

EXERCISE PREVIEW



EXERCISE OVERVIEW

In this exercise, you'll combine two separate photos. The first image features a man against a boring background. To make the composition more interesting, you'll cut him out (often called silhouetting) and place him in front of the second image.

1. Go to **File > Open**.

From the **Photoshop Elements Class** folder, open the files **baseball.jpg** and **security.tif**. (You can select multiple files that are not adjacent to one another by doing a **Cmd-click** (MAC) or **Ctrl-click** (WINDOWS) on each file.)

2. Make sure **security.tif** is the active document.
3. Choose the **Magic Wand** tool (). (You may have to click the **Quick Selection** tool () to see it in the **Options** bar at the bottom of the screen.)

NOTE: The Magic Wand is a selection tool that recognizes color variations. When you click on an area of the image with the Magic Wand, all adjacent areas of similar color will be selected.

4. In the **Options** bar, set the **Tolerance** to **20**. This makes the Magic Wand pickier about which colors are "similar enough" to be part of the selection. Lower numbers mean fewer colors, and therefore less of the image will be selected.
5. Click on part of the green background. You'll find that a large part of it becomes selected, but that there are many parts of the background that are not yet selected.
6. Go to the **Options** bar at the bottom of the screen. Near the left, you'll find a row of four similar icons. Currently, the first icon, **New selection** (), is highlighted. Click on the second icon, **Add to selection** ().

7. Click on another section of the green background. The original selection remains, and a new selection is added to it.
8. Continue clicking on the green background until all of it is selected. Don't forget the areas between the railings!

NOTE: If part of the man or the railings becomes selected, just use **Cmd-Z** (MAC) or **Ctrl-Z** (WINDOWS) to **undo** as many steps as you need to. Then try clicking on a different section of the background with the **Magic Wand** tool (). You can also change the Tolerance to a lower number to make the Magic Wand "pickier."

9. Choose **Select > Inverse**. Instead of having the background selected, you now have everything **except** the background selected.
10. Use **Cmd-C** (MAC) or **Ctrl-C** (WINDOWS) to **copy** the selected area.
11. Go into the **Window** menu and choose **baseball.jpg** to make it the active document. Alternately, click on the **Photo Bin** at the bottom left of your screen, and **double-click** on the thumbnail for **baseball.jpg**
12. Use **Cmd-V** (MAC) or **Ctrl-V** (WINDOWS) to **paste** the copied image onto this image.
13. Go to your **Layers** panel. If it's not already open, use the **Window** menu to open it.
Notice that the content that you've pasted has been automatically placed onto a new layer named **Layer 1**.
14. **Double-click** directly on the name **Layer 1** and rename it **security**.
15. From the Tools Panel, choose the **Move** tool ().
16. Drag the security guard down to line up his bottom edge with the bottom of the document.

CLEANING UP

1. You may find that tiny bits of the green background show up at some of the guard's edges.
2. Choose the **Eraser** tool ().
3. In the **Options** bar, choose a fairly small, hard-edged brush.
4. Use the **Eraser** to carefully brush over the green bits on the edges of the guard's sleeves. (It may help to zoom in for this part.)

Note that the areas of the security layer that you've erased become transparent.

5. When you're satisfied with the results, do a **File > Save As**.
 - Under **Format** choose **Photoshop**.
 - Name it **yourname-baseball.psd**.

NOTE: Most of the Photoshop class files have been saved as JPEG documents to conserve file size, but you'll always want to save the master copy of your image as a **Photoshop** document (.psd). This ensures that the image retains the maximum amount of editability, such as multiple layers. It also maintains the image's quality. **JPEG** compression **reduces** the image quality in order to make the file smaller.
