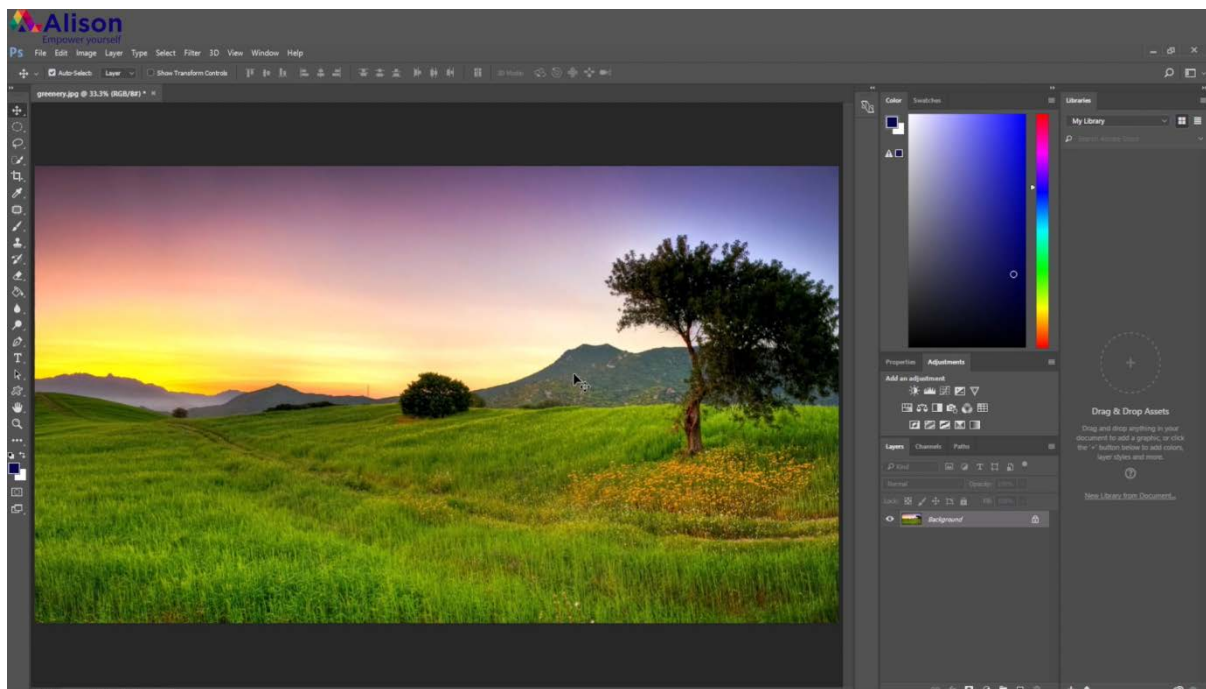


Topic 3 - The Photoshop Interface

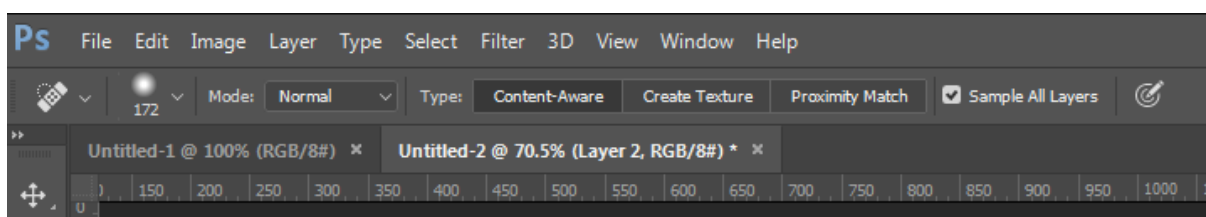
Learning Outcomes

In this lesson, we will look at the Photoshop interface and look at the various ways in which you can set the layout in the best way for your work. By the end of this lesson, you will be much more comfortable when you are customizing your Photoshop interface.



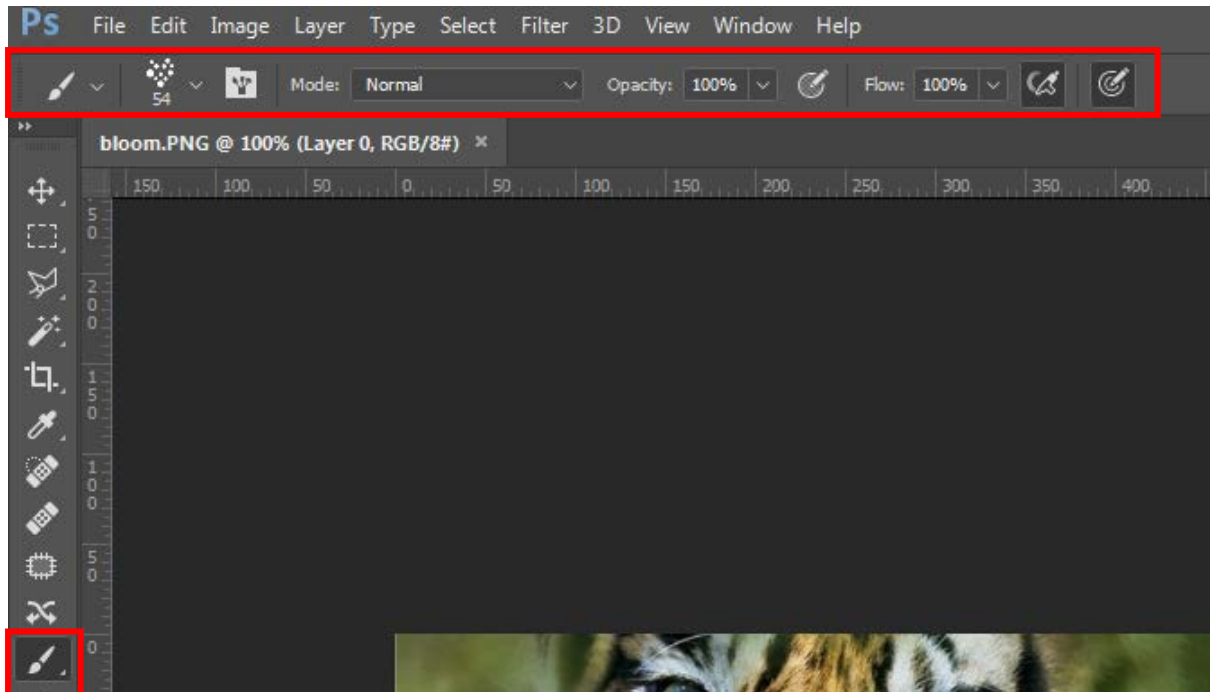
Photoshop interface

Let's take a few moments to familiarize ourselves with the Photoshop interface. Across the top we have all of our different menu items, and they're grouped together by topics such as Layer or Type, or Select.



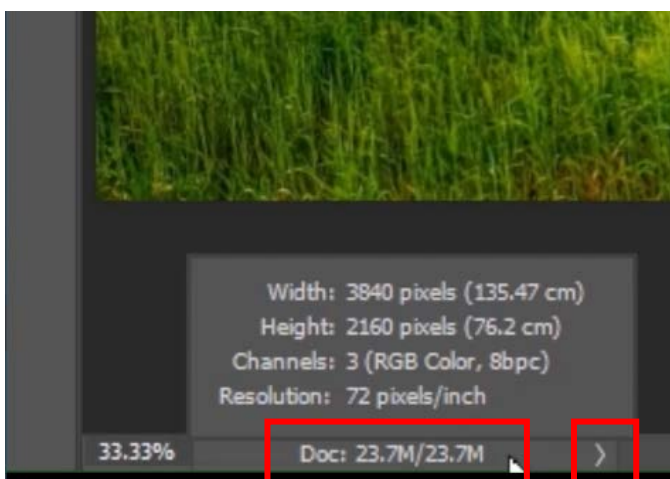
Photoshop and Lightroom for Photographers

On the left-hand side, we have all of our different tools, and when we click on any of those tools, you can see that the options for those tools appear in the options bar. In the centre is the image preview.



We can see the photograph, and we can see status info or Meta data, at the bottom of the window. If I click on this, we can see Width, Height, Channel, and Resolution, and if I click on the chevron, we can choose different items to preview.

On the right-hand side, we have a number of different panels with all of their different adjustments. We will look at some of these items a little later.

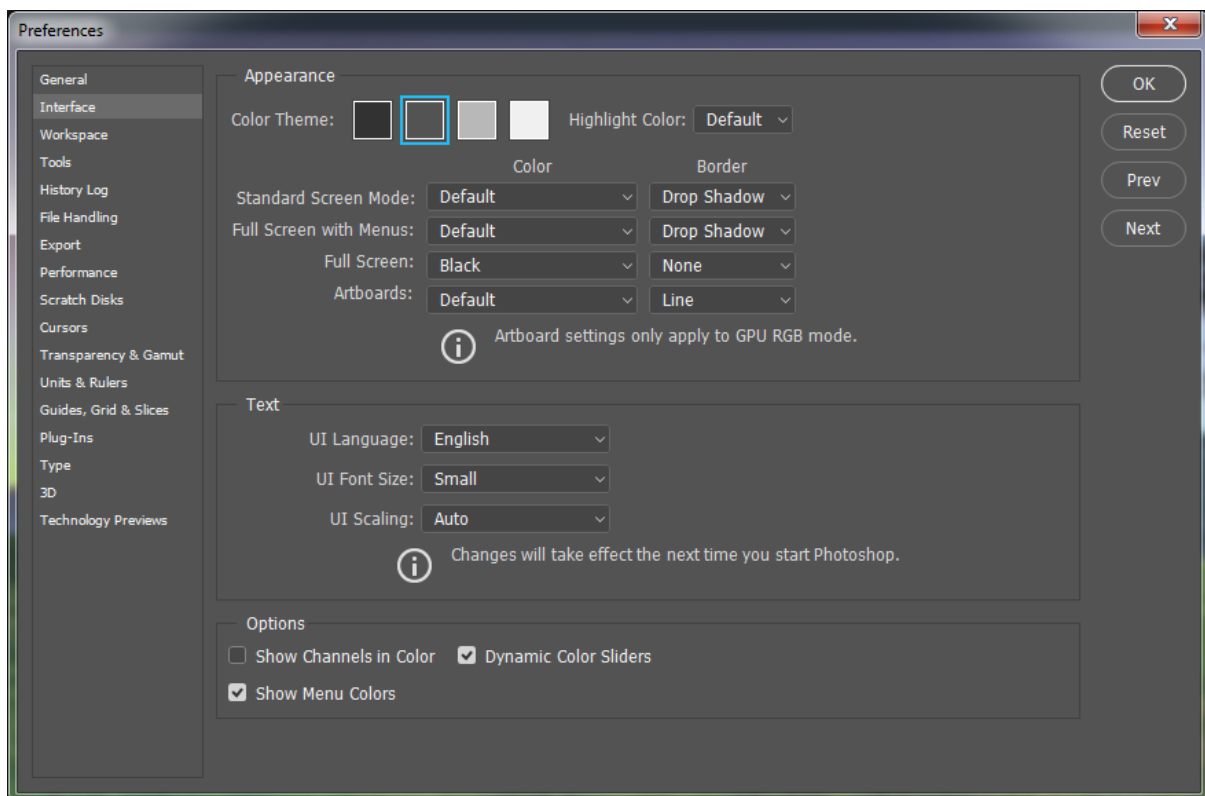


For now, I just want to make sure that we're all familiar with the interface, which will really help us get the most out of navigating the Photoshop environment.



Photoshop and Lightroom for Photographers

On the right hand side we have a number of different panels with all of their different adjustments. We will look at some of these items a little later. For now, I just want to ensure that we are all familiar with the interface which will really help us get the most out of navigating the Photoshop environment. It can be a little tricky and overwhelming perhaps, to begin with, but once you have had a little bit of practice it's really easy.



We can change the Colour Theme for the interface by going under the Photoshop menu, choosing Preferences, and then Interface. On Windows, it'd be the Edit menu and then Preferences and Interface. There are four different Colour Themes to choose from. There's one that is darker than the default, the default setting, and then two that are lighter. For each one of these different Colour Themes, we can set the colour that's displayed around the image that we have open as well as the border.

Right now, it's set to Drop Shadow, and I can see a drop shadow around the image. If I prefer I can set that to Line or I could set it to None. I can also choose a different Highlight Colour. If I wanted to change my highlight to blue for example, that might make it easier to see what's selected on the Layers panel.



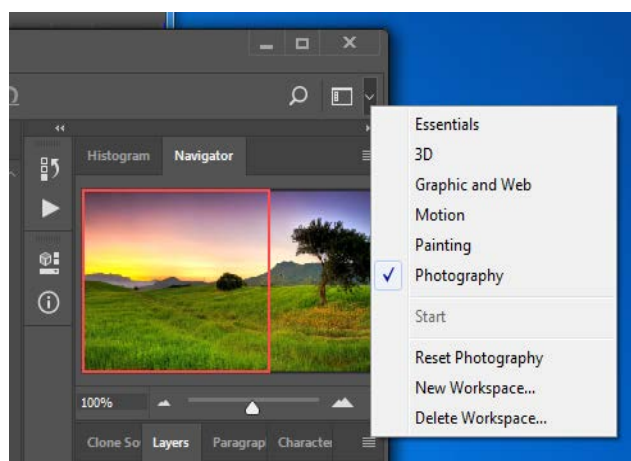
Photoshop and Lightroom for Photographers

For now, I'll go ahead and reset that to the default, and I'm going to switch back to the default Colour Theme. In the Text area, you can change the UI Font Size, and make this larger if you want to, but notice that the changes will not take effect until the next time you quit and then restart Photoshop.

This can be useful if you're using Photoshop on a touch device such as a Surface Pro, because it enlarges the text in the tabs, making them easier to tap. Let's go ahead and close the Preferences by clicking OK. If you wanted to change the colour surrounding the image, but you didn't want to go back into the Preferences, you can always right-click and then select a colour from the list, or choose a custom colour.

For now, I'll leave this to default. Now, your tools and your panels are relatively easy to modify, but for this course, due to the fact that we have an emphasis on Digital Photography, we should start by making sure that we're all working with the same setup.

We'll look at the panels a little later, but for now, let's set the workspace by using the workspace picker and choosing Photography.



Photoshop and Lightroom for Photographers

The Essentials option is generally chosen by default. We can also make sure that all of our tools are set the same by right-clicking on the icon for the tool in the option bar and then choosing either Reset Tool for that specific tool, or Reset All Tools.

I'll go ahead and reset all the tools to the default settings. This is a great tool to try if, say one of your tools isn't working like you think it should. Of course, you can choose whatever interface options you want, but I find that setting the application to full screen and keeping the Photography workspace option on helps to ensure that the workload moves faster. Also, by selecting a darker interface, I find that I experience much less eye strain when working long hours. This is important when you begin to work on more complex projects.



Photoshop and Lightroom for Photographers

What have we learned today? A Summary

So, what have we learned in this lesson? We have had a good introduction into how we can navigate the interface of Photoshop. We have also learned how you can customise the interface and set the layout, in the best way for your work.

