

Digital Photos:

Online Editing Tips & Tools

Useful photo editing terms:

- **Burn:** A tool that allows you to darken a specific area of an image.
- **Contrast:** The difference between the darkest and lightest parts of your image. High contrast has sharp differences between black and white low contrast is mostly gray.
- **Crop:** To cut out the parts of an image you don't want or need.
- **Exposure:** How strong the highlights-the brightest parts of the picture-are in your image.
- **Overlay:** Taking another image and merging it with yours to add new textures or effects.
- **Saturation:** Changes how bright the colors are in an image.
- **Sharpen:** Artificial focus, used to try and fix blurry photos.
- **Touch Up:** Refers to a tool to remove blemishes and imperfections from images.
- **Opacity:** How transparent a layer is, or how much you can see through it.

Useful photo editing tips:

- **Organize your photos** - Before scanning, organize your photos and slides and negatives, etc. into logical groups. This will make renaming and labeling them much easier later on.
- **Clean your photos** - Using a soft photography or makeup brush, gently clean your photos. Any dirt or smudges will be visible in your scans.
- **Select your DPI (dots per inch)** - 300 DPI is recommended for photos, slides or negatives need a DPI of at least 2,400. Images for the Web or sharing via email/Internet, a DPI of 72 acceptable.
- **Rename your digital files** - Your scans, conversion files will likely have a numerical name which tells you nothing about the file content. Example: namelocationyear.jpg
- **Edit your images** - Using photo-editing software, view each image, cropping out bits you don't want, straightening slightly crooked images and using autocorrect and color correction when necessary.
- **Backup your files** - Burn your files to a CD, DVD, and external hard drive or to the cloud. You can typically save about 1,200 images to a CD and close to 7,000 on a DVD why you save them as JPG files.



Pixlr Express
www.pixlr.com/express

Who it's for:

People who want to make quick edits to their pictures and get out.

Unique features:

Effects: Extensive selection of color & contrast filters
Large selections of overlay and border textures: can blend with your picture to add visual interest.

When you're done, you can:

Save to your computer

Is it free?

Yes, and no registration is required.



Photoshop Express
www.photoshop.com

Who it's for:

People who want to be able to do more fine-tuned editing of their photos.

Unique features:

Powerful touchup tool: for removing blemishes
Can adjust shadows and highlights in just part of picture: burn and dodge tools allow for more detailed adjustment.

When you're done, you can:

Save to your computer
Share to Photoshop.com, Facebook, Picasa, Flickr, and Photobucket.

Is it free?

Yes, though you'll have to create a free account to share photos on other services and save them on Photoshop.com.



PicMonkey
www.picmonkey.com

Who it's for:

People who want to make their photos fun (and former Picnik users).

Unique features:

Themes: seasonal special features—zombies for Halloween, etc.
Cosmetic touchups: can make people skinnier, add color to hair, blush to face, etc.

When you're done, you can:

Save to your computer

Is it free?

Yes, but there are certain features which are "Royale Premium," which you'll eventually have to pay to use.

WHERE TO GET MORE HELP:

- **At IPPL:** Come to more classes or learn on your own using Lynda.com under databases at ippl.info
- **Pixlr support:** <http://support.pixlr.com/pixlr>
- **Photoshop learning:** <http://photoshop.com/learn>
- **PicMonkey help:** <http://help.picmonkey.com>