Photoshop Elements

TeachUcomp, Inc.®

…it's all about you

Photoshop Elements

TeachUcomp, Inc.

Phone: (877) 925-8080
Web: https://www.teachucomp.com

Introduction and Overview

Welcome to TeachUcomp, Inc.'s 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.

This class starts by introducing the student to the Photoshop Elements environment. You then learn how to organize photos using the Organizer. It then shows you how to use camera raw. After that, you learn about color settings. You then look at the edit modes, editing images, and using painting tools and brushes. Next is making pixel-based selections and applying fills, patterns, colors, strokes, and gradients to pixel selections. You then learn about layers in images. Next comes learning about vector data in images, including text and drawn objects and shapes. The course then shows you how to use advanced tools for image enhancement. Finally, you then examine saving, printing and sharing options in Photoshop Elements.

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

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Sample - for evaluation purposes only!

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Getting Acquainted with Photoshop Elements

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 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 Home Screen:

When you first launch Photoshop Elements, the "Home Screen" appears. This screen contains auto-generated photo and video collages and slideshows created by the software specifically for you, using media you have imported. Within the Home Screen, you can also discover fun editing projects, get inspiring ideas, navigate to different workspaces, open recent files, and seek help from the Adobe community.

You can use the Search bar at the top of the Home Screen to quickly search and find help documentation and tutorials for different features. To search, enter the desired text in the Search bar and press the "Enter" key on your keyboard. Matching results are displayed via thumbnails and hyperlinks in the Home Screen. To access the help documentation, click the thumbnail or hyperlink to open the page in your web browser. To return "Home" in the Home Screen, click the "Home" link in the breadcrumbs area that appears in the upper-left corner of the screen.

The carousel of cards displayed in the upper part of the Home Screen includes access to information on new features, projects to try, and inspirational ideas. You can scroll through the carousel by clicking the arrows that appear on the left and right side of the carousel. Cards labeled "What's New," with a blue tag, provide information on new features within the Photoshop Elements application. To access these resources, click the "Open Link" button that appears when you hover over one of the "What's New" cards to open the content in your web browser. Cards labeled Explore" or "Inspiration," with an orange tag, offer resources and examples of how others have used specific features that inspire creativity and design. To access these resources, click the "View" button that appears when you hover over one of the orange-colored cards. "Try This" cards, with green tags, help you try many exciting features. The features that are displayed are periodically updated based on actions you perform and features you use in Photoshop Elements. To try out a feature, click the "Try" button that appears when you hover over the feature card. Photoshop Elements is then launched, and an on-screen guide walks you through the steps.

Auto Creations are periodically generated by the software based on the media you import into Elements. You can view auto-created photo collages, slideshows, video collages, and Candid Moments in this area. To open a displayed auto creation, click the "Open" button that appears next to it. To view all the available creations, click "View All" button below the Auto Creations thumbnail. To select specific creations, click the number icons below the Auto Creations thumbnail.

This Home Screen also contains links to the different workspaces of the Photoshop Elements application. Clicking the "Organizer" button in the "Home Screen" opens the Organizer window. The Organizer lets you import, view, and arrange pictures, so your image library stays as efficient and *organized*

1.2- The Home Screen- (cont'd.):

as possible. Clicking the "Photo Editor" button in the Home 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.

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.

Finally, you can open recently-accessed project files in Elements from the Home Screen. Elements displays recently-opened project files in the "Recent Files" area on the Home Screen. To quickly open one of these files, click the link.

You can close the Home Screen by clicking the "Close" button in the upper-right corner of the window. To open the Home Screen again, click the "Home Screen" button in the Taskbar at the bottom of the Organizer or the Editor, or re-launch the Elements application if it is closed.
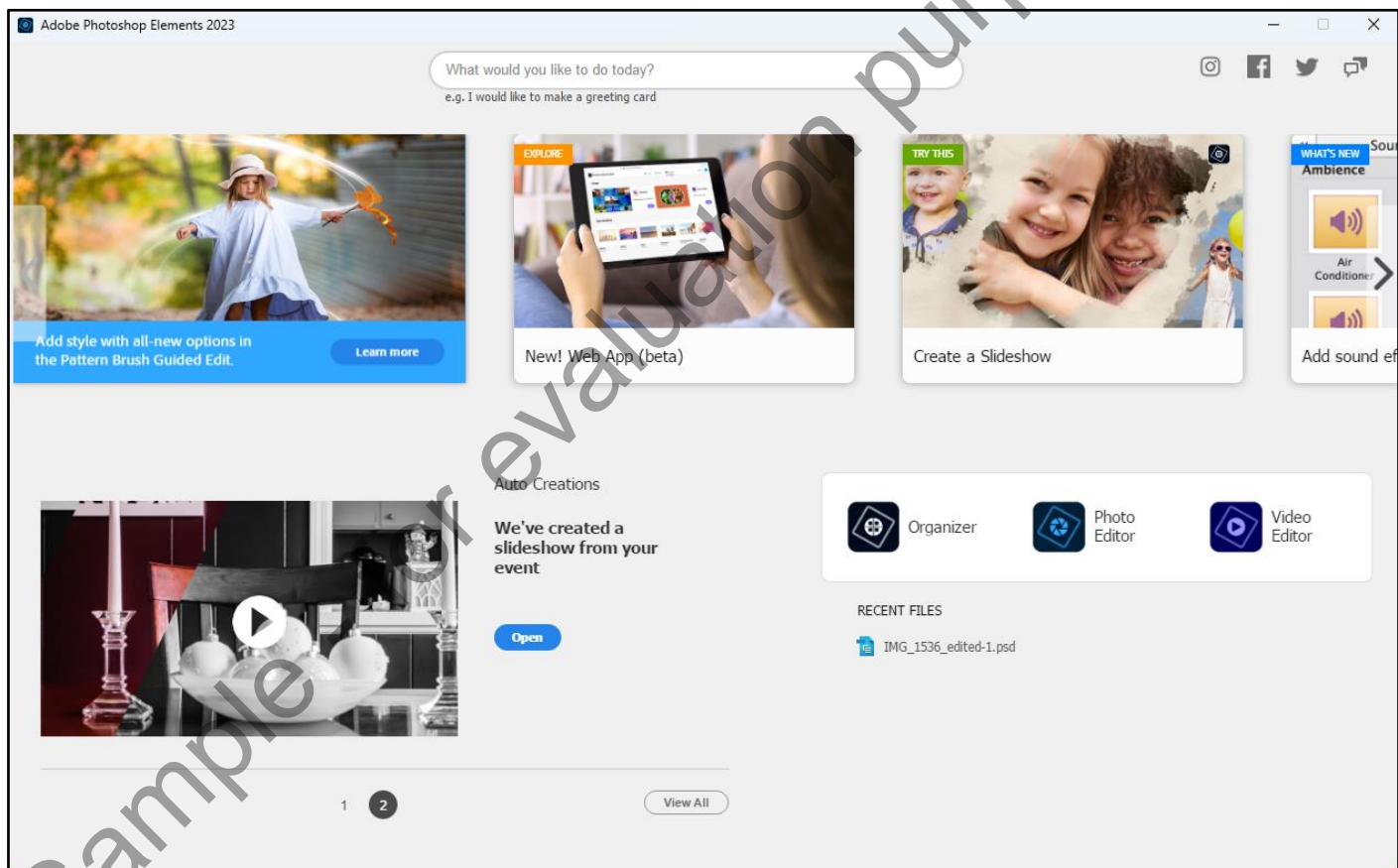
ACTIONS-
Getting Acquainted with Photoshop Elements

THE HOME SCREEN:

1. **To access the help documentation**, enter the desired text in the Search bar at the top of the Home Screen and press the "Enter" key on your keyboard, then click the thumbnail or hyperlink to open the page in your web browser.
2. **To access "What's New" features**, click the "Open" link that appears when you hover over a "What's New" card at the top of the Home Screen.
3. **To access inspirational ideas**, click the "View" button that appears when you hover over an "Inspiration" card.
4. **To try a feature with an on-screen guide**, click the "Try" button that appears when you hover over a "Try This" card.
5. **To open a displayed auto creation**, click the "Open" button that appears next to it. **To view all the available creations**, click "View All" button below the Auto Creations thumbnail. **To select specific creations**, click the number icons below the Auto Creations thumbnail.
6. **To open the "Organizer" window**, click the "Organizer" button within the Home Screen.
7. **To open the "Photo Editor" window**, click the "Photo Editor" button within the Home Screen.
8. **To quickly open recently-accessed files**, click the link to the file that appears in the Home Screen.
9. **To close the Home Screen**, click the "Close" button in the upper-right corner of the screen.
10. **To open the Home Screen**, click the "Home Screen" button in the Taskbar at the bottom of the Organizer or the Editor, or re-launch the Elements application if it is closed.

EXERCISES-
Getting Acquainted with Photoshop Elements

Purpose:

To navigate to the different workspaces of Elements.

Exercises:

1. Open the Photoshop Elements application.
2. In the Search box, type "Greeting Card" and press the "Enter" button.
3. Click the first thumbnail or hyperlink to open the resource in a new window.
4. Click the "Home" link in the breadcrumbs to return to "Home" in the Home Screen.
5. Click the "Open Link," or "View" button on one of the "What's New" or "Inspiration" cards to view its content in a browser window.
6. Click the "Photo Editor" button to enter the Photo Editor window.
7. Click the "Organizer" button to open the Organizer workspace.
8. Click a link in the "Recent Files" area to open it, if available.
9. Click the "X" button in the upper-right corner of the "Home Screen" to close it.
10. Click the "X" in the upper-right corner of the "Editor" window to close it.
11. Click the "X" in the upper-right corner of the "Organizer" window to close it.