

Photoshop Layers

Images in Photoshop are built up of **layers**. Understanding how these work will make using Photoshop much easier.

The Layers pane is in the **bottom right** of the screen.

Selected layer. Make sure you have the right layer selected if you're trying to edit something

The order of layers is important. This controls how different layers overlap and what shows up

Untick the eye to hide a layer. Hiding helps to check what is on each layer.

Transparent layer

Bin – select a layer and click the bin to delete a layer

Use Photoshop layers to build up complex images or to combine text and icons or logos onto a bigger image. To create a transparent background you first need to unlock the Background layer.

Text layer

Image layers

Background layer

Padlock = locked layer. To unlock **double click** the padlock and **OK** the pop up box

New Layer dialog box

If you can't see the Layers pane:
Window > Workspace > Essentials (Default)
This will reset the layout and give you Layers back again

Saving Files:
When you save as a Photoshop file (a **PSD** file type) you keep the layers. This is great for continuing to edit your work, but PSD files can't really be used for anything else. Saving as a **PNG** or **JPEG** will flatten the layers and create a single layer image.