

MAKE TEXT WRAP around a subject

In Photoshop, you can type text in several ways. When you type, the text is placed on a type layer and the words remain editable until you rasterize, convert the type layer to a shape layer, or flatten the layer. You can then scale, skew, or rotate the text to fit a design. You can control the flow of the characters you type within a bounding box by typing text as a paragraph, either horizontally or vertically. For text in a rectangular shape, you can use the Type tool to drag diagonally and define a bounding area and then click and type the text. Typing text as a paragraph is useful for creating brochures, scrapbooks, or various design projects. Although Photoshop is not a page-layout program, you can still make text wrap around an object by using custom shapes as text bounding boxes or by creating a shape to use as a container for text. You can drag out any solid shape selected from the Custom Shape picker using the Custom Shape tool and type into the shape as a bounding box. You can also use the Pen tool to create an original path to use as the bounding box. You can then fill the shape with paragraph text to create unique visual effects.

1 Click the Pen tool or the Freeform Pen tool depending on the intended design.

2 Click the Paths button in the Options bar.

3 Click and drag with the Freeform Pen tool to create the text container.

Note: If you chose the Pen tool in step 1, click along an area with the Pen tool to create the container.

4 Click the starting point to close the shape.

5 Click the Type tool.

6 Select the font style, size, color, and alignment.

7 Move the cursor inside the shape.

The cursor appears as an I in parentheses ().

8 Click inside the shape. Note: If you click the shape line rather than inside the shape, the cursor appears as an I with a line across it () and the text then follows the line rather than stays inside the shape.

A dotted bounding box surrounds the shape.

9 Type the text until the shape is full. Click the Commit button. Click the Move tool. Click and drag in the shape to reposition it on the page if necessary.

10 Click the Background layer in the Layers panel to view the text without the outline of the shape.

WARP TYPE for a fun effect

You can create many different effects with type by warping the letters into various shapes. Although you can warp text on a rasterized layer, the letters lose their sharp edges and appear fuzzy. Using Photoshop's Warp Text feature gives text a completely new look and keeps the text sharp-edged and editable. Type the text and then use the Warp Text dialog box to transform it. You can select from a variety of warp styles and use the sliders to alter the look. You can control the direction of the warp as well as the size of the letters. Because the warp style is an attribute of the type layer, you can change the style at any time by reselecting the layer with the Type tool and opening the Warp Text dialog box. As long as the text is on an editable type layer, you can change the letters and color them individually. With the text on a separate layer, you can apply any layer styles before or after warping the text.

1 In a new blank document or on an open image, click the Type tool.

2 Select the font family, style, size, alignment, and color.

3 Click in the document and type the text.

4 Click the Warp Text button

The Warp Text dialog box appears.

5 Click here and select a warp style such as Flag

The text in the image changes to match the style selected.

6 Click and drag the Bend slider to change the amount of warp.

- 7 Click and drag the Horizontal Distortion slider to adjust the direction of the effect.
 - 8 Click and drag the Vertical Distortion slider to change the effect.
 - 9 Click OK to commit the warp.
 - 10 Click the Commit button to apply the text. The style of warp and changes to the text are committed.
- You can change the text color and style; see the tip section for more information.

ADD PERSPECTIVE TO TYPE and keep it sharp

When you warp a type layer, the letters always bend the shape to some degree, even if you set the Bend slider to 0 in the Warp Text dialog box. You can use the Edit menu's Transform submenu to scale, rotate, skew, or flip the text; however, the Perspective function is unavailable for a type layer. If you rasterize the layer, turning the letters into pixels, and then use the Perspective function to create the illusion of text disappearing into the distance, the characters blur as you change the angles. You can, however, add realistic perspective to type and preserve the crisp edges by converting the type layer to a shape layer. Converting type to shapes changes the type layer into a layer with a colored fill and a linked vector mask showing the outline of the letters. The outline is actually a temporary path and appears in the Paths panel as well. The text is no longer editable, but you can alter the vector mask, modify the paths, add layer styles, and use all the transformation tools to change the look.

- 1 In a new blank document, click the Type tool.
- 2 Select the font family, style, size, justification, and color.
- 3 Click and drag an area in the image and type the text.
- 4 Click the Commit button.
- 5 Click Layer. 6 Click Type. 7 Click Convert to Shape.

The type layer in the Layers panel changes to a fill and vector mask. Note: The type may appear jagged if the vector mask remains selected.

8 Click the vector mask to deselect it.

9 Click Edit. Click Transform. Click Perspective.

The text has a bounding box with anchor points. Click any of the corner anchors and drag to change the shape of the text. Click the Commit button. The text retains its sharp edges even as it appears in a perspective plane.

Create a PHOTO-FILLED TITLE

You can easily create mood-inspiring or memory evoking titles for a photo or album page by making a photograph fill the letters. Photoshop includes four different Type tools: the Horizontal and Vertical Type tools and the Horizontal and Vertical Type Mask tools. When you use the Type Mask tools, Photoshop automatically creates a selection in the shape of the letters. However, using the regular Type tools to create photo-filled titles gives you more control over the design and makes it easier to see the area of the photo that will be cut out by the letters.

Filling text or any other object with a photograph or other image is one of the many collage and masking techniques in Photoshop. You type text and use a clipping mask to clip the photograph so that it shows only through the letters and mask the rest of the photo. Because the letters are on an editable type layer, you can change the text even after the letters are filled with the image. You can also add a drop shadow or emboss the type layer to make the letters stand out.

1 Open a photograph to use as the base photo.

2 Click the Type tool.

3 Select the font family, style, and justification. The size will be readjusted when you transform the text in step 5.

Note: Thick sans serif fonts work best for this effect.

4 Click in the image and type the text.

5 Press (Ctrl) and click and drag the transformation anchors to stretch the type.

6 Click the Commit button.

7 Click and drag the Background layer over the New Layer button to duplicate it.

8 Click and drag the Background copy layer above the type layer.

9 Click Layer.

10 Click Create Clipping Mask.

The Background copy layer is indented with an arrow in the Layers panel, but the image does not change.

11 Click the New Layer button to create a new empty layer named Layer 1. Click and drag the new empty layer below the type layer. Press D to reset the foreground and background colors.

12 Press (Ctrl+Backspace) to fill the layer with white.

The photo appears to fill the letters on a white background.

13 Click the Move tool. Click the Background copy layer to select it. Click and drag in the image to move the photo into position inside the letters. The photo is repositioned within the letters, creating an attractive photo title.

* Click the type layer to select it. (Click the Add a Layer Style button () to add a drop shadow and Bevel and Emboss layer effect.