

# Layers in Photoshop

Once we have a handle on making selections in Photoshop we need to do something with that 'selected' art. Layers give us the control when we composite pieces of art together, and give us the flexibility to go back and make changes. A layer is simply one item stacked on top of another.

## The Layer Window

**1. Normal Layer:** Where your image layer is stored.

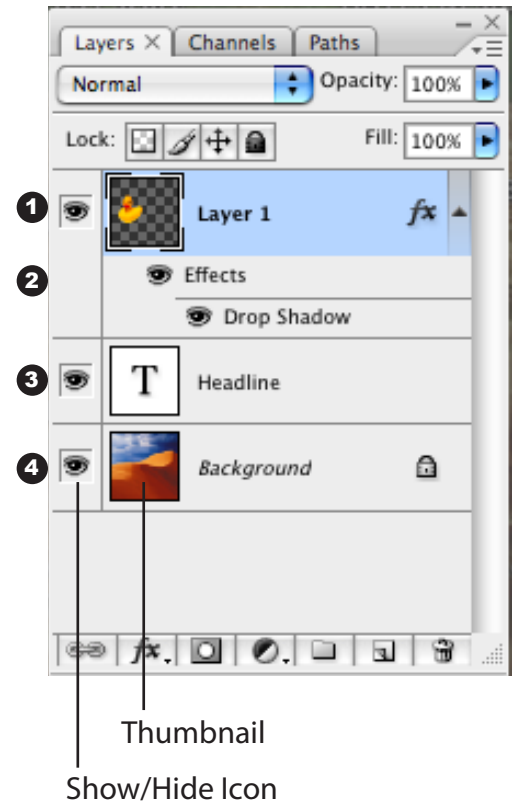
**2. Layer Effects:** Special effects applied to your image layer. Noted by the little *fx*. Each effect will be listed. Here only the drop shadow is used, multiple effects may be used at once.

**3. Type Layer:** The same as an image layer, except this layer contains type that can be edited (you change character, color, font or size).

**4. Background:** Always locked, cannot be moved or have layer effects applied to it. The little icon of the padlock on the right, indicates it is locked. Can be changed into a regular layer by simply double-clicking on the thumbnail, naming and clicking *OK*.

**Thumbnail:** A small picture of the layer's content.

**Show/Hide Icon:** If the eye is showing, that layer is visible. Click on the eye icon to hide the layer. It is still there, but invisible until you click on the eye icon again.



## Layer Features

**1. Blending mode:** Changes the way the layers interact with each other. Experiment with the different modes.

**2. Layer opacity:** Adjusts how transparent each layer is. 0 is completely transparent, 100 is completely opaque.

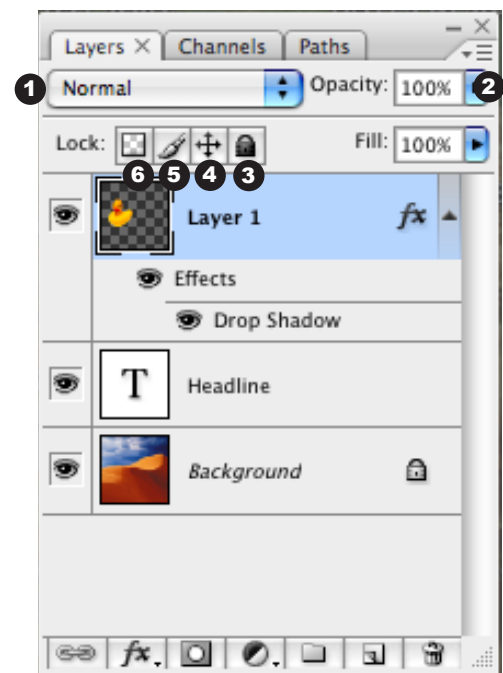
### LOCK ICONS:

**3. Lock all:** If the box is checked the layer is totally protected from any editing.

**4. Lock Position:** You can make any changes except for moving the image.

**5. Lock Image pixels:** You cannot draw on this layer if checked.

**6. Lock transparent:** You can paint on this layer but not where it is transparent.



**1. Delete Layer:** Will delete an entire layer. Either Drag the thumbnail to the icon or select the layer\* and click on the trash can (delete icon). (\*Layer 1 is currently selected)

**2. New Layer:** Click to add a new blank layer. Or drag an existing layer thumbnail to create a duplicate.

**3. Create a new group:** Allows you to organize your layers into folders.

**4. New Adjustment layer:** Allows non-destructive adjustment of colors to a layer. (Can be undone anytime, even after closing document)

**5. Layer mask:** Allows you to paint away parts of your layer without damaging your original image.

**6. Layer styles:** Special effects for your layers.

**7. Link layers:** Links selected layers to that they stay together (can use layer sets to do similar things)

