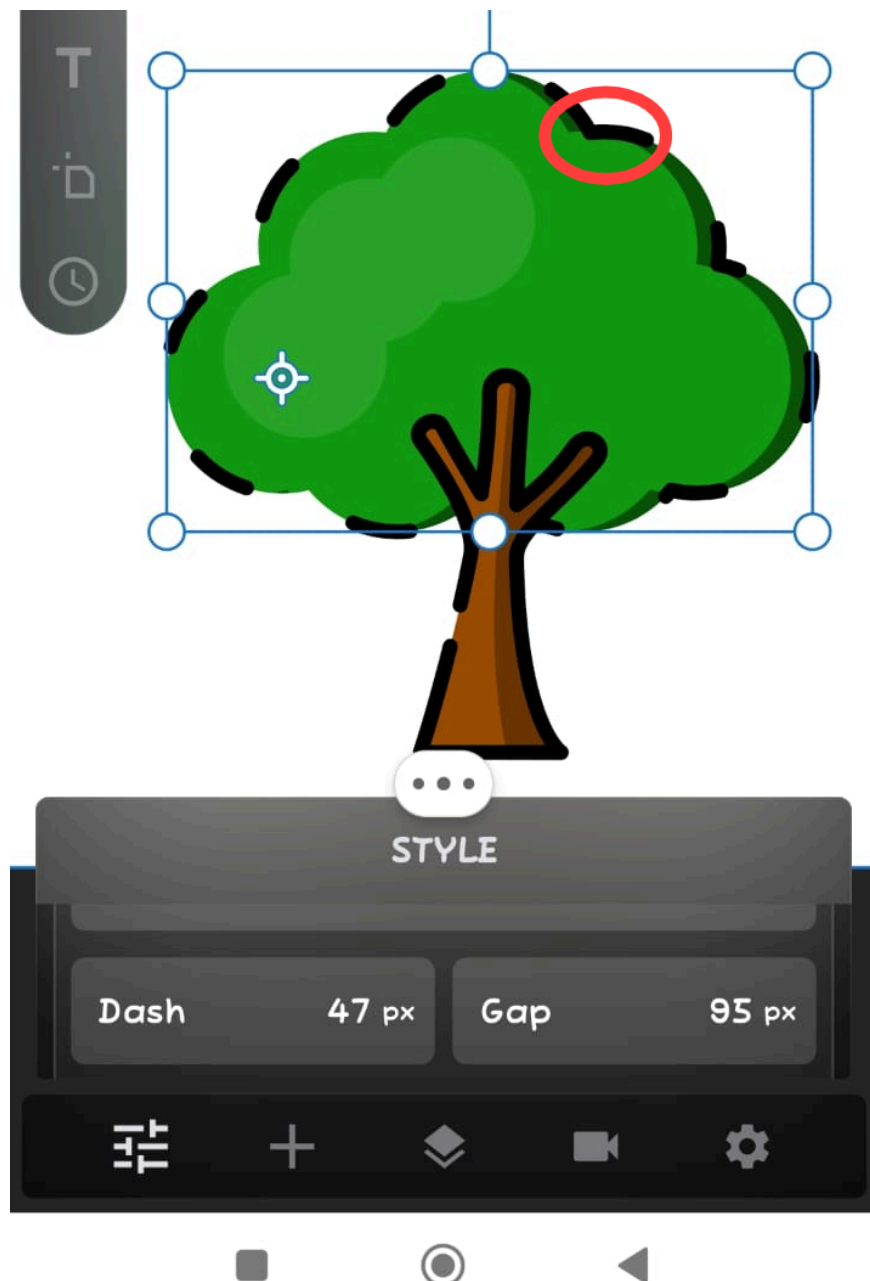
As we see the one line segment (technically it's better to say *curve*) is longer than others. This is the starting point for all segments shown, it's where they are appearing from. To check whether it's actually true, just try to slide **Dash** slider to left and to right and see how the stroke segments are moving.

As you can't control directly where the your gap should start, it begins right after the first dash (line segment, or curve in our case) which begins at specific shape point (hard to grasp where is), you have no control where your desired blank in your stroke will appear. Of cource, if you would able to shift all sequence of dashes forward or backward it

will be less of a problem, but you can overcome it in some simple cases. Given your shape is perfectly round, you can rotate it just and place the blank of the stroke wherever you want. The perfect example of it is the football ball:
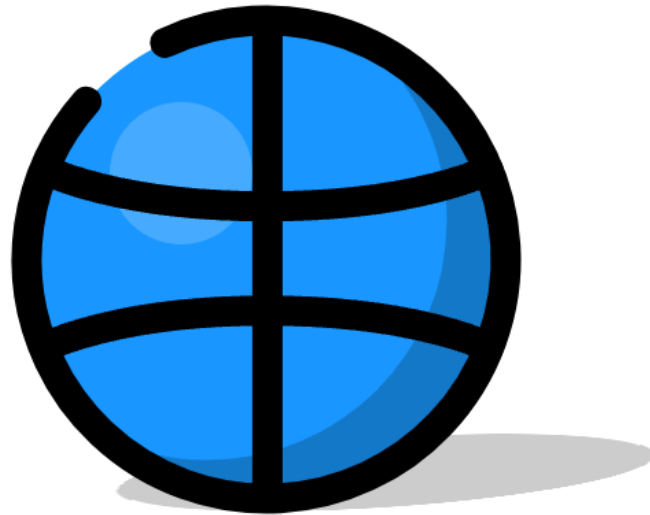


It's possible to keep stroke as a separate object (duplicating the original blue ball and leaving just stroke visible) and rotate it however you want.