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Introductory Photoshop Elements

TEACHUCOMP, INC.®

...it's all about you

Introductory Photoshop Elements

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Introduction and Overview

Welcome to TeachUcomp, Inc.'s Introductory Photoshop Elements course. This class introduces the student to Adobe Photoshop Elements, one of the most popular image creation and editing software applications available. This class is designed to take a user with little to no knowledge of Photoshop Elements through the skills necessary to master the use of the Photoshop Elements application. To that end, it is also an excellent tutorial for those users who are already familiar with Photoshop Elements, but want to "fill-in" the gaps in their knowledge of the program.

Adobe Photoshop Elements is an excellent program to learn, as the skills, terms, and techniques that you learn and master in this application can also be used throughout the rest of the Adobe applications. For example, after learning this application, you will find it easier to learn an application like Adobe Photoshop or Adobe Illustrator.

This class starts by introducing the student to the Photoshop Elements environment. The first thing you learn is how to organize photos using the Organizer. It then shows how to open and create images and work with camera raw photos. After that, you examine the different types of color settings in Photoshop Elements, why they are there, and what you can do to control them. You then look at the edit modes, editing images and using painting tools and brushes. The class then turns to making pixel-based selections and applying fills, patterns, colors, strokes and gradients to pixel selections.

The practice exercises can be done on your own images, blank files you create, or by using any sample pictures you may have in your "My Pictures" folder or Organizer

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1.1- Introduction to Photoshop Elements:

Adobe Photoshop Elements is one of the most popular image creation and editing software applications available today. Photoshop Elements derives its name from the fact that it contains many of the essential *elements* of the full Adobe Photoshop application. While it is true that Photoshop contains many additional features, Photoshop Elements has grown into a robust editing program in its own right. You can use it to create, edit, and organize digital images in ways you might never have imagined. You can remove flaws, add text, and make many other changes to images to produce high-quality, professional images.

When using Photoshop Elements, you might find some of the quick-fix options perfect for your immediate needs, without needing to enter Photoshop Element's "Expert" edit mode. Intermediate users may also enjoy the "guided edits" feature, which steps you through more advanced workflows and photo editing features. Whether you are a novice or a professional, Photoshop Elements provides you with many powerful tools to help you accomplish your various image creation and editing tasks.

1.2- The Welcome Screen:

When you first launch Photoshop Elements, the "Welcome Screen" appears. This screen contains links to the different major parts of the application. Clicking the "Organizer" button in the "Welcome Screen" opens the Organizer window. The Organizer lets you import, view and arrange pictures, so your image library stays as efficient and *organized* as possible.

Clicking the "Photo Editor" button in the "Welcome Screen" launches the "Photo Editor" window of the Photoshop Elements application. This window contains all the features for creating and editing images. The various edit modes within the "Photo Editor" are discussed in later lessons.

Finally, users of Adobe Photoshop Elements Premiere can click the "Video Editor" button to open the video editor window of that application. This tutorial covers the standard Photoshop Elements application and photo editing. Therefore, you will not need to access the "Video Editor" during this course.

1.3- Changing the Start-Up Mode:

If you don't want to see the "Welcome Screen" each time you launch the Photoshop Elements application, you can change the start-up mode setting. Doing this then lets Photoshop Elements open either the "Organizer" or "Photo Editor" window at start-up.

To do this, click the "cog wheel" icon in the upper-right corner of the Welcome Screen. Doing that shows the start-up options at the top of the screen. Then click the "On Start Always Launch" drop-down. Then select either "Organizer" or "Photo Editor" from the drop-down menu. Finally, click the "Done" button. Then close the application. After that, the next time you launch Photoshop Elements, you will directly open whichever window you selected.

To see the Welcome Screen again after launching Photoshop Elements, you can open it from the other windows by selecting "Help| Welcome Screen…" from the Menu Bar. You can then use the same process previously discussed to change the default start-up window back to the "Welcome Screen" choice.

Also, you don't need the "Welcome Screen" to go to different parts of the application. For example, if you are currently within the "Photo Editor" window and want to switch to the "Organizer" window, you can click the "Organizer" button in the Taskbar, which is discussed in more detail later.

Changing Startup Behavior

1.4- eLive:

In either the "Organizer" or "Photo Editor" windows, you can click the "eLive" shortcut in the Shortcuts Bar at the top of the program window to view the "eLive" page. eLive stands for "Elements Live." It is a page that gives you access to news, ideas, and tutorials about Photoshop Elements.

The "eLive" page shortcut appears in the Shortcuts Bar at the top of both windows. So, within the Organizer window, it is grouped with the "Media," "People," "Places," and "Events" shortcuts. In the "Photo Editor" window, it is grouped with the "Quick," "Guided," and "Expert" edit mode shortcuts. You can click these buttons to switch the view of the window within which you are currently working, as you will see in following lessons. You can always click the "eLive" button in the Shortcuts Bar of either window to view the "eLive" page.

Within the "eLive" page, you can click a story shown to open the associated web page in your computer's default web browser. After reading the associated content, you can close the browser window to return to the "eLive" page. To filter the content in the "eLive" page, click the filter button at the left side of the white toolbar towards the top of the content in the page. Then select either "Everything," "Inspire," "Learn," or "News" to filter the type of content to view.

You can click the "Facebook" or "Twitter" links at the right end of the same white toolbar to like "eLive" on Facebook or follow them on Twitter. You can click the "Help" button at the far right end of the white toolbar to open a "Contact Customer Care" window within your computer's default web browser.
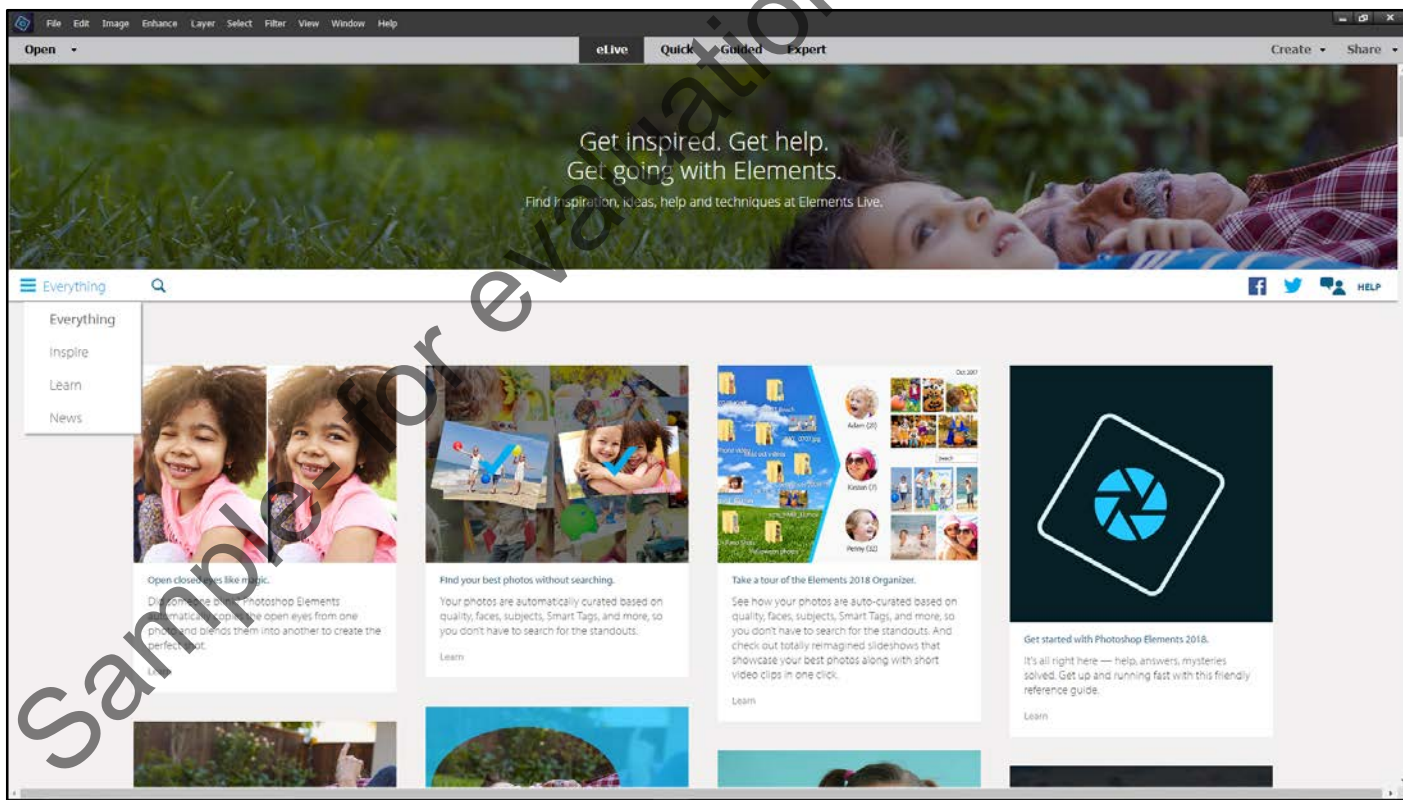
ACTIONS-
Getting Acquainted with Photoshop Elements

THE WELCOME SCREEN:

1. **To open the "Organizer" window**, click the "Organizer" button within the "Welcome Screen."
2. **To open the "Photo Editor" window**, click the "Photo Editor" button within the "Welcome Screen."

CHANGING THE START-UP MODE:

1. Display the "Welcome Screen" within Photoshop Elements.
2. **To display the "Welcome Screen" from within either the "Organizer" or "Photo Editor" window**, select "Help| Welcome Screen…" from the Menu Bar.
3. Click the cog wheel icon in the upper-right corner of the Welcome Screen to display the start-up options.
4. Use the "On Start Always Launch" drop-down to select which mode you would like to enter upon launching Photoshop Elements in the future.
5. Click the "Done" button to the right when finished making your mode selection.

eLIVE:

1. **To view the "eLive" page**, click the "eLive" shortcut in the Shortcuts Bar at the top of either the "Organizer" or "Photo Editor" windows.
2. **To view content in the "eLive" page**, click a story in the page to open the associated web page in your computer's default web browser.
3. After reading the associated content, you can close the browser window to return to the "eLive" page.
4. **To filter the content in the "eLive" page**, click the filter button at the left side of the white toolbar towards the top of the content in the page.
5. Then select either "Everything," "Inspire," "Learn," or "News" to filter the type of content to view.
6. **To like "eLive" on Facebook or follow them on Twitter**, click the "Facebook" or "Twitter" links at the right end of the white toolbar above the page content.
7. **To open a "Contact Customer Care" window within your computer's default web browser**, click the "Help" button at the far right end of the same white toolbar.

EXERCISES-
GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS

Purpose:

1.   To be able to navigate to the different areas of Elements and set start-up preferences.

Exercises:

1.   Open the Photoshop Elements application.
2.   If the "Welcome Screen" launches, click the "Photo Editor" button to enter the Photo Editor window.
3.   Select "Help| Welcome Screen…" from the Menu Bar to launch the Welcome Screen.
4.   Click the "cog wheel" button in the upper-right corner of the "Welcome Screen" window to display the start-up options in the expanded section below.
5.   Click the "On Start Always Launch" drop-down that appears and then choose your start-up preference.
6.   Click the "Done" button to the right of the drop-down menu.
7.   Click the "X" button in the upper-right corner of the "Welcome Screen" to close it.
8.   Click the "X" in the upper-right corner of the "Editor" window to close it.