How to add and modify text

You can add text to images in Photoshop Elements by using the Type tool. Once you add text, you can modify it by using the Type panel (**Figure 1**), by transforming the text box, and by applying layer styles to the text's layer.

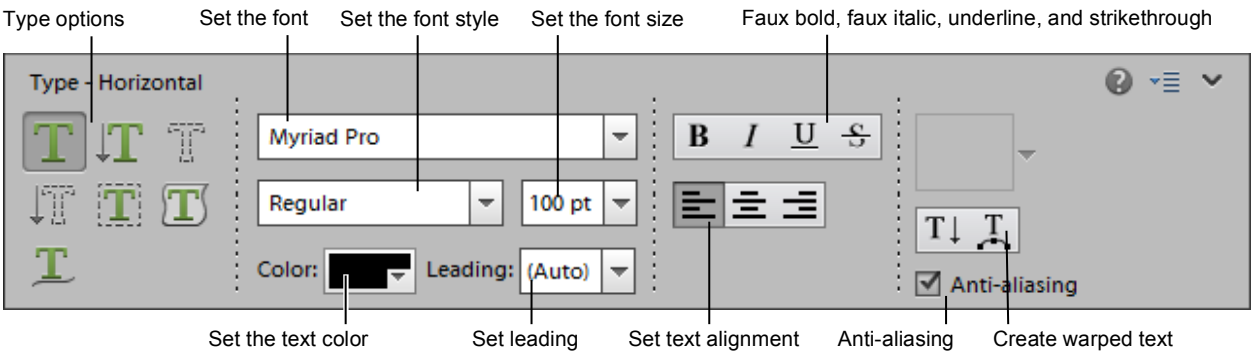

Figure 1 Type panel

Type Options: Choose between vertical and horizontal text orientations, masking tools, and text on shapes and paths.

Font: Font in which text displays. These are the fonts available on your computer.

Font Style: Determines how the font appears, such as Italic, Bold, Bold Italic, and so on.

Font Size: Height of font in points.

Color: Determines color of text body.

Leading: Space between lines in points.

Create Warped Text: Opens options for curving or otherwise warping text.

Alignment: Determines whether text is aligned to right, left, center, or justified (aligned to left and right).ol

Anti-aliasing: Option to smooth edges of type by partially filling edge pixels so the edges of the type blend into the background.

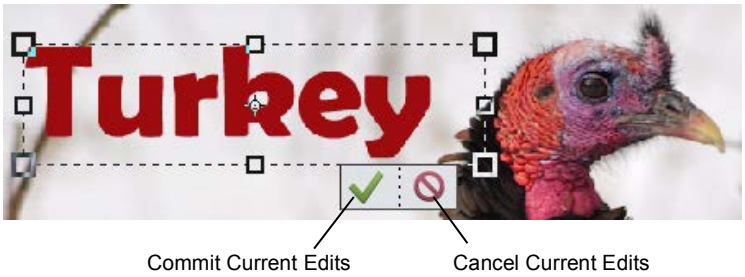

Figure 2 Commit or Cancel buttons

When you`ve made changes using the Type tool, you use the *Commit Current Edits* button to accept any changes made, or use the *Cancel Current Edits* button to reverse any changes (**Figure 2**).

Adding text

You add new text by using the Type tool (**Figure 3**). The Type tool is available on the toolbox, located in the Draw section.

To add horizontal text to an image:

1. Open an image in the Photoshop Elements Editor workspace.
2. Click the Type tool in the Toolbox (**Figure 3**).

   The Type panel opens (**Figure 1**).
3. Click the Type – Horizontal button in the Text toolbar.
4. In the Text options bar, set a font, font style, size, alignment, and color for the text (**Figure 1**).
5. Choose whether to add anti-aliasing to the text.

   Anti-aliasing smoothens the borders of text by partially filling edge pixels so the edges of the type blend into the background
6. Drag on the image to draw a text box (**Figure 4**). When you are satisfied with the size of the box, release the mouse.
7. Click in the text box you've created and type to add text.
8. Click the Commit Current Edits button to accept the added text (**Figure 5**).

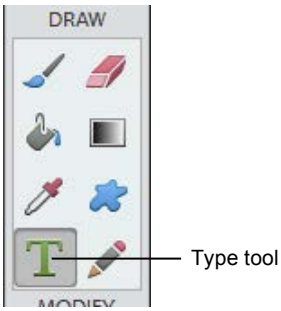

Figure 3 Toolbox

Figure 4 Drawing the text box

Figure 5 Text added

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To add vertical text to an image:

1. Click the Type tool in the Toolbox.

   The Type panel opens.
2. Click the Type – Vertical button in the Text toolbar (**Figure 6**).
3. In the Text options bar, set a font, font style, size, alignment, and color for the text.
4. Choose whether to add anti-aliasing to the text.

   Anti-aliasing smoothens the borders of text by partially filling edge pixels so the edges of the type blend into the background
5. Drag on the image to draw a text box (**Figure 4**). When you are satisfied with the size of the box, release the mouse.
6. Click in the text box you've created and type to add text.
7. Click the Commit Current Edits button to accept the added text (**Figure 7**).

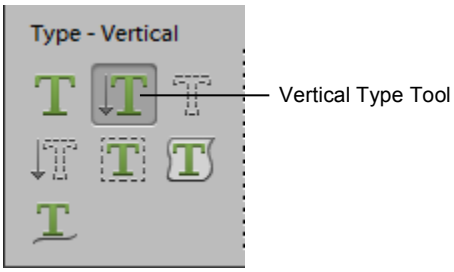

Figure 6 Vertical Type tool

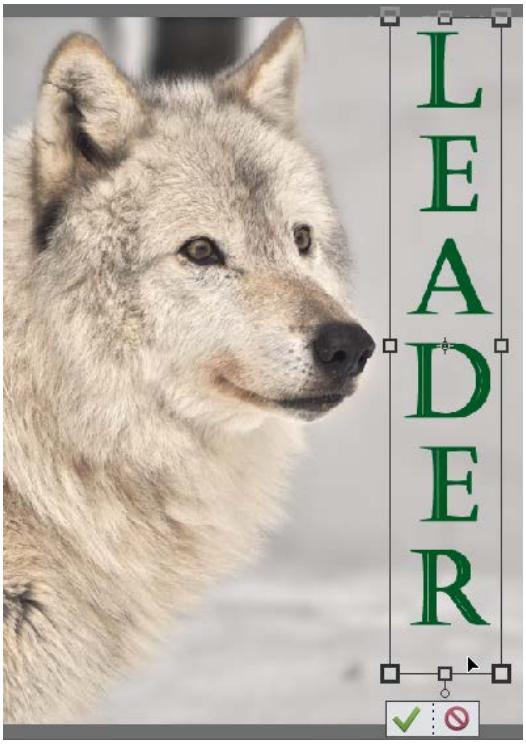

Figure 7 Vertical text applied to image

Transforming a text box

As with most objects in Photoshop Elements, you can transform text boxes. After you apply transformations, the text remains editable.

To transform a text box:

1. Use the Move tool to select the text.
2. Drag a transform control to change the shape of the text box.
3. Move the pointer over a corner of the text box until the pointer changes into a rotation icon (**Figure 8**).
4. Drag to rotate the text box.
5. Click the green check mark to accept the changes.
6. Click in the text box.

   Observe that the text remains editable even while rotated.

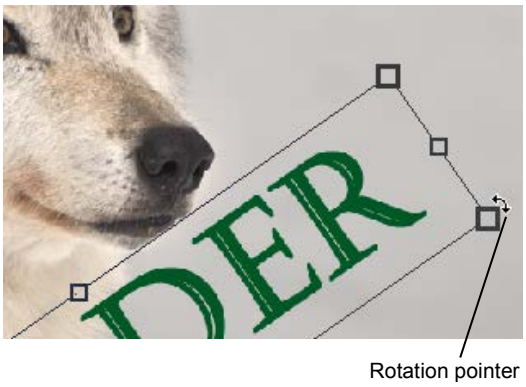

Figure 8 Transforming a text box

Warping text

You can also curve, or warp, text by using the Create Warped Text option.

To warp text:

1. Select the layer for the text you wish to warp.
2. Click the Create Warped Text icon in the Type panel (**Figure 1**). You may need to click a Text tool to reveal the text options bar.

   The Warp Text dialog box appears (**Figure 9**).
3. Select a style, such as Arch.
4. Choose Horizontal or Vertical to determine a direction for the warp.
5. Select a degree of bend for the warp.
6. Use the Horizontal Distortion and Vertical Distortion sliders to achieve the warped effect you want.

   These settings let you create asymmetrical warps in either a horizontal or vertical direction (**Figure 10**).
7. Click Commit Current Edits button to apply the warp.

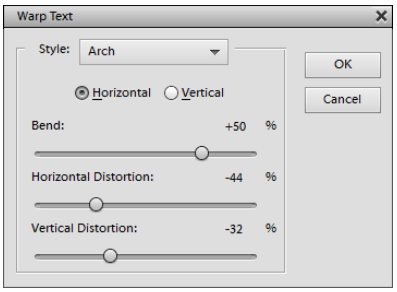

Figure 9 Warp Text dialog box

Figure 10 Text with Arch warp

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Using layer styles to modify text

Text is added in its own layer, named after the first few words of the text you enter (**Figure 11**). By changing the layer's style, you can change the appearance of the text.

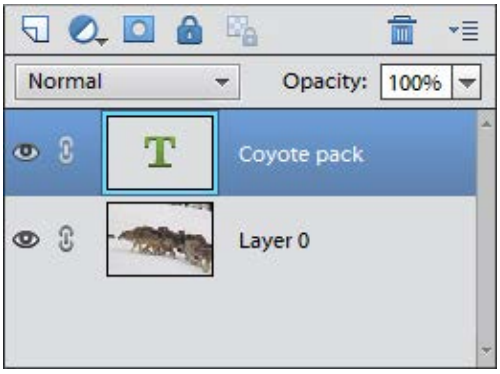

Figure 11 Text layer

To change text appearance with layer styles:

1. Select the text's layer (**Figure 11**).
2. Choose Layer > Layer Style > Style Settings.

   The Style Settings dialog box appears (**Figure 12**).
3. Change settings in one or more of the following areas:
   - Drop Shadow
   - Glow
   - Bevel
   - Stroke

   With the Preview option selected, your changes appear immediately on the image.
4. Click OK to apply the settings (**Figure 13**).

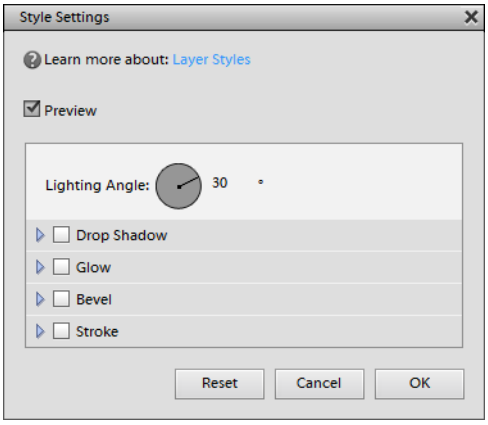

Figure 12 Style Settings dialog box

Figure 13 Drop shadow and stroke applied to text

Placing text along a path

If you take a look at the text used on signs, logos, crests, and advertisements, you'll notice that it doesn't always appear along a perfectly straight horizontal, vertical, or diagonal line. In fact, some of the more interesting text appears along a free flowing path or shape. In Photoshop Elements, you can place text along any selection, shape, or custom path that you create. The three tools used to place text along a path are the *Text On Selection* tool, *Text On Shape* tool, and the *Text On Custom Path* tool (**Figure 14**).

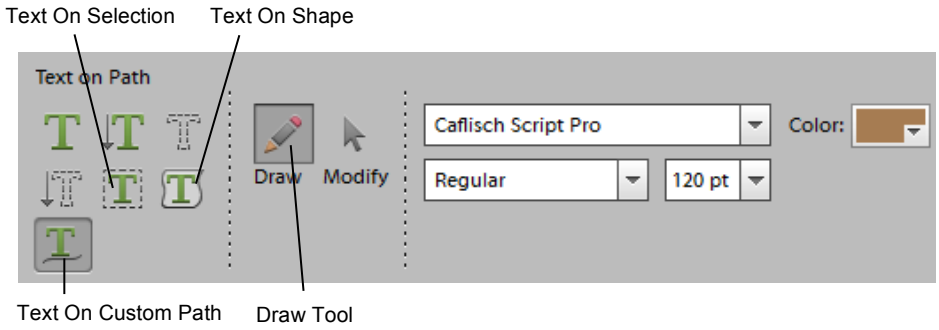

Figure 14 Type panel

- The *Text on Selection* tool creates a path based the objects in the photo, much like the Quick Selection tool. You can then place the cursor anywhere on this path and type. The text you create appears along the border of the selection.
- Use the *Text on Shape* tool to place text along the edge of a shape. The shape can be as simple as an ellipse or a more complex custom shape.
- The *Text on Custom Path* tool places text along a custom freeform path that you draw.

To add text to a selection:

1. Open an image in the Photoshop Elements Editor workspace.
2. Click the Type tool in the Toolbox.

   The Type panel opens.
3. Click the Text On Selection in the Type panel

   The Text On Selection options become available (**Figure 15**).

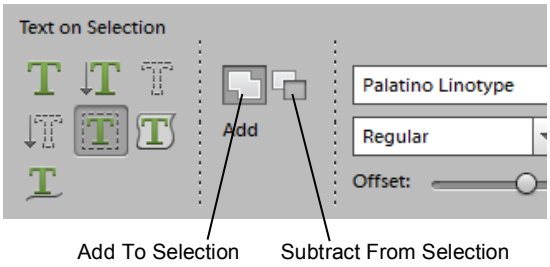

Figure 15 Text on Selections options

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4. Drag in the image to make a selection.

   A Quick Selection is drawn by using common colors or objects in the photograph (**Figure 16**).

5. Click the green check mark to confirm the selection.

   You can use the Add To Selection and Subtract From Selection to fine tune the selected area.

6. Click anywhere along the selection border to place the cursor and type to create text along the path (**Figure 17**).

7. Click the green check mark in the Text options bar to confirm the text.

   A new text layer appears in the layers panel. You can highlight the text and use the options in the Text options bar to change the format of the text.

Figure 16 Quick Selection

Figure 17 Quick Selection

To add text to a shape:

1. Open an image in the Photoshop Elements Editor workspace.
2. Click the Type tool in the Toolbox.

   The Type panel opens.

3. Click the Text On Shape in the Type panel

   The Text On Shape options become available (**Figure 18**).

4. In the text options panel, select a shape and select formatting options for the new text.
5. Drag in the image to draw the shape. The shape appears in its own layer so you can draw the shape to overlap other shapes and images (**Figure 19**).

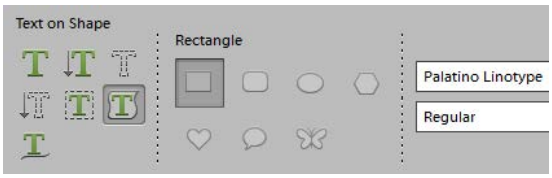

Figure 18 Text on Shape options

Figure 19 Shape path

5. Click anywhere along the path to place the cursor and type to create text along the path (**Figure 20**).
6. Deselect the text layer to see how the final text will look.
7. (Optional) Apply layer effects to the text on shape (**Figure 21**).

Figure 20 Text on a shape path

Figure 21 Final text on the shape

To add text to a custom path:

1. Open an image in the Photoshop Elements Editor workspace.
2. Click the Type tool in the Toolbox.

   The Type panel opens.
3. Click the Text On Custom Path in the Type panel

   The Text On Shape options become available (**Figure 22**).

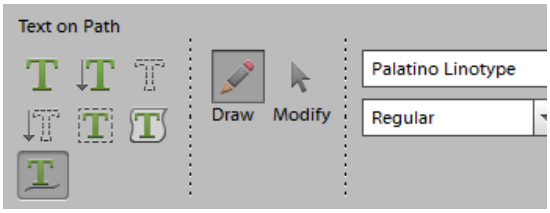

Figure 22 Text on Shape options

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4. Use the Draw tool in the image to draw a path (**Figure 23**).
5. Click the green check mark to confirm the selection.
6. Click anywhere along the selection border to place the cursor and type to create text along the path (**Figure 24**).
7. Click the green check mark in the Text options bar to confirm the text.

   A new text layer appears in the layers panel. You can highlight the text and use the options in the Type panel to change the format of the text.

Figure 23 Draw a custom path

Figure 24 Text added along the custom path