

## PHOTO EDITING 2: TEXT

---

Step 1: Open an image in Photoshop (or Photopea).

### Character

Selecting the Type tool (“T”) in the toolbox enables you to type. The Character panel lets you modify text by choosing its font, leading (space between lines), tracking (space between characters), color, and other features. To modify text, the text itself must be selected (highlighted).

When you select the Type tool (or any tool), notice that additional options for that tool appear in the Properties panel along the right side of the window in Photoshop. In Photopea, the options are across the top of the canvas just under the Menu Bar, and you can open the Character panel by selecting it from the Window dropdown menu.

Step 2: Select the Type tool and type some text. Use the Type tool options and/or the Character panel to adjust the font, tracking, color, and other features of the text. You need to have the text selected (i.e., highlighted) in order for these transformations to apply to the text, just as in Word and Google docs. Select the Move tool (black arrow at the top of the Toolbar) to get out of the Text tool.

Notice that when you click on canvas with the Type tool selected, a new layer automatically appears in the Layers Panel; this new layer should have a “T” to designate it as a Type layer.

### Layer Style

You can apply special effects, such as shadowing and beveling, to the text by using the **Layer Style** button at the bottom of the Layers panel (in Photoshop, *fx*; in Photopea, *eff*). Selecting a style from the menu will pop up a dialog box in which you can choose certain features of the style. For instance, the dialog box for “Drop Shadow” allows you to choose the color of the shadow, the distance of the shadow from the text, the contour of the shadow, and other features. The “Bevel and Emboss” style allows you to choose from different styles, contours, and other features of beveling.

Notice that when you apply a style to a layer of text, a sub-layer with that style appears in the Layers panel under the category of Effects. If you want to modify the style that you’ve already applied, double-click on the style sub-layer to re-open the dialog box for that style.

Step 3: With the text selected, use the Layer Style menu to apply some effects to this text. After you’ve applied the style, double-click on the style sub-layer to alter the style.

### Transform

You can adjust the size of a layer or a selection in Photoshop by using the Free Transform command (Edit > Free Transform, or Control- T (PC) or Command-T (Mac).

In Photopea, you select the layer or object with the Move tool (keyboard shortcut V) and then check “Transform controls” in the submenu. A box with handles appears around the layer or selection you’re working on. Drag on one of the handles of this box to make the layer or selection smaller or larger; **holding down the Shift key when you drag will constrain the proportions of the layer or selection**. You can also rotate the layer or selection by moving the cursor slightly away from one of the edges of the box, until a curved line with arrows appears. Click and drag to rotate.

When you’re finished, you have to hit the Return key for the transformations to apply; in Photopea, uncheck the “Transform controls”. If you don’t like what you’ve just done, undo it by going to Edit > Undo, or Control-Z (PC) or Command-Z (Mac), or by using the History panel.

Step 4: Transform the size of the text. Note that with text you can also just adjust the size in the Properties panel.

### Rasterizing Text

As mentioned above, Type layers are designated with a “T” and are different from other layers in Photoshop and Photopea. Type is vector data, which means that it can be scaled and edited without a loss in quality. For some processes (filter effects, for example), you need to convert the vector data to pixels by rasterizing it.

Once you rasterize type, you can no longer go back and change it except on the pixel level. For instance, if there is a spelling error that you want to fix or if you want to change the font style, you cannot do this after the text has been rasterized. In Photoshop, you rasterize type by right-clicking on the layer and selecting Rasterize Type; in both Photoshop and Photopea, you can also select the type layer and then use Layer > Rasterize. You may have to

deselect the Type tool before doing this; it's always a good idea to select the Move tool (the arrow) as your default tool. The shortcut for the Move tool is to type the letter "V".

Step 4: Rasterize the text you just typed.

### **Filters**

You remember from the previous lesson that filters are used to achieve different kinds of artistic effects. You cannot apply a filter to text unless that text has been rasterized.

Step 5: Apply a filter effect to the rasterized text. Keep in mind that not all filter effects will show results if the text is a solid color. The Liquify effect will usually work well with text.

## **Creating Masked Text**

You can use a basic mask in Photoshop or **Photopea** to place an image inside text. We'll do this in a new file.

1. Download and open an image that you want to put inside the text.
2. Give the layer a name by clicking on Background and typing the new name for the layer.
  - a. In Photoshop, you have to unlock the background layer (by double-clicking on it)
3. Select the Type tool (keyboard shortcut T) and type your text. Be sure to choose a font that's large and thick, so that the image will have space to fill.
  - a. Note: You can resize and reposition the text after you've typed it by selecting the Arrow tool (keyboard shortcut V) to move it, and by using the transform commands discussed above to change the size of the text.
4. In the Layers panel, drag the text layer below the top layer; in other words, it should be second in the stack, below the image.
5. Select the top layer (the image), and go to Layer > Create Clipping Mask. The text should fill with the image.
  - a. Note: you can use the move tool to move the image around so that different parts of it show through the "window" created by the text.
6. Create a drop shadow or other text effects by selecting the text layer and clicking on the Layer Styles icon at the bottom of the Layers panel.
7. Background options:
  - a. If you want to save the text with a transparent background, save it in PNG format.
  - b. If you want to add a background image, drag that image into your Photoshop file (or **in Photopea**, go to File > Open & place). Place the image at the bottom of the stacking order in the Layers panel, and make sure the image isn't part of the clipping mask: if it is, it will be indented in the Layers panel, so just move the layer to the left to un-indent it.
  - c. If you want to add a solid-colored background, insert a blank layer in the Layers panel, drag it to the bottom of the stack, and fill it with a color (using Edit > Fill or the Paintbucket tool)

## **Finishing Up**

Continue experimenting with different text effects. Remember that if you want to work on this project later, you need to save it as a Photoshop file (.psd extension) so that you can preserve your layers.

