

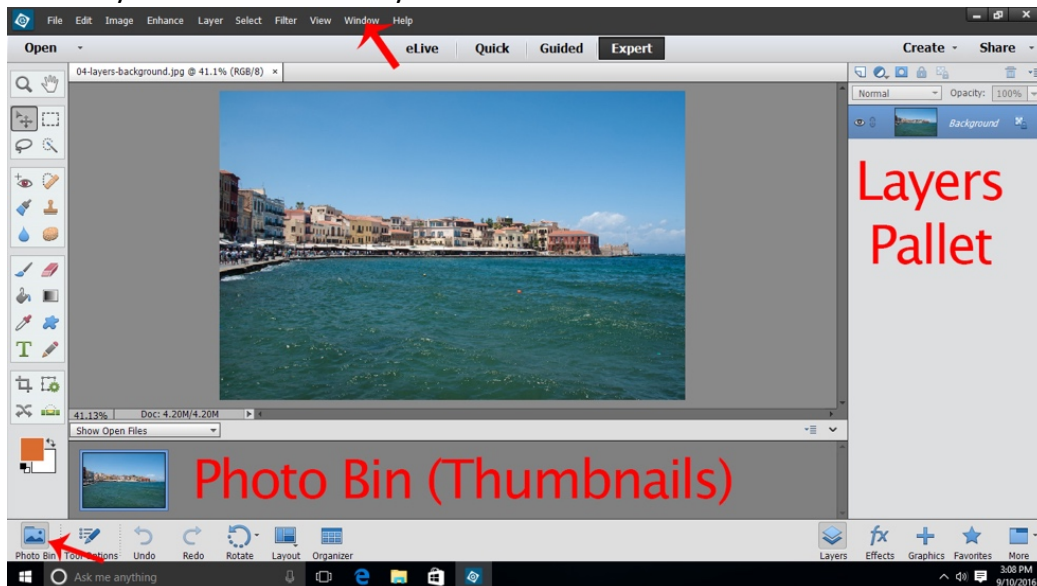
Photoshop Elements for Beginners

Week 3 of 5: Layers, Text, Blend Modes, Resizing, Unsharp Mask,

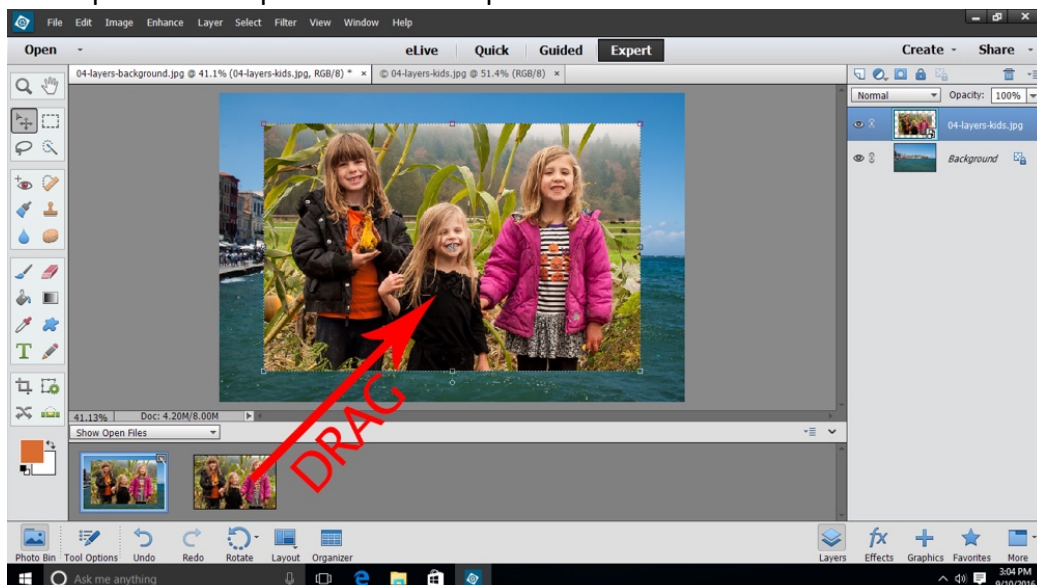
Start your computer (if needed), login (username photo, password photo123) , launch Photoshop Elements, select “Photo Editor”. See class #1 notes for more info.

1) Layers, Switch to “Expert” mode if needed. file “03-layers-background.jpg”.

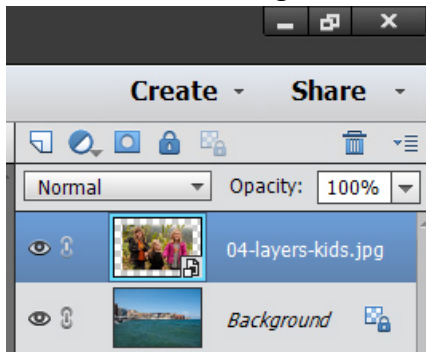
- a) If needed, click “Photo Bin” to show the thumbnails. If needed, click the “Windows” menu and then “Layers” to show the “Layers Pallet”.



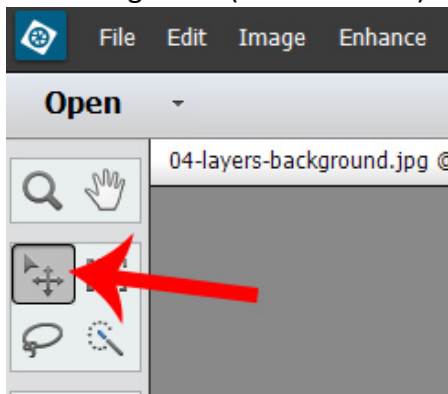
- b) Without closing your current image, open file “03-layers-kids.jpg”. The “kids” will become the active image. Notice that there are now two thumbnails (two images you can work with). Click on the thumbnail of the original “Ocean” image to make it the active image. Drag the thumbnail of the kids into the active image area (drag it onto the big “Ocean” image). You now have the “Kids” picture on top of the “Ocean” picture.



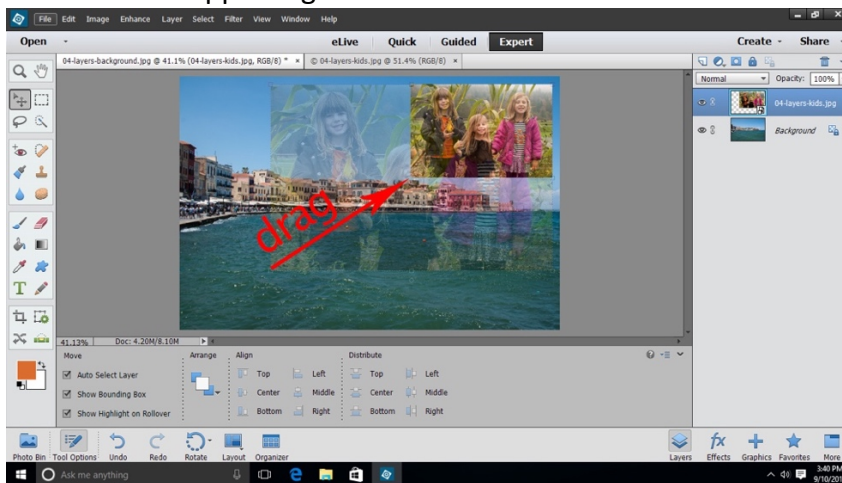
- c) Notice that you now have two items in our “Layers Pallet”. The bottom “layer” is the ocean image and is labeled “Background”. Background images are opaque. The top layer is the kids, it has a “checker board” pattern behind it. This indicated that it has transparency. That allows you to see the ocean image underneath the kids.



- d) Click once on the kids layer name to select it. When selected that layer in the pallet will have a blue background (see “c” above). Next, look at the tools panel and select the “move tool”.



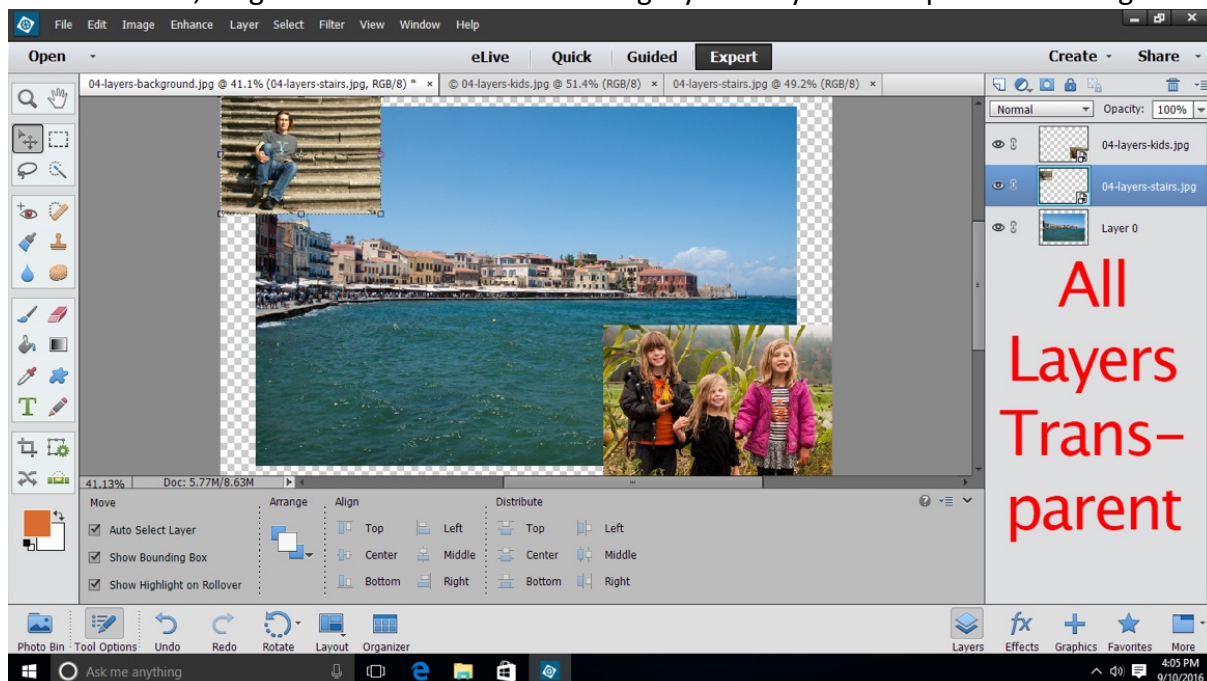
- e) With the kids layer selected and the move tool active you will see a “box” or “marching ants” around the kids image. The move tool allows you to move the kids by clicking on the image area and dragging. It also allows you to resize and rotate the image. Move the kids to the upper right area of the ocean picture. Then drag the bottom left corner of the kids picture up and left to shrink it to an appealing size.



NOTE: If you drag from the side or top or bottom you will “distort” the image. That can be fun, but isn’t typically what you want. Drag from any corner to avoid distortion. If you make a mistake and distort your image, look at the tool options area (directly below the main image area) and check the “Constrain Proportions” box. Click the green checkmark, or hit the enter key when you are satisfied.

- f) Without closing any images, open file “03-layers-stairs.jpg”. The “stairs” will become the active image. Switch back to “Photo Bin” if needed (so you can see the thumbnails). Notice that there are now three thumbnails (three images you can work with). Click on the thumbnail of the original “Ocean+Kids” image to make it the active image. Drag the thumbnail of the stairs into the active image area (drag it onto the big “Ocean” image). You now have the “stairs” picture on top of the “Ocean+Kids” picture.
- g) Use the move tool to adjust the stairs image position and size. Make sure that (for this exercise) the kids and the stairs images partially overlap.
- h) Using the layers pallet, drag to bottom of “Kids” and “Stairs” to the top. Notice that the visual stacking of the two images reverse to mirror the order shown in the layers pallet.
- i) What we can’t do is to drag either kids or stairs “off” of the ocean image area. Because “Ocean” is a background layer, we can’t move it, nothing can go beyond it and it can’t contain transparency. If we want to change that, first double click the “Background” layer name in the layers pallet and give it any name you would like. Next, we need to create usable “space” beyond the ocean area. This space is called “Canvas”.
- j) Notice that you can temporarily “hide” any layer by clicking the “eyeball” in the layers pallet.

- 2) Working with **Canvas**. Set background color to white. Go to menu Image, Resize, Canvas Size and enter width 7 inches, height 5 inches. You can now drag layers “beyond” the previous “background”.



3) Working with Text. Select the text tool (large “T”).



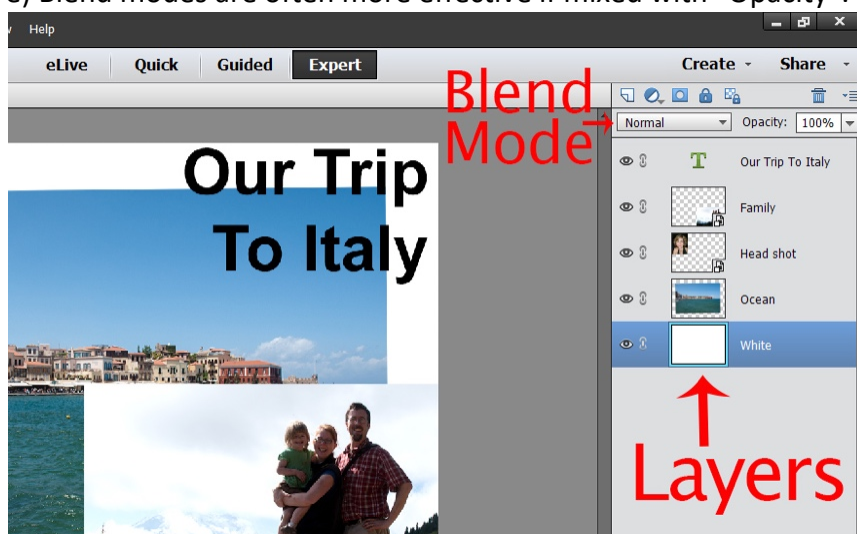
4) Saving a Layered File. When you go to save any file with layers, Elements will default to saving a “.psd” file type, called a “Photoshop Document”. The reason for this is that “.psd” files retain editable layers. But, they aren’t easily sharable. For email or web use or for most print shops (Costco) you will need to eventually do a “Save-As” and convert your project to “.jpg”.

5) Select your favorite three to five files and create your own montage.

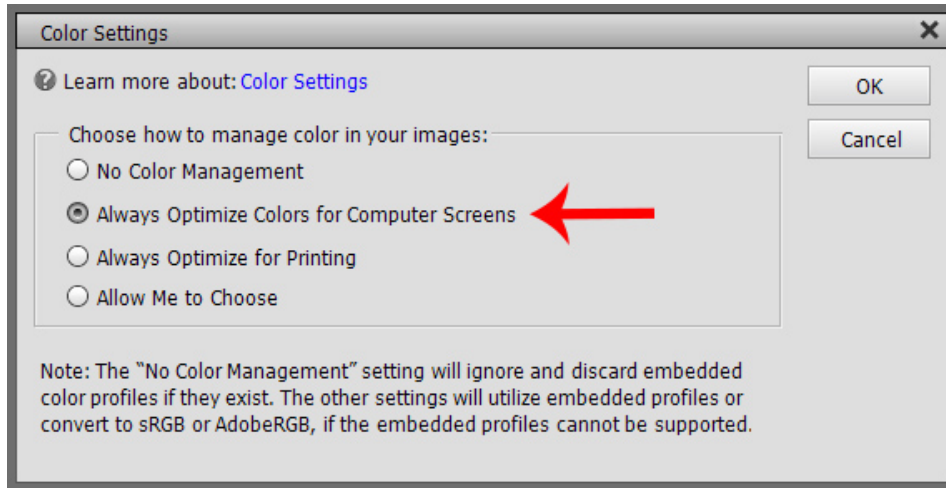
6) Converting your final layered file to a JPG.

7) Blend modes determine how a layer “mixes” with the image(s) below it. In the default (Normal) mode, Photoshop Elements does no mixing, it is like stacking paper photographs on top of each other. But, you have other options!

- a) Open file 03-layers-blend.psd.
- b) If needed, switch to “Expert” mode.
- c) If needed, make the “Layers” pallet visible by going to the “Window” menu and selecting “Layers”.
- d) Try changing any of the top 3 layers mode from Normal to “Darken”, Lighten, Screen and Multiply.
- e) Blend modes are often more effective if mixed with “Opacity”.



8) Color Management Go to the Photoshop Elements “Edit” menu and then “Color Settings”. For general use (sRGB color space) select “Always Optimize Colors for Computer Screens” (EVEN FOR PRINTING). If you are using aRGB color space (I don’t suggest that for most of my students) use “Optimize for Printing”.

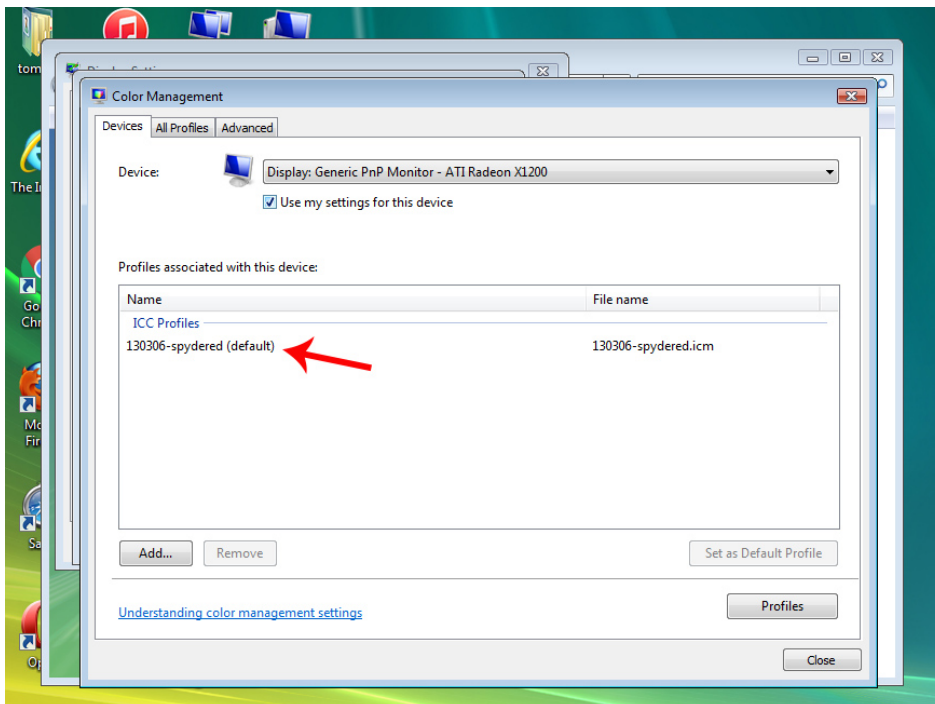


For desktop computers, you should also check that you have the correct monitor profile. This step is not needed for laptops or tablets or “all-in-one” computers (iMacs for example).

Windows 8 and 10: Start Menu > Settings > System > Display > Advanced Display Settings > Display Adapter Settings > Color Management > Color Management

Windows 10 alternative path: Right click on desktop > Display Settings > Advance Display Settings > Display Adapter Settings > Color Management > Color Management

Mac: System Preferences > Monitors > Color



If your monitor has a setting menu, use “color temperature” of 6500K Or D65 and a “gamma” of 2.1 or 2.2 or “PC” (even if you are on a Mac).

9) Resizing an image

- 1) Open image 03-email.jpg (File>Open).
- 2) Make sure you are "Expert" mode
- 3) Resize (Image > Resize > Image Size). Make sure both "Constrain Proportions" and "Resample Image Bicubic" are checked.
- 4) Enter 96 into the resolution box.
- 5) Select inches in the width drop down menu.
- 6) Enter the number of inches you want on the longest side (height or width).
- 7) Click OK.
- 8) Save your new smaller file as a new file/name (File>Save As) to a location on your hard drive (not your camera's memory card). Chose file type as JPEG. In the next window chose Quality "10". Without this step you would "over-write" your existing file, which would permanently reduce your resolution.
- 9) Using your email program, attach this new (smaller) file to your message.

10) Sharpening

Sharpening helps almost all digital photographs and is usually needed after a size change.

1. Open image 03-sharpen.jpg (File > Open). You will see image on your screen.
2. Make sure you are in "Expert" mode.
3. Open Enhance > Unsharp Mask.
4. Set "Amount" visually. Typically between 40 and 125%.
5. Set "Radius". Typically 0.7 for web/email or 2 for high resolution (240dpi inkjet) images.
6. Set "Threshold" visually so that areas of similar tone are not "chunky looking". Skin tones or open skies are good places to check. Typically set between 2 & 20.
7. Save your new corrected file as a new file/name (File > Save As) to a location on your hard drive (not your camera's memory card).



Direct from camera



Sharpened

11) Turn off computers

HOMEWORK: Montage print