

How to add text to an image

In Adobe Photoshop, you can add text directly to an image. As with shapes, you add text in its own layer, which is named after the first few words of your text (**Figure 1**). Once you add text, you can change the font, modify it by using the Character and Paragraph panels, transform the text box, apply layer styles to the layer, or add color fonts and emojis. The only limit is your imagination.

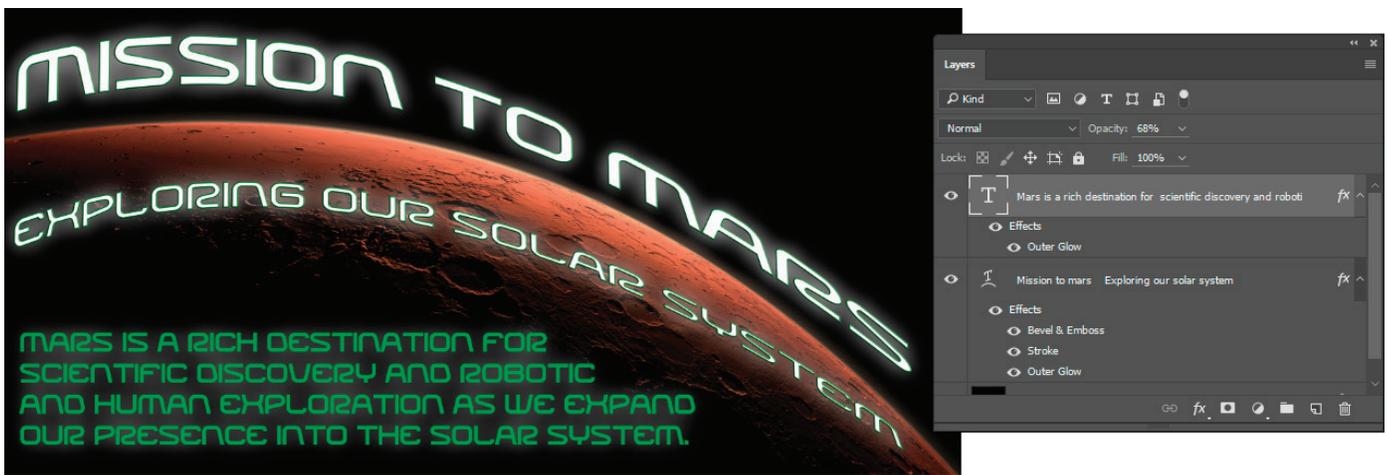


Figure 1 Text added to an image, with Layers panel

About fonts

A font is a complete set of characters—letters, numbers, and symbols—that share a common weight, width, and style, such as 10-pt Adobe Garamond Bold.

Typefaces (often called *type families* or *font families*) are collections of fonts that share an overall appearance, and are designed to be used together, such as Adobe Garamond.

A *type style* is a variant version of an individual font in a font family. Typically, the *Roman* or *Plain* (the actual name varies from family to family) member of a font family is the base font, which may include type styles such as regular, bold, semibold, italic, and bold italic (**Figure 2**). If a font doesn't include the style you want, you can apply *faux* styles—simulated versions of bold, italic, superscript, subscript, all caps, and small caps styles.

Regular	Bold	Semibold	Italic	Bold Italic
ABCDEFGHIJKLM	ABCDEFGHIJKLM	ABCDEFGHIJKLM	<i>ABCDEFGHIJKLM</i>	<i>ABCDEFGHIJKLM</i>
NOPQRSTUVWXYZ	NOPQRSTUVWXYZ	NOPQRSTUVWXYZ	<i>NOPQRSTUVWXYZ</i>	<i>NOPQRSTUVWXYZ</i>
abcdefghijklm	abcdefghijklm	abcdefghijklm	<i>abcdefghijklm</i>	<i>abcdefghijklm</i>
nopqrstuvwxyz	nopqrstuvwxyz	nopqrstuvwxyz	<i>nopqrstuvwxyz</i>	<i>nopqrstuvwxyz</i>
1234567890	1234567890	1234567890	<i>1234567890</i>	<i>1234567890</i>

Figure 2 A selection of Adobe Garamond type styles

Typefaces include many characters in addition to the ones you see on your keyboard. Depending on the font, these characters can include ligatures, fractions, swashes, ornaments, ordinals, titling and stylistic alternates, superior and inferior characters, old-style figures, and lining figures (Figure 3). A *glyph* is a specific form of a character. For example, in certain fonts, the capital letter A is available in several forms, such as swash and small cap.



Figure 3 A selection of simple and decorative fonts

To make fonts available to Photoshop and other Adobe Creative Suite applications, install them in your computer's system font folder: In Windows > Windows/Fonts, or in Mac OS > Library/Fonts.

Previewing and using fonts

You can view samples of a font in the font family and font style menus in the Text options bar (Figure 4), Character panel and other areas in the application from where you can choose fonts.

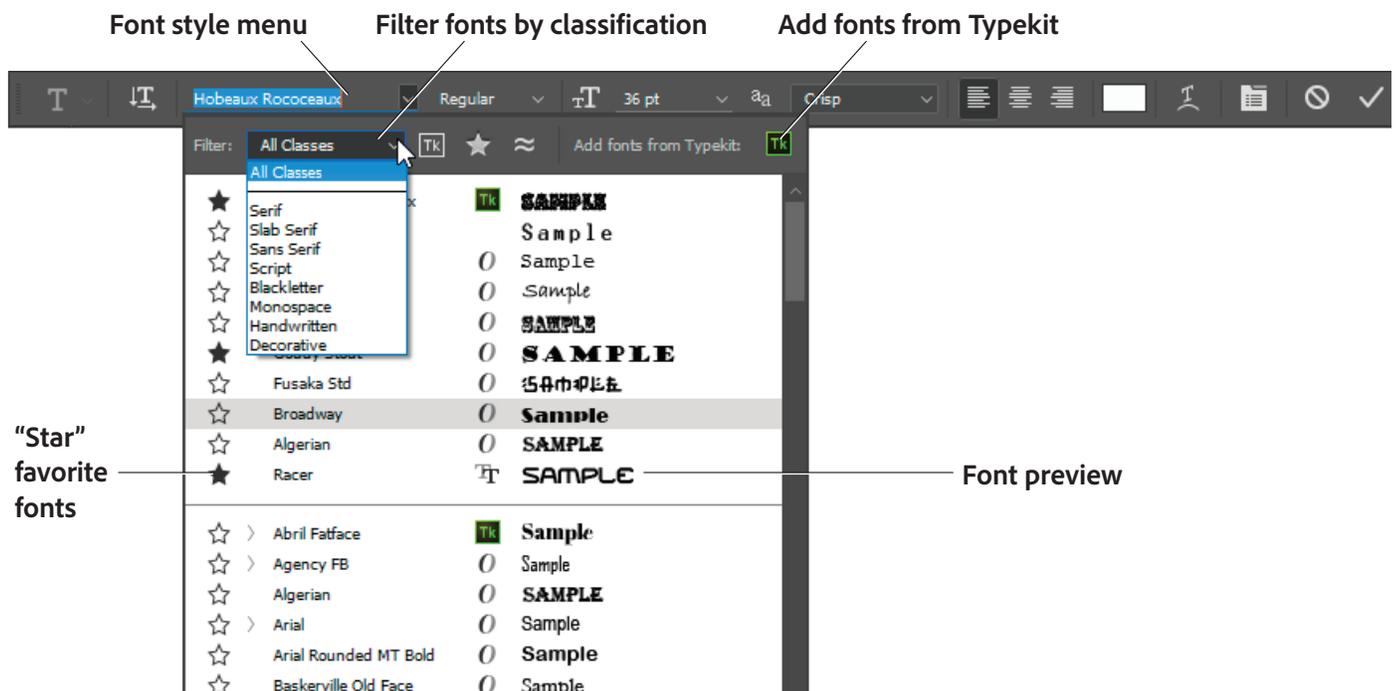


Figure 4 Character panel

You can quickly access your preferred fonts by “starring” fonts as favorites. While searching for fonts, you can narrow down the results by filtering fonts by classification, like Serif or Sans Serif, or by visual similarity. Further, you can choose to search among fonts installed on your computer or synchronized fonts from Typekit. Typekit is a service which allows you to select, sync and use high-quality fonts in your work. Learn more about [Typekit](#).

If more than one variant of a font family is installed on your computer—for example, Regular, Italic, Bold, and Bold Italic—the different variants are grouped under the same menu item. You can expand the item and select the desired variant (Figure 5).

Match fonts

Sometimes you see a font you really like but you don't know what font it is. Now can use Match fonts to identify fonts. Using just a picture of a Latin font, Photoshop CC can detect which font it is and suggest matching fonts licensed on your computer or on Typekit.

Note: Match Font, font classification, and font similarity features currently work only for Roman/Latin characters.

To match fonts from an existing image:

1. Click the **Rectangular Marquee Tool** from the Tools panel.
2. Select the area of the image containing the text whose font you want to analyze.
Some tips for selecting text for font matching:
 - Draw the selection box, such that it includes a single line of text.
 - Closely crop the selection box to the left and right edges of the text.
 - Use Match Font on a single typeface and style. Don't mix typefaces and styles inside the Match Font selection.
 - Straighten or correct perspective on the image before choosing Type > Match Font.
3. Select **Type > Match Font**. Photoshop displays a list of fonts similar to the font in the image, including fonts from Typekit (Figure 6).

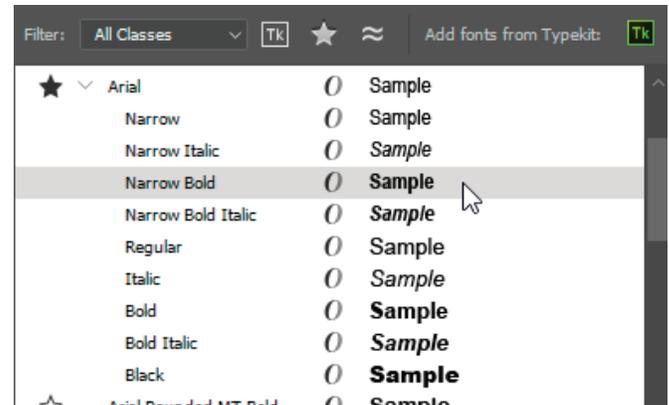


Figure 5 Font variants grouped under a menu item

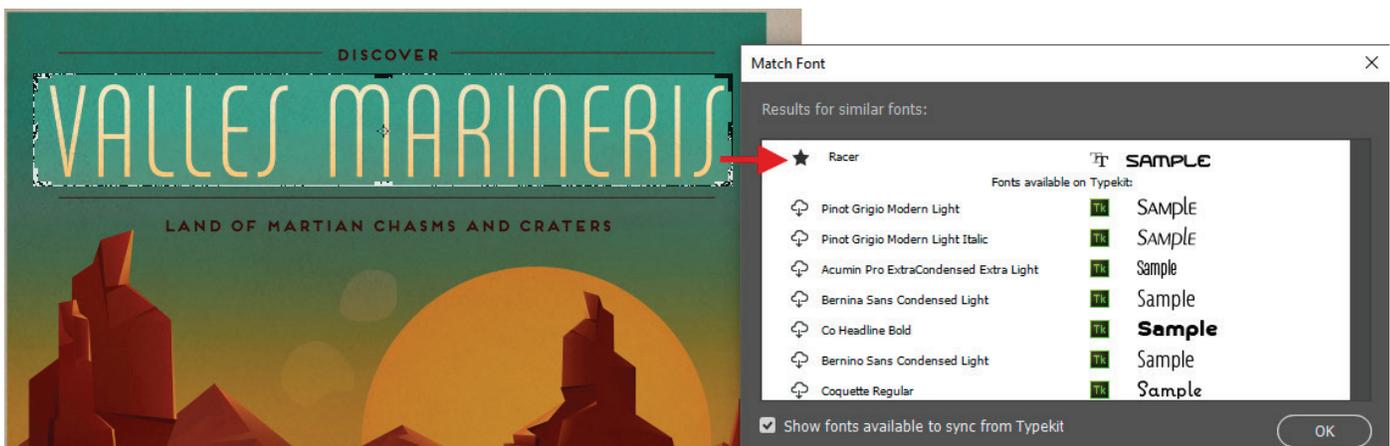


Figure 6 Find fonts matching the font in an image

If necessary, deselect **Show Fonts Available To Sync From Typekit** to view only fonts available locally on your computer.

- In the results, click the font closest to the font in the image.
- Click the star next to the font you've chosen to save it as a favorite.
- Click **OK**. Photoshop selects the font you clicked.
- Once the selected font is identified, return to file you were working on before.
- Select the Type tool and click on the text block.
- In the Text options bar, select the starred, favorite font to apply it to the text (**Figure 7**).

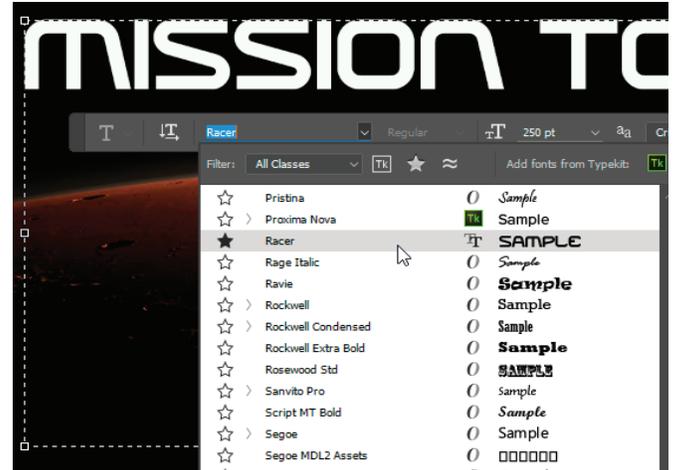


Figure 7 Applying a matched and favorited font

How to add text to an image:

- Open an image to which you want to add text.
- Select the Type tool.
- In the Text options bar, set a font family, font style, size, alignment, and color for the text (**Figure 8**).

Note: When you're working with a font on-screen, you may observe that it seems smaller or larger than its point size. This is because the on-screen appearance of fonts depends on the document size and magnification. To see the font sized as it will appear when printed, choose **View > Print Size**.

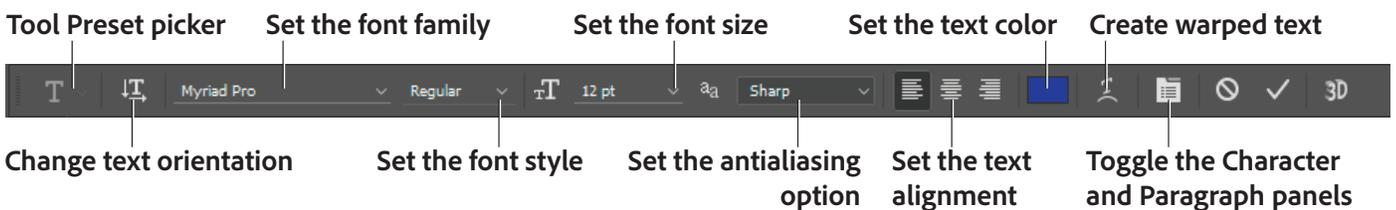


Figure 8 Text options bar

- Select an anti-aliasing option from the Anti-aliasing pop-up menu.
- Drag on the image to draw a text box (**Figure 9**). When you are satisfied with the size of the box, release the mouse.
- Note:** You can also click in the document to create a text layer. This creates a resizable text box, as opposed to a fixed-size text box.
- Click in the text box you've created and type to add text (**Figure 10**).

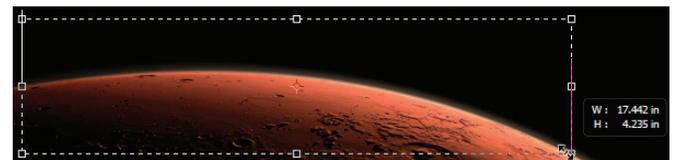


Figure 9 Drawing a text box



Figure 10 Adding text to a text box

Modifying text by using the Character and Paragraph panels

You can change textual characteristics through the Character and Paragraph panels. These options are similar to those found in many word-processing and layout applications.

Modifying text by using the Character panel

To set an option in the Character panel, you first open the panel and select the text you want to change. For each option in the panel, choose a value from the pop-up menu (**Figure 11**) or type a value. When you type a value directly, press **Enter** (Windows) or **Return** (Mac OS) to apply it.

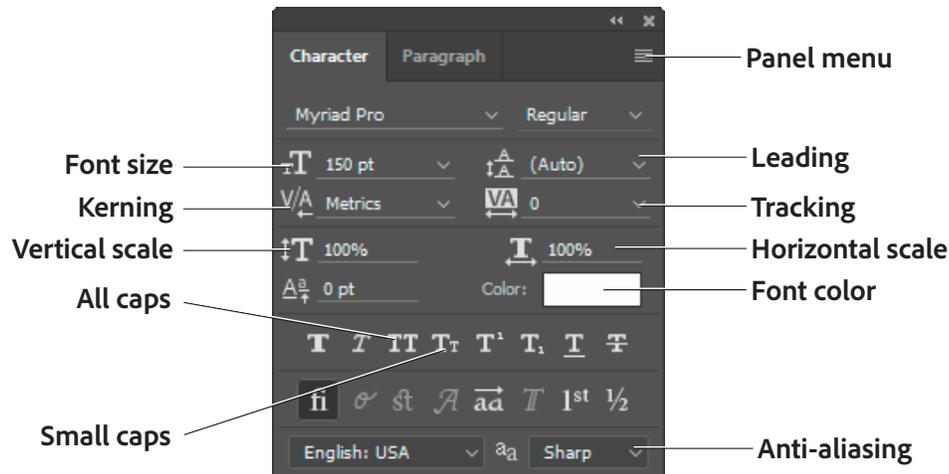


Figure 11 Character panel

The options in the Character panel include the following:

- *Font size*: Depends on document size. You set font size in points.
- *Leading*: The vertical space between lines of type. You set leading in points.
- *Kerning and Tracking*: *Kerning* is the process of adding or subtracting space between specific pairs of characters. *Tracking* is the process of loosening or tightening the spacing between the characters in selected text or an entire block of text. You set tracking in points. You can also fine-tune the space between any two characters by selecting them and adjusting kerning. Usually you only need to adjust kerning for large font sizes—at least 16 points.
- *Horizontal scale*: Height of the letters. You set this as a percentage.
- *Vertical scale*: Width of the letters. You set this as a percentage.

Anti-aliasing

Anti-aliasing produces smooth-edged type by partially filling the edge pixels so the edges of the type blend into the background. For print jobs, you will generally want to apply anti-aliasing to your text, especially for larger text since this subtlety softens the edge appearance of the type. For smaller text or for web images, you may want to leave anti-aliasing turned off because blended-edge pixels on small type makes text look blurry and undefined.

- *None*: Applies no anti-aliasing.
- *Sharp*: Type appears at its sharpest. (This option is set by default.)
- *Crisp*: Type appears somewhat sharp.
- *Strong*: Type appears heavier.
- *Smooth*: Type appears smoother.

Note: When you use anti-aliasing, type may be rendered inconsistently at small sizes and low resolutions (such as the resolution used for web graphics). To reduce this inconsistency, deselect the Fractional Widths option in the Character panel menu.

To modify text by using the Character panel:

1. Choose **Window > Character**.
The **Character** panel appears (Figure 11).
2. Apply changes to the text
In the example (Figure 12), the following changes have been applied:
 - Font size set to 400 pt.
 - Anti-aliasing set to Crisp



Figure 12 Text formatted in Character panel

Modifying text by using the Paragraph panel

You can make further changes to the text in the Paragraph panel (Figure 13). Most importantly, you can change the text's alignment—whether the text lines up with the right, left, or center of the text box. You can also justify the text. Justification means spacing the text so it meets both margins.

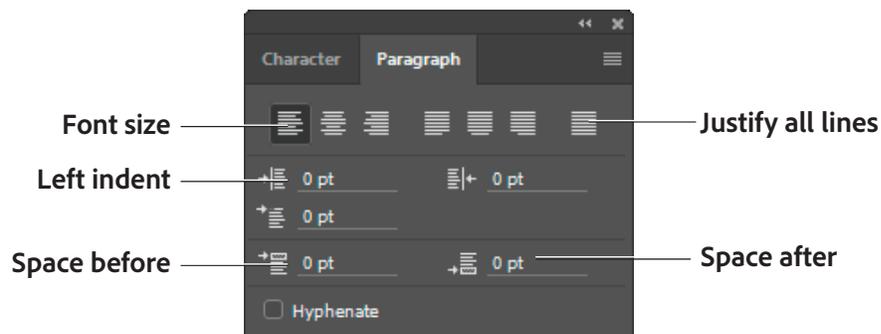


Figure 13 Paragraph panel

To modify text by using the Paragraph panel:

1. Choose **Window > Paragraph**.
The **Paragraph** panel appears (Figure 13).
2. Apply changes to the text.
In the example (Figure 14), the text has been center-aligned inside the text box.



Figure 14 Text formatted in Paragraph panel

Transforming a text box

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

To transform a text box:

1. Choose **Windows > Layers** and confirm the text layer is selected (**Figure 15**).
2. Choose **Edit > Free Transform**.
3. Drag a transform control to change the shape of the text box.
4. Move the pointer over a corner of the text box until the pointer changes into a rotation tool (**Figure 16**).
5. Drag the rotation tool to rotate the text box.
6. Choose the Type tool in the Tools panel.
A message appears asking if you want to apply the transformation.
7. Select **Yes** (Windows) or **Apply** (Mac OS).
8. Click in the text box.
Observe that the text remains editable even while rotated. If you resize the text box vertically, the font size changes accordingly.

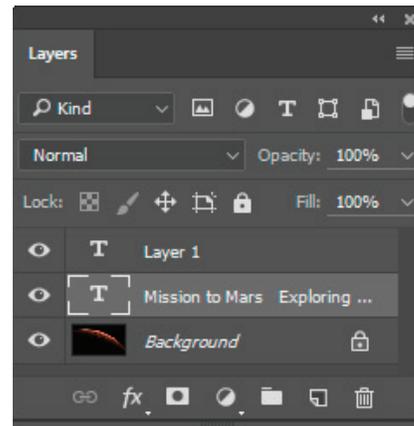


Figure 15 Layers panel

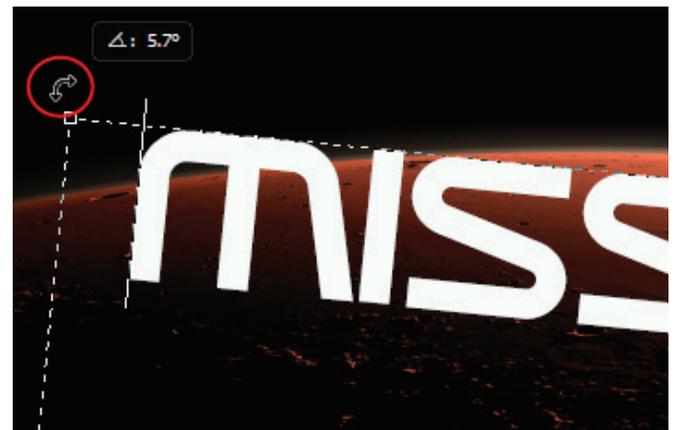


Figure 16 Text rotated

Warping text

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

To warp text:

1. Select the Type tool.
2. Select the text you wish to warp.
3. Click the Create Warped Text icon in the Text options bar.

The **Warp Text** dialog box appears (**Figure 17**).

4. Select a style, such as **Arc**.
5. Choose **Bend**, **Horizontal**, and/or **Vertical** to determine a direction for the warp.
6. Select a degree of bend for the warp.
7. Change the **Horizontal Distortion** and **Vertical Distortion**.

These settings let you create asymmetrical warps in either a horizontal or vertical direction. You can experiment with these settings later, but for now, keep the warp straightforward.

8. Click **OK** to apply the warp (**Figure 18**).

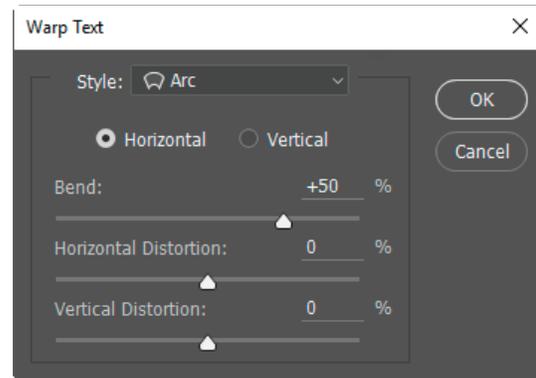


Figure 17 Warp Text dialog box



Figure 18 Text with Wave warp applied

Modifying text by using layer styles

Because text is added to its own layer, you can also change the appearance of text by using layer styles. You can add a drop shadow to the text, make the text appear embossed or beveled, or outline each letter with a stroke.

To modify text by using layer styles:

1. If the Layers panel is not already visible, choose **Window > Layers**.
2. Double-click the text layer to open the **Layer Style** dialog box (Figure 19).
Layer Styles appear in a column on the left. To apply a style, check its box. You can also reveal options for modifying a style by clicking its name.

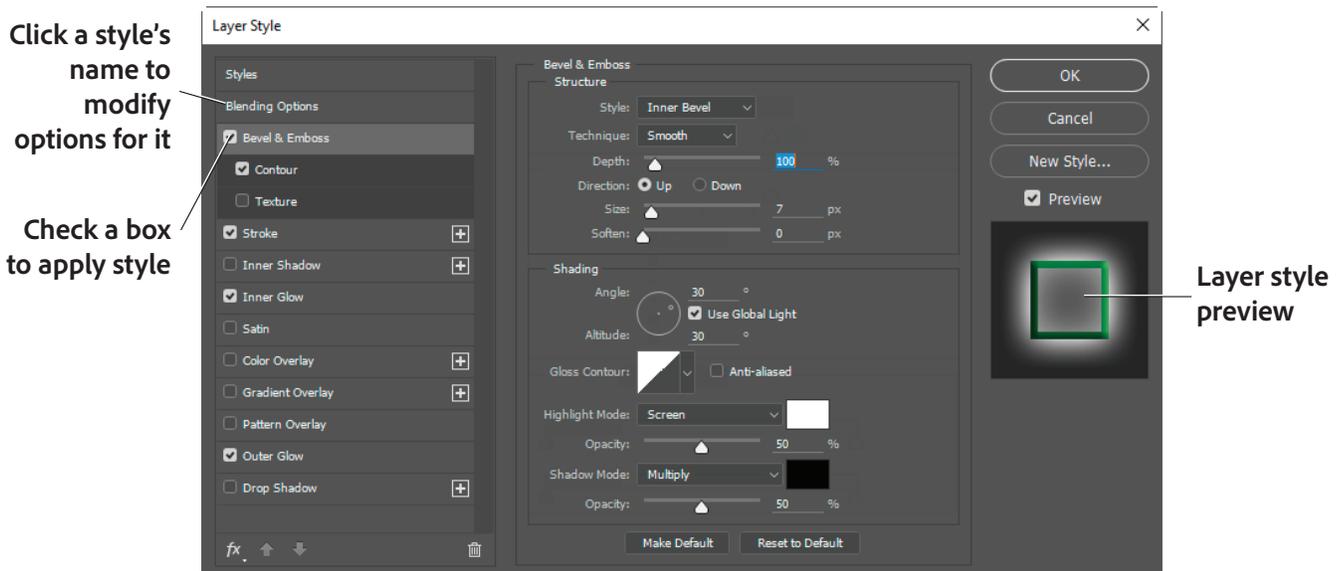


Figure 19 Layer Style dialog box

3. Apply one or more layer styles to the text.
Outer Glow, Bevel, Contour, and Stroke have been applied to the text in the example (Figure 20).



Figure 20 Layer effects applied to text

Reusing text formats with type styles

You can achieve a consistent look and feel with saved type styles, which let you apply formatting to selected characters, lines, or paragraphs of text with a single click.

A character style is a collection of character-formatting attributes that you can apply to a selected range of text. A paragraph style includes both character- and paragraph-formatting attributes and can be applied to a selected paragraph or range of paragraphs.

To use type styles:

1. Create a paragraph of text in your image.
2. Choose **Window > Paragraph Styles**.
The Paragraph Styles panel opens (Figure 21).
3. To create a new paragraph style, click the Create New Style button.
4. Double-click the new style in the **Paragraph Style** panel.
The Paragraph Style Options dialog box opens (Figure 22).
5. Type a new **Style Name**, if desired.
6. Define the text and paragraph options you want in the Paragraph Style Options dialog box and then click **OK**.
7. Select the text paragraph again.
8. Create a second paragraph style in the same way.
9. To apply a paragraph style, select a character, line, or paragraph of text and click a style name in the **Paragraph Styles** panel (Figure 23).

Note: You can update any of the paragraph styles you create by double-clicking the style name and editing the options you want in the Paragraph Style Options dialog box. A plus sign next to a style name in the Paragraph Styles panel indicates that a style has been overridden, or modified in the document. To clear overrides and return text to the appearance defined by the style, click the Clear Modification button. To redefine the style and maintain the current text appearance, click the Redefine button.

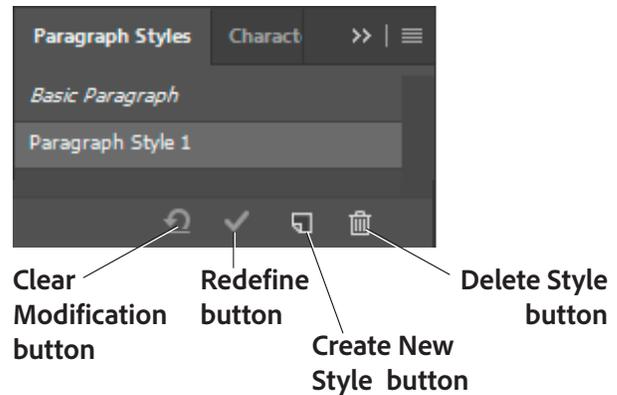


Figure 21 Paragraph Styles panel

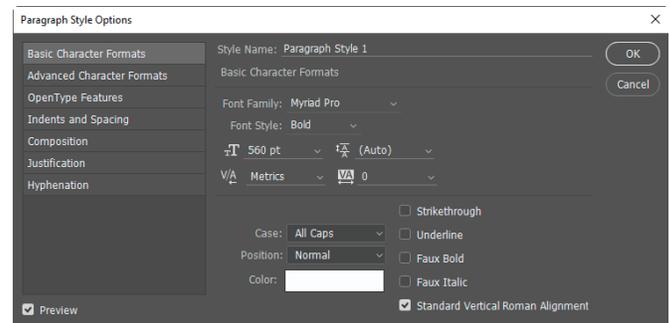


Figure 22 Paragraph Style Options dialog box

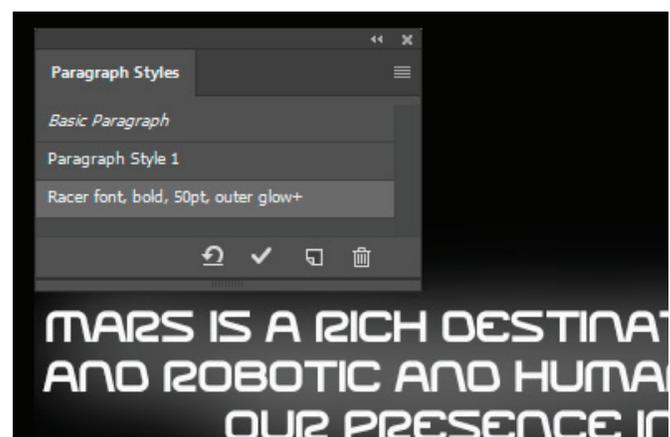


Figure 23 Paragraph Styles panel

Colored fonts and emojis

Adobe's new color fonts are a fun and easy way to enhance your design projects. While this experimental typeface is still early days, it points to exciting and innovative developments for new font technology for designers and graphic artists.

Photoshop comes with two fonts installed, Trajan Color Concept and EmojiOne Color. These fonts use built-in OpenType-SVG technology (*OpenType* is a format for scalable computer fonts, *SVG* stands for Scalable Vector Graphics). This new standard changes font appearance by using color and pattern effects built right into the font file (**Figure 24**). Download the emoji file used in [this step-by-step section here](#). Learn more about [OpenType-SVG here](#) and test out color fonts on this [demo page](#).



Figure 24 Color fonts and emoji in Photoshop

Color fonts like Trajan Color Concept and EmojiOne Color appear just like typical fonts in Photoshop's font menus. The Trajan Color Concept font allows you to choose from nineteen different colors and textures. Using Emoji fonts, you can include various colorful and graphical characters, such as smileys, flags, street signs, animals, people, food, landmarks in your documents. You can also use the Glyphs panel to preview and insert color fonts and emoji into your document.

To use OpenType SVG fonts:

1. Select the Type tool and either drag to create either a paragraph layer, or click to create point-text type layer.
2. Set the font to an OpenType SVG font. These fonts are marked with an OpenType symbol and "SVG" within the font list (**Figure 25**).

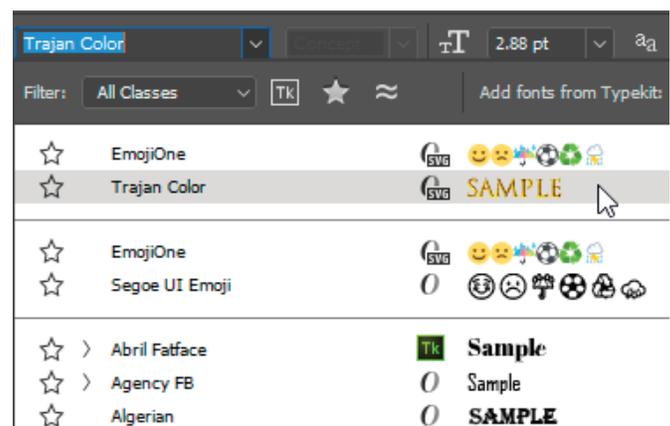


Figure 25 Font menu with OpenType SVG font selected

3. If not already open, select **Window > Glyphs** to view the **Glyphs Panel (Figure 26)**.
4. Type using the keyboard or select specific glyphs using the Glyphs Panel.
5. To change the color of the individual letters, use the Glyphs panel scroll bar to review other options and double-click to change the color.

You can also use the text cursor to select individual letters. This reveals a pop-up selection panel where you can choose from the available letter color variations (Figure 27).



Figure 26 Glyphs panel

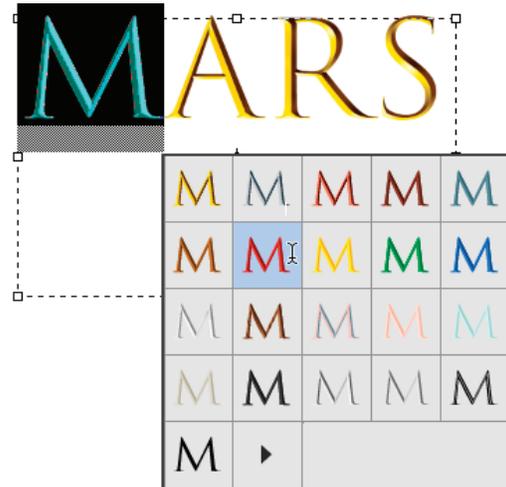


Figure 27 Select color font using pop-up selection panel

How to add a watermark to images

When showing others your work, or the work of others, it can be good idea to apply a watermark to images so intellectual property is protected. A *watermark* is a partly visible message that marks the image as belonging to you or giving credit to the appropriate creator.

You can apply a watermark in several ways. Most of these involve placing the watermark in a layer above the image itself and then formatting the watermark's layer so the image is visible through the watermark. One way to format the layer is by reducing its opacity. *Opacity* refers to a layer's degree of transparency. You set layer opacity through the Layer Style dialog box.

Adding a watermark to an image:

1. Open an image to which you'd like to add a watermark
2. Select the Type tool from the Tools panel.

When you select the Type tool, the Options bar changes to the Type options bar. The Type options bar should appear at the top of the workspace (**Figure 28**). If you do not see the Type options bar, choose **Window > Options**.

3. In the Type options bar, set a font family, font style, size, alignment, and color for the text. Make the font size relatively big and the font color relatively contrasting (dark on a light background, or light on a dark background), so readers will be able to see the text over the image.

4. Drag on the image to draw a text box.
5. Click in the text box you've created and type a copyright message, such as "Photo credit: NASA" and adjust the fonts as needed.

Next, you're going to make the message translucent so viewers can still see the image. You'll do so by changing the style of the type layer.

6. Choose **Layer > Layer Style > Blending Options**. The Layer Style dialog box opens (**Figure 29**).

Note: You can also double-click on the layer in the Layers panel to open the **Layer Style** dialog box.

7. Select the **Preview** option.

This option lets you view the effects of your changes as you make them.

8. Drag the **Opacity** slider to the left until you are satisfied with the visibility of the copyright message.

9. Select **OK** to close the **Layer Style** dialog box. The watermark appears over the image (**Figure 30**).

Observe that the image is still partly visible through the text. This is because you reduced the text's opacity.

Images courtesy NASA,

<https://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/imagegallery/index.html>

For more information

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Figure 28 Tools panel

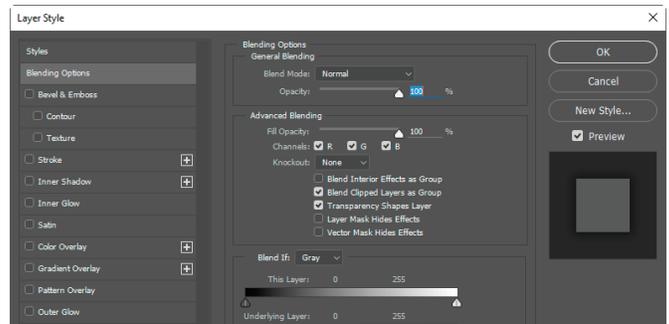


Figure 29 Paragraph Style Options dialog box

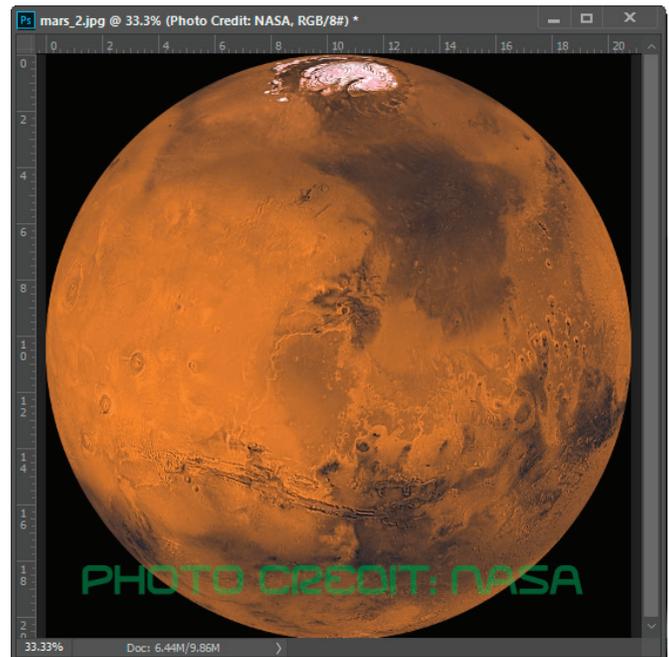


Figure 30 Watermarked image



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