

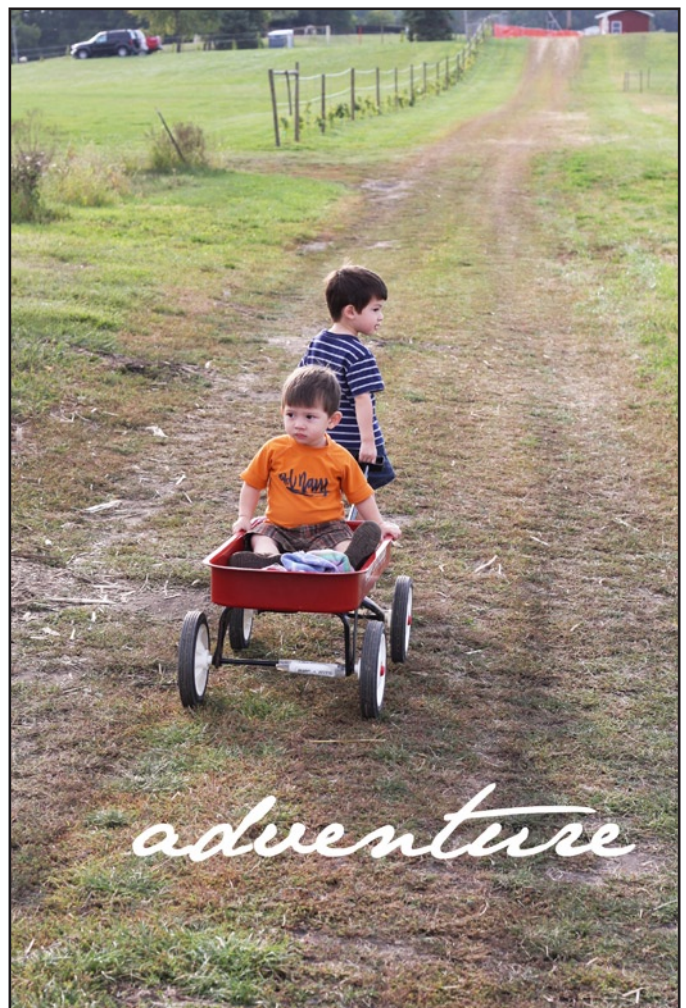
LESSON #2: Fun With Text!

- Adding Simple Text to Photos
- Outline Text
- Fade Your Photo With a Gradient
- Adding Styles and Effects to Your Text
- Putting a Photo Inside the Text
- Adding Speech Balloons

Adding text to your photos can add a great deal of interest to the story you are telling. We're going to learn lots of interesting ways to add text to your photos, beginning with the simplest and moving on to some that are a little more complex. I hope you enjoy these!

ADDING SIMPLE TEXT TO PHOTOS

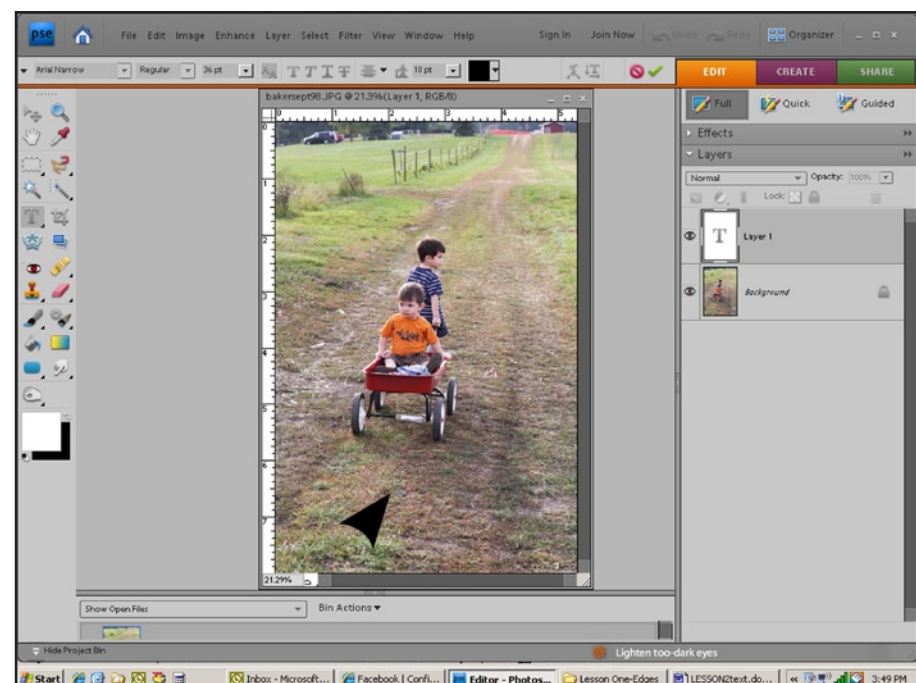
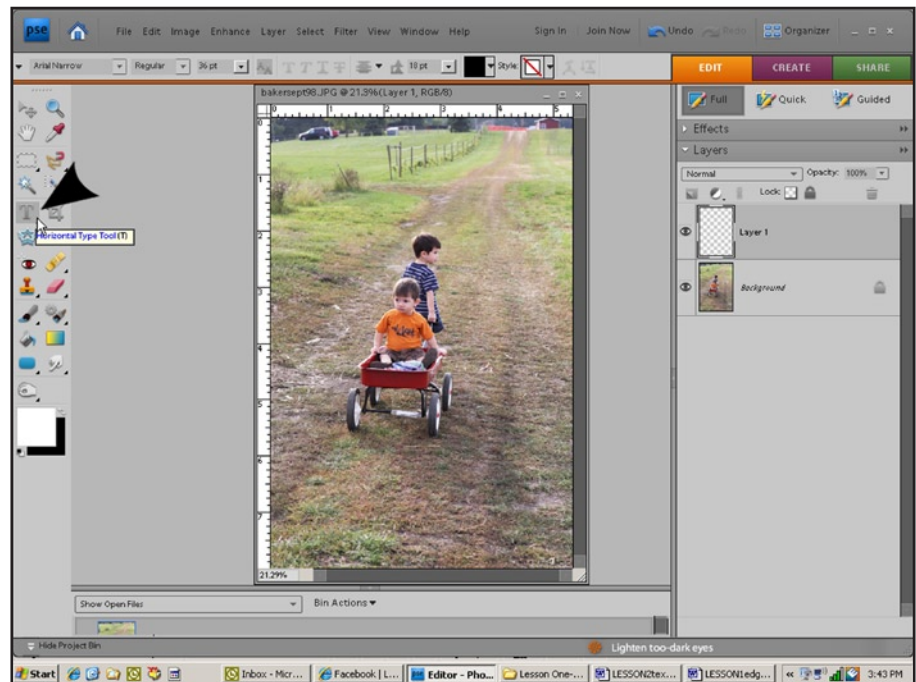
1. Open a photo, duplicate it, and do whatever correction you wish: resizing, color, exposure, sharpening, etc. If this is a photo you are planning to print, be sure you have changed the ppi. 300 ppi is ideal. Since you won't be doing anything directly to your photo, you can just leave it as a background layer.



2. Create a new layer above your photo layer by clicking on the Create New Layer Icon above or below your Layers Palette (depending on the version of your software).

3. Right-click on the Text Tool (the large T) in the toolbar to the left of the workspace. This is the time to choose whether you want vertical or horizontal type by choosing one of these options on the Text Tool.

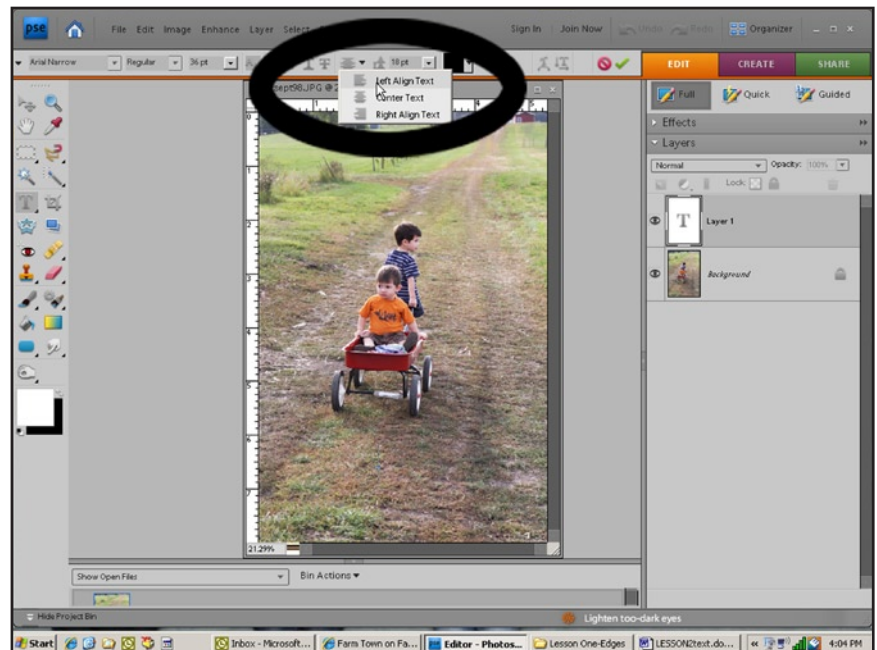
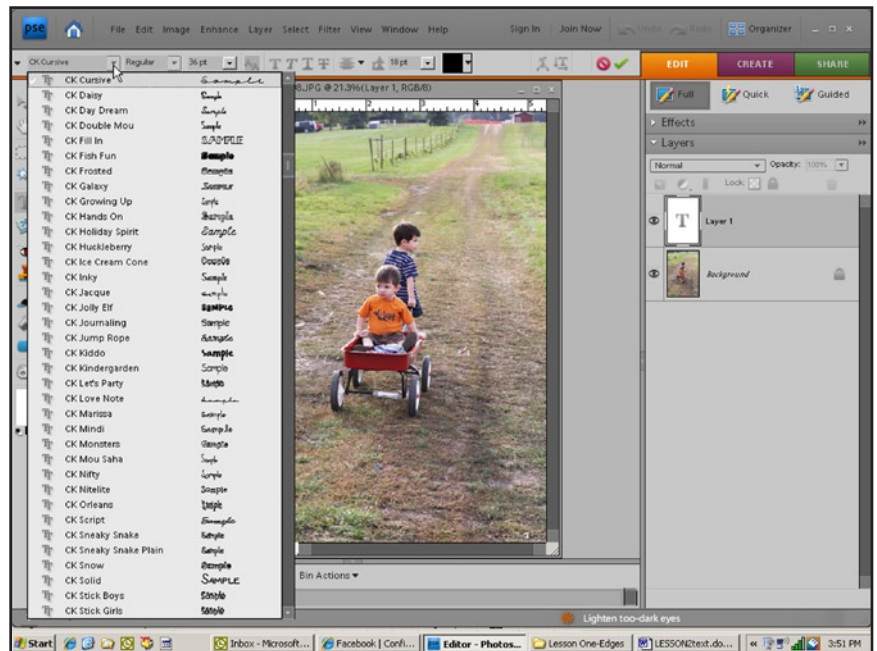
4. Hover your cursor over your photo. The cursor should be shaped like a dog bone with a dotted box around it. Locate the cursor in the approximate area you will want your text and click it. You should now have a blinking cursor. This is where your typing will be located.



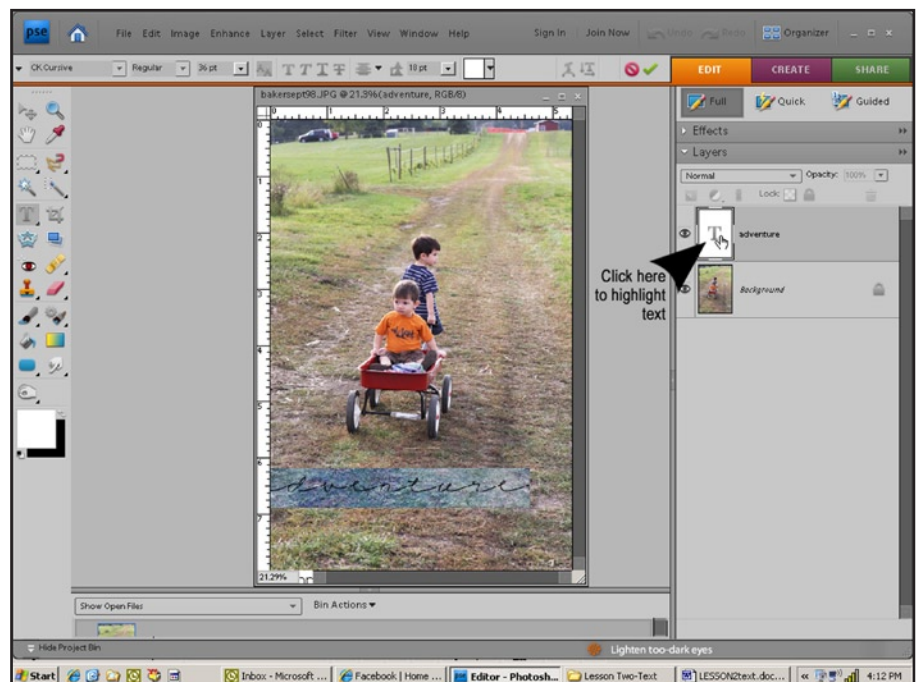
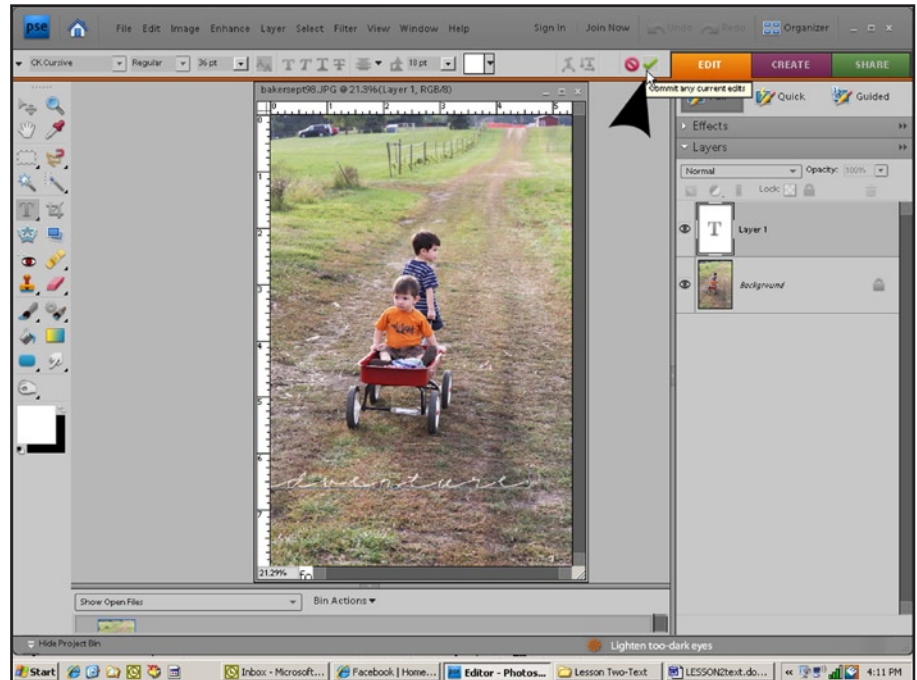
5. Now, let's take a look at the Text Option Bar above your workspace. Click on the arrow next to the font (all the way at the left of the bar) and you will get a dropdown menu with your font choices. Go down to the font of your choice and click on it.

6. Click on the Point Size dropdown menu box and choose a medium point size. If the size is too small, we can make it bigger later. It's sometimes harder to make it smaller if the point size you choose is larger than your photo.

7. Next let's choose an alignment for our text. I think I'll choose Left Aligned which means my text will start at the blinking cursor. Right Aligned means the cursor is at the end of the line of text. Center Aligned means that the cursor is in the center of the line of text. For now I'm going to leave everything else set just the way it is. We can make changes to the color, size, font, etc. in a few minutes.



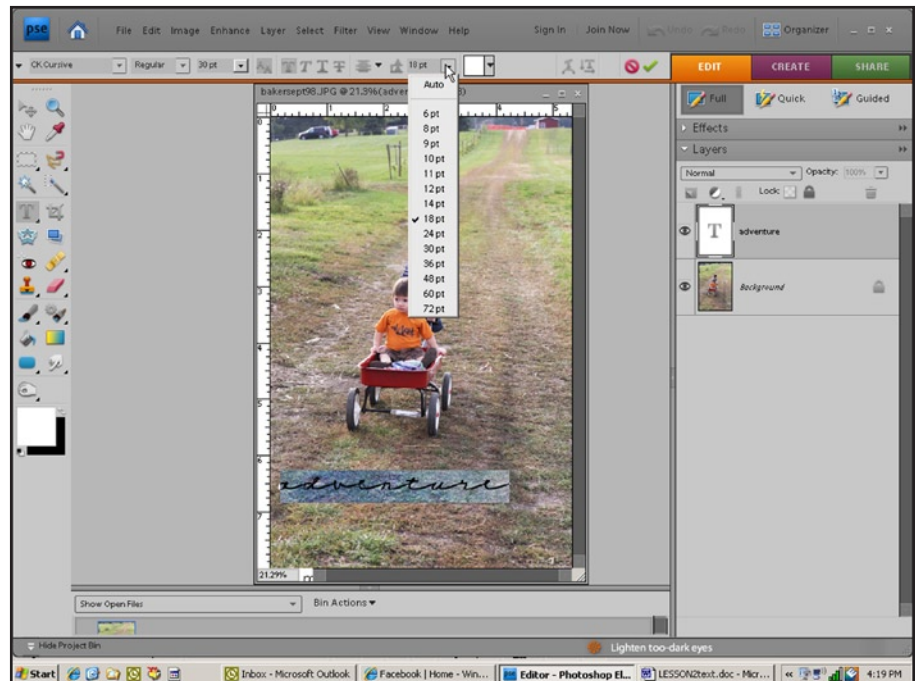
8. Type in whatever you want your text to say, and click the green checkmark to commit the text.
9. Do you like the way it looks? If not, it's easy to make changes. Start by clicking on the thumbnail in your text layer. This will highlight your text so that you can make changes. Go up to the Text Option Bar and make any changes you wish—to font, point size, special effects (bold, italic, underline or strike through by choosing one of the Ts), alignment, or color. To change the color, click on the color box, and a color picker box will appear as it did in other places in Lesson One.



10. If you have more than one line of text, you may want to change the "Leading," which is the amount of space between the lines. You can do this by making changes in this box.

11. When you are happy with the way your text looks, commit it by clicking the green checkmark. You can then move it around by selecting the Move Tool and using the arrow keys on your keyboard.

12. If you like this photo, go to Layer>Flatten image in the top menu bar. This will flatten all the layers into one Background Layer. Save the file with a new name. Close this photo file.



OUTLINE TEXT

adding a stroke outline to text

Do you remember the Stroke Command that we used in Lesson One? We're going to use it again, this time to add emphasis to our text. I put the words "Epcot Center" on the photo on the next page, choosing the blue of the sky for the text color. It needed something to make the text pop, so I decided to add the white stroke. Doesn't the stroke give it a great look?



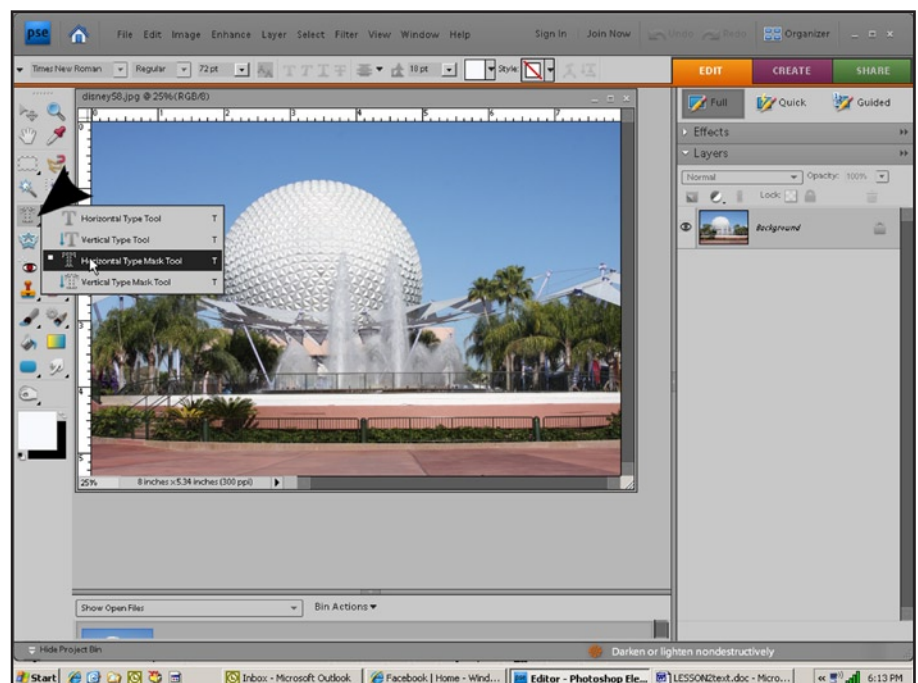
1. Follow steps #1 through #11 above to add text to your photo, stopping before you flatten the layers. We'll want to add the stroke after the text is satisfactory but while the layers are still separate.
2. When your photo and text are ready, you will need to right-click on the text layer in the Layers Palette (the layer, not the thumbnail). From the dropdown choices, choose Simplify Layer. This will enable us to apply other techniques to the text.
3. Go to Edit>Stroke in the top menu bar. Choose the color and size of the stroke as we did in Lesson One. I chose an Outside location so that the stroke would go around the outside of the words.
4. If you like this photo, go to Layer>Flatten image in the top menu bar. This will flatten all the layers into one Background Layer. Save the file with a new name. Close this photo file.

just the outline!

1. Open a photo, duplicate it, and do whatever correction you wish: resizing, color, exposure, sharpening, etc. If this is a photo you are planning to print, be sure you have changed the ppi. 300 ppi is ideal. Since you won't be doing anything directly to your photo, you can just leave it as a background layer.



2. Create a new layer.
3. Right-click on the Text Tool in the toolbar on the left of your workspace. Choose Horizontal Type Mask. Click the cursor at a spot on your photo that is approximately where you want your text to be. The screen will turn pink to show that a mask is being applied. The mask will create a selection from whatever you type.



4. In the Text Options Bar at the top of the screen, choose a font and a large point size. I used Times New Roman size 72. Type your title.
5. Select the Horizontal Type Mask tool again.
6. Go to Edit>Stroke selection. Choose a width and color for your stroke. The location should be outside. Click OK.
7. Press CTRL+D (CMD+D) to deselect the marching ants. Select the Move tool and move your text to the desired spot with the arrow keys on your keyboard.
8. If you like this photo, go to Layer>Flatten image in the top menu bar. This will flatten all the layers into one Background Layer. Save the file with a new name. Close this photo file.

adding another part to the title

Sometimes you may want to add further interest to your title by combining outline text with regular text like this:

1. Before you flatten the layers as we did above, create a new layer.
2. Add a layer of text as we did in part one of this lesson: Adding Simple Text to Photos.
3. When you have added the additional layer (or layers if you are adventurous!), flatten the layers and save your photo.



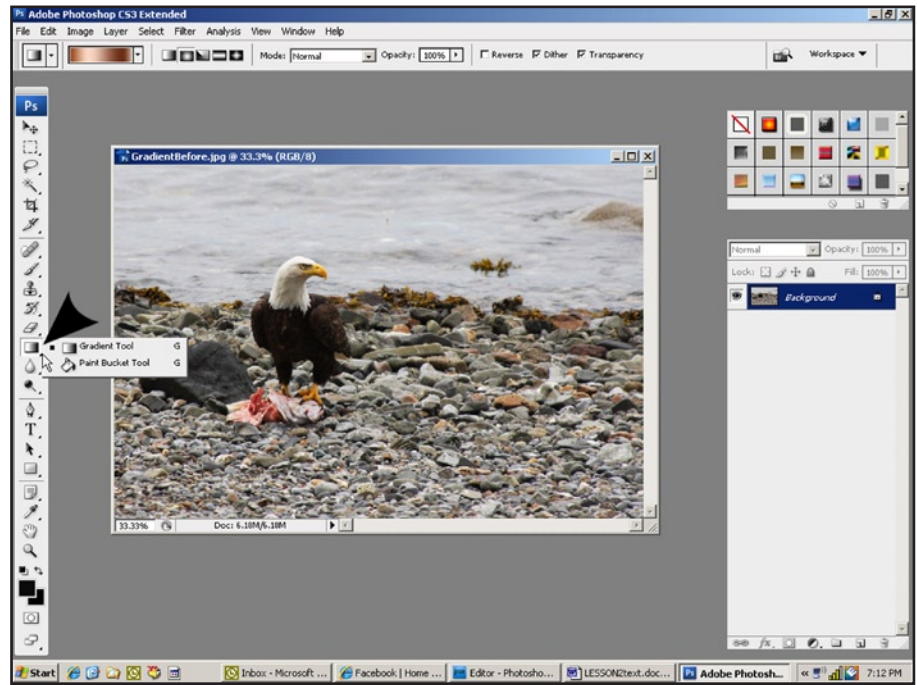
FADE YOUR PHOTO WITH A GRADIENT

Sometimes you need to do a little fading of your photo in one area to make your text show up on the photo, like this:

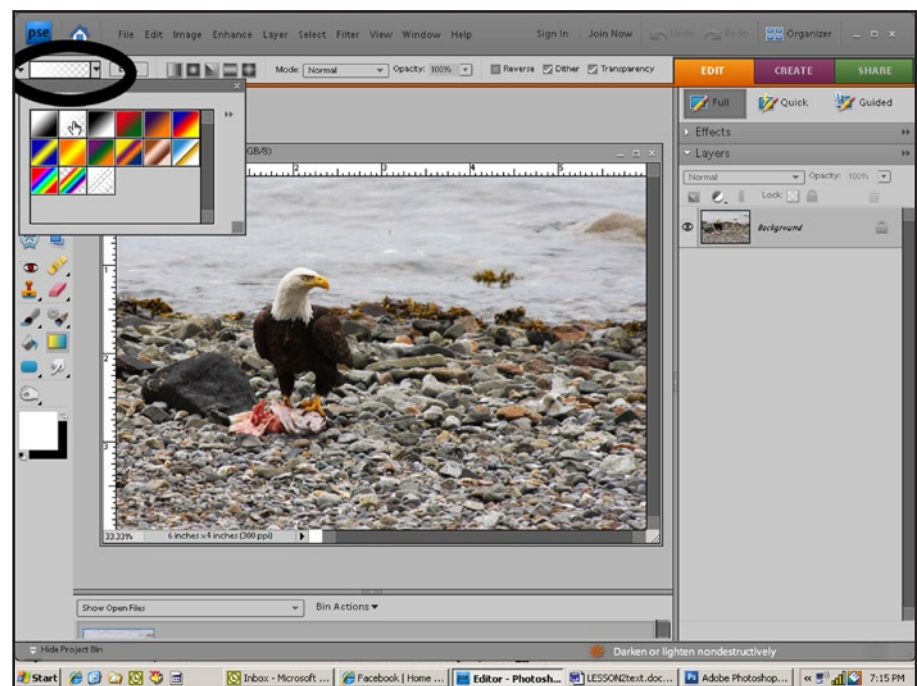


1. Open a photo, duplicate it, and do whatever correction you wish: resizing, color, exposure, sharpening, etc. If this is a photo you are planning to print, be sure you have changed the ppi. 300 ppi is ideal. Since you won't be doing anything directly to your photo, you can leave it as a background layer.
2. At the bottom of the toolbar on the left of your workspace, set your Foreground color to white as we did in Lesson One. (Press D to return the Foreground/Background boxes to the default, then press X to switch them so that white is the Foreground Color.)

3. Select the Gradient Tool from the left toolbar. In PSE 7, it is located in the left toolbar next to the Paint Bucket Tool. In some versions of Photoshop and PSE, it is housed with the Paint Bucket tool, as in this Screen Shot from Photoshop CS3.

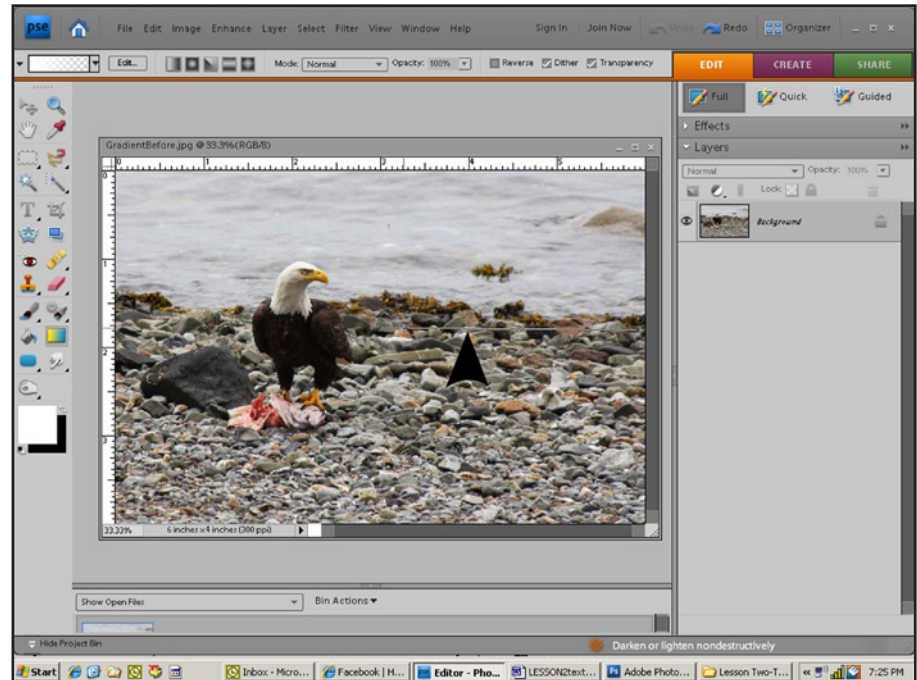


4. When you select the Gradient Tool, the Gradient Options bar will open at the top of the screen. On the left side of the Options bar, either all the way to the left or second from the left in most versions of the software, click on the dropdown, hover over the choices, and choose Foreground to Transparent.



5. Create a new layer.

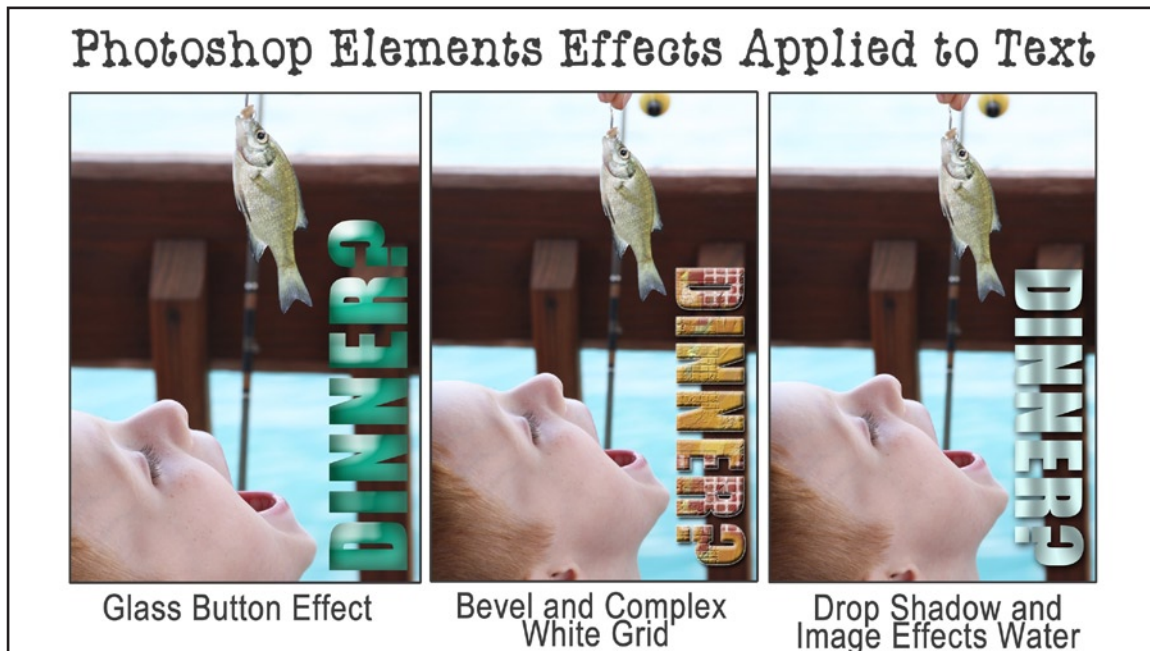
6. With the Gradient Tool selected, starting at the edge of your photo (I started at the right edge of my photo), click and drag a straight line toward the center of your photo.
7. Release the mouse, and you will see your gradient. If you don't like the gradient you've created, press CTRL+Z (CMD+Z) to Undo and try again until you've achieved the effect you want.
8. When you are happy with the gradient effect, create a new layer, and add your text. Flatten the layers and save your photo.



ADDING STYLES AND EFFECTS TO YOUR TEXT

Another way to add some fun and pizzazz to the text on your photos is to add Styles and Effects. In Lesson One, PSE users used the Effects Menu to add a frame to a photo.

This time, all PSE and Photoshop users can change their text using Styles and Effects, like this:

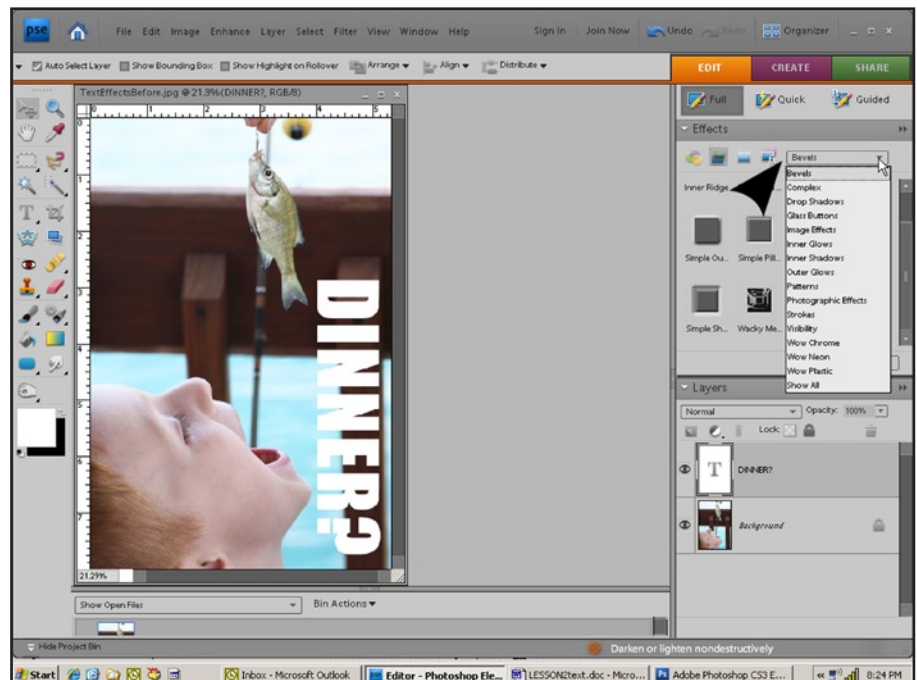


1. Open a photo, duplicate it, and do whatever correction you wish: resizing, color, exposure, sharpening, etc. If this is a photo you are planning to print, be sure you have changed the ppi. 300 ppi is ideal. Since you won't be doing anything directly to your photo, you can just leave it as a background layer.
2. Create a new layer. Add text to your photo. For this technique, a large chunky font in a larger point size works best. I used Impact and point size 100. When you choose your point size, if you want a larger size than the defaults listed, just position your cursor in the point size box and type in the size you want.
3. In my sample, I chose to turn the text sideways. To do this you will want to Rotate the layer. There are several ways to do this. In later versions of the software you can go to Image>Rotate>Layer 90 degrees right (not just "90 degrees

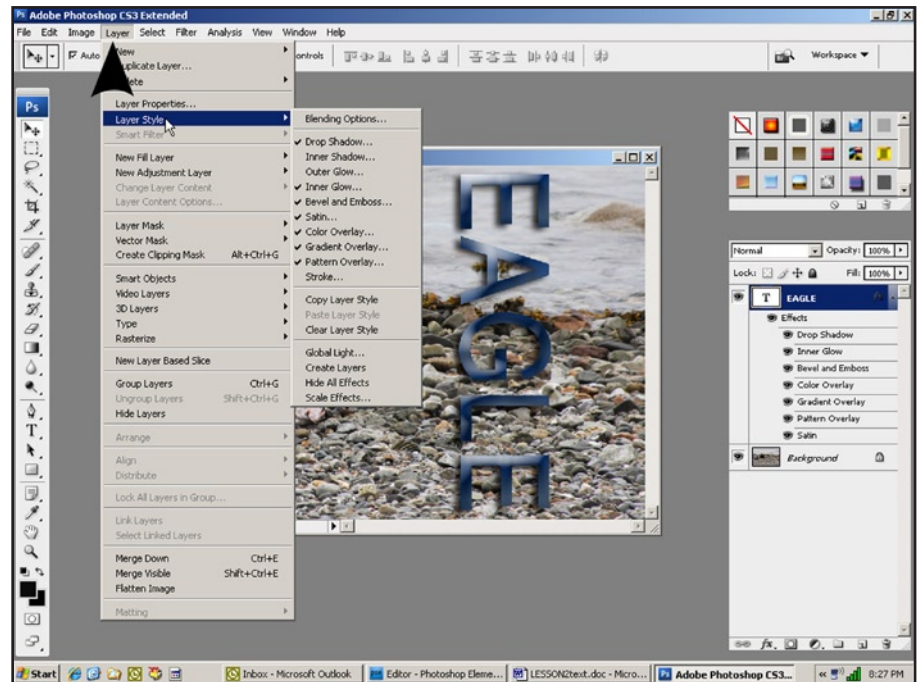
right” or your whole photo will rotate!) In some other versions, you can go to Edit>Transform>Rotate 90 degrees CW. If you can't find a command to rotate the text layer in your software version, press CTRL+T (CMD+T) and you will get a box around your text. Position your cursor in the corner of this box and you will get a little curved line with arrows on both ends. Hold down the mouse, and slide the cursor to the side. Your text box will rotate. Using the arrow keys, position your text where you want it.

4. Be certain that your text says what you want it to, because now we are going to right-click on the text layer and choose Simplify (Rasterize) text. Once we do this, you can no longer change the wording.

5. OK! Here comes the fun! With the text layer selected, open the Styles/Effects Palette by going to Window>Effects or Layer>Layer Style, depending on your software. In PSE you can click on the dropdown menu in the Effects Palette and choose the effect you want to Apply. Click Apply at the bottom of the box. If you want to try something else, press CTRL+Z to undo. Many of these Effects are cumulative, so that you can add a pattern and a bevel and a drop shadow all together as you wish!



6. For Photoshop users, your choices are a little different. Each Layer Style has its own separate fly-out menu with many options. It would take a whole class to cover this topic, so for now I'll just say experiment and find something you like!



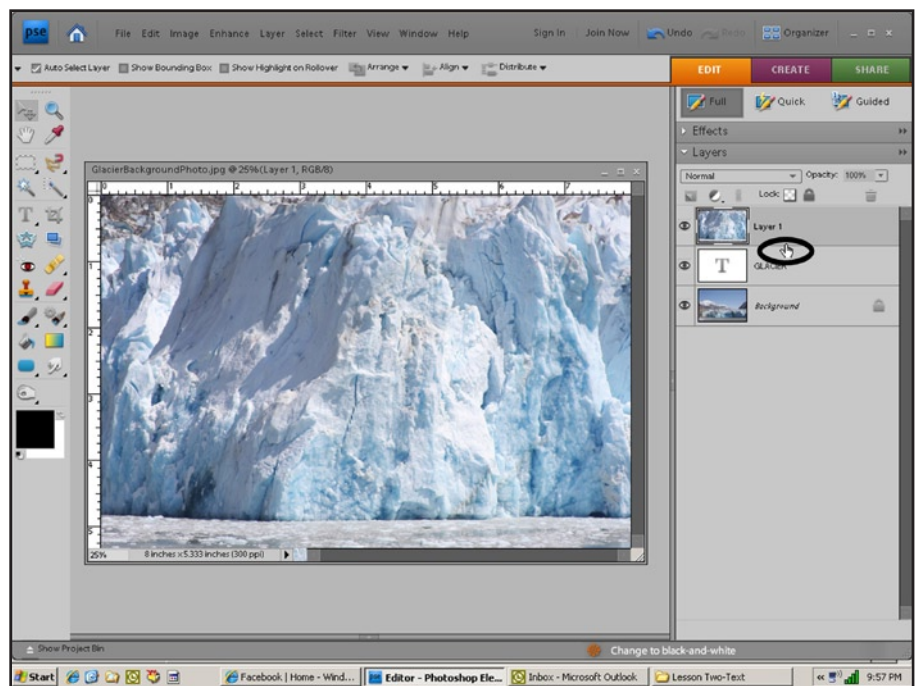
7. When you are happy with your text effects/styles, go to Layer>Flatten image in the top menu bar. This will flatten all the layers into one Background Layer. Save the file with a new name. Close this photo file.

PUTTING A PHOTO INSIDE YOUR TEXT

This is a really eye-catching text treatment which is remarkably simple considering the impact it has!



1. You will need two photos for this technique: your background photo and a photo to put inside your text. I have included downloads of my glacier photos (Glacier Background and Glacier Text) for you to use if you find it difficult to locate photos quickly, but I hope you will try this technique with your own photos, too.
2. Open both photos, duplicate them, and do whatever correction you wish: resizing, color, exposure, sharpening, etc. If you use my photos, this step has already been done.
3. With the Move Tool selected, hold down the mouse button, and drag the photo you wish to use inside the text onto the background photo. If you hold down the Shift key while you drag the photo over, it will be centered. Both photos will show in the layers palette with the text photo in the layer above the background photo. You won't be able to see the background photo right now. You can close the text photo to clean up your workspace a little.
4. Create a new layer above the text photo layer. With a large thick font (I used Impact at 100 points), type the word or words you want to show inside the text.
5. In the Layers Palette, drag the text photo layer above the text layer. You won't be able to see your text now, but it's still there!
6. In the Layers Palette, position your cursor (it will be a pointing finger) on the line between the text photo and the text



layer (as pictures below) and ALT+Click the mouse. This will create a clipping mask and clip the photo into the shape of your text. Isn't this cool?

7. With the text photo selected, position your cursor inside the text. You can move it around inside the letters until you have the part of the photo you like inside the letters. When you are happy with the positioning, select both the text photo and the text layers by holding down Control and clicking on both layers. Right-click and choose Link Layers.
8. With the text photo layer selected, right-click and choose Merge Linked. Now the text photo and the text layer are merged into one layer.
9. Add a stroke to the text layer if you wish to make it stand out.
10. If you want to, you can create a new layer and add additional text.
11. When you are happy with the look of your photo, go to Layer>Flatten image in the top menu bar. This will flatten all the layers into one Background Layer. Save the file with a new name. Close this photo file.



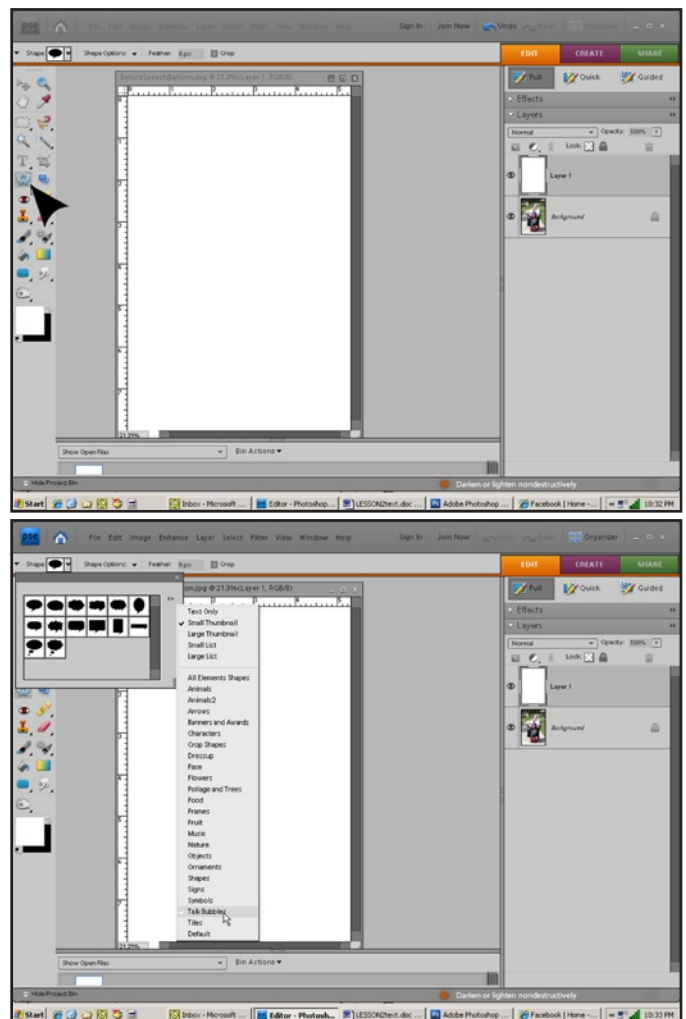
ADDING A SPEECH BALLOON TO YOUR PHOTO

The last technique of this lesson will add a touch of whimsy to your photos! We'll be adding a speech balloon and text to a photo like this:

1. Open a photo, duplicate it, and do whatever correction you wish: resizing, color, exposure, sharpening, etc. If this is a photo you are planning to print, be sure you have changed the ppi. 300 ppi is ideal. Since you won't be doing anything directly to your photo, you can just leave it as a background layer.
2. Create a new layer above your photo layer.
3. With the blank layer selected, choose the Paint Bucket tool from the left toolbar. Make the Foreground Color white (press D and then X). Click the Paint Bucket on your photo. It will fill the blank layer with white and cover your photo.
4. For the next step, the directions are different for PSE and Photoshop users.

In Photoshop Elements, select the Cookie Cutter tool from the toolbar on the left of your workspace.

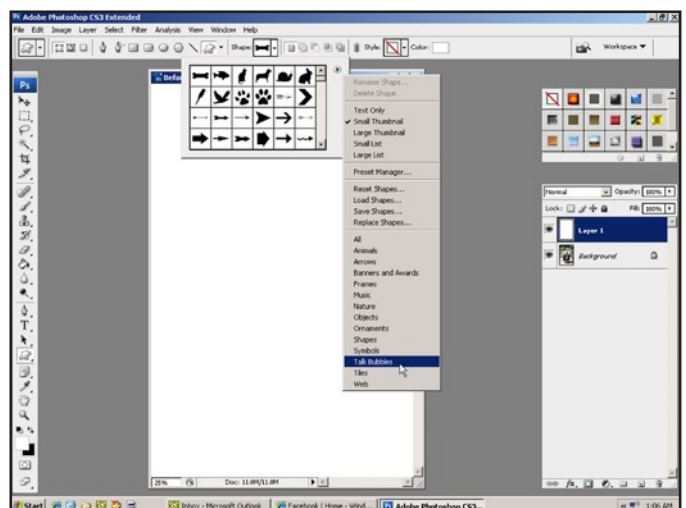
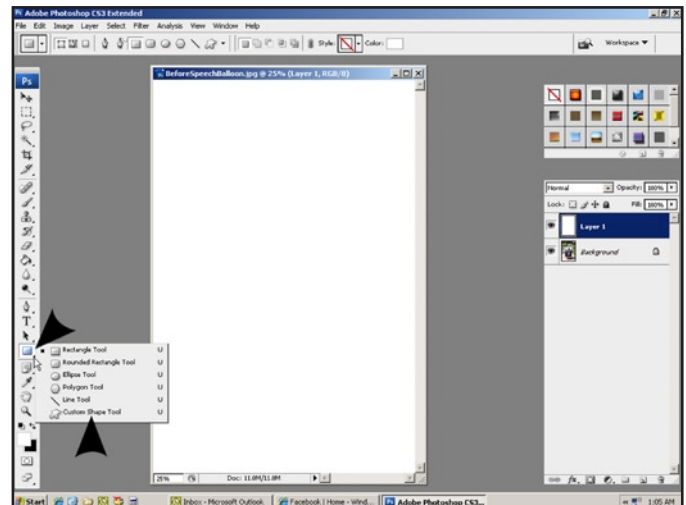
In the Cookie Cutter Options bar at the top of the screen, click on the arrow in the Shape box to open the Shape fly-out menu. Click on the double right-facing arrow to show all the available shapes. Click on Talk Bubbles, near the bottom.



In Photoshop, this tool is called the Custom Shape Tool and it works the same way as the Cookie Cutter Tool above.

In the Custom Shape Options Bar at the top of the screen, click on the arrow in the Shape box to open the Shape fly-out menu. Click on the double right-facing arrow to show all the available shapes. Click on Talk Bubbles, near the bottom.

Click on the Talk Bubble you like. I chose the first one. With your cursor on the photo that is now covered with a white layer, hold down the Shift key and the mouse button, and drag the cursor slowly to the right and down diagonally. When you let go, you will have a Speech Balloon!

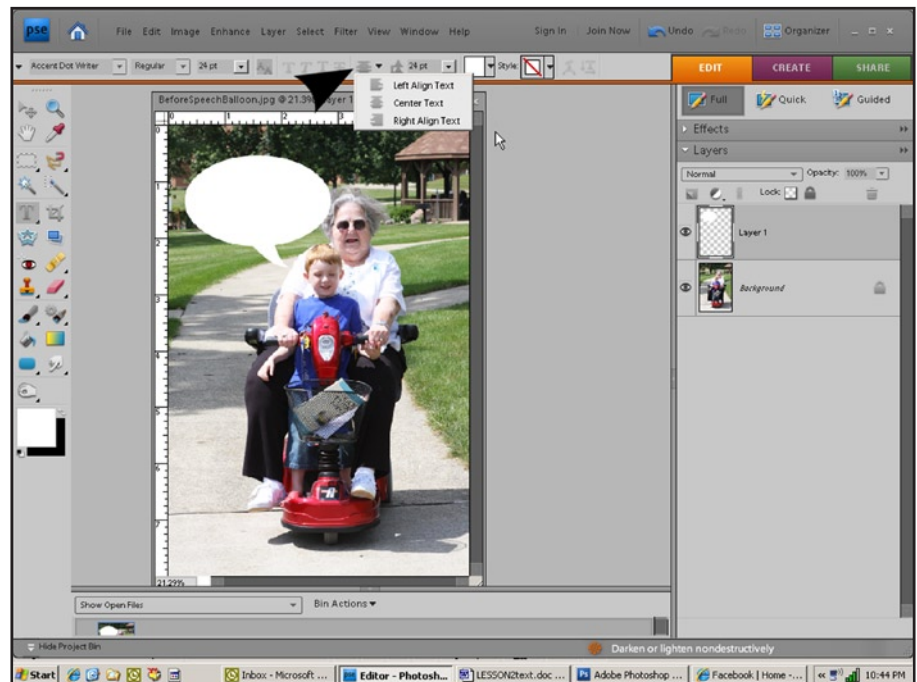


5. If you like the Speech Balloon you made, click the arrow. If you don't like it, click the circle with the line across it and start again. You can resize and flip the Speech Balloon after you have the shape you like.
6. I wanted my speech balloon to face the other way, so I rotated the layer. Refer to #3 under Adding Styles above to review how to rotate a layer. In this case, I chose Flip Horizontal.

7. If you want to resize the Speech Balloon, press CTRL+T (CMD+T) to bring up the resize box. Holding down the shift key, push or pull the box out from the corner.

8. You may want to add a Stroke to the Speech Balloon as I did.

9. Create a new layer and add your text. Be sure that your text color isn't white or it won't show up! I chose Center Alignment for my text in the Speech Balloon as it seemed to fit best this way.



10. If, at any time, you want to make changes in your text-size, color, alignment, bolding, etc., click on the text layer thumbnail OR, with the text layer selected, press CTRL+A and the text will be highlighted and ready to make changes.

11. When you are happy with the look of your photo, go to Layer>Flatten image in the top menu bar. This will flatten all the layers into one Background Layer. Save the file with a new name. Close this photo file.

IN CONCLUSION

I hope you are excited about all the new text techniques that have been presented. Please be sure to ask questions or add comments in our Forums. I'd also love to see your photos with text added in our Gallery. Your work can really give inspiration to others, so please share!

NEXT UP

Lesson Three-Sepia Can Be Spectacular!