



## Dictionary Definition Word Art

by Carla Shute

Create dictionary definition style word art for your digital projects using two fonts and a keypad shortcut.

### For this tutorial you will need:

- A serif font
- A script font
- Photoshop Elements or Adobe Photoshop

### Important Links:

- Find this [tutorial on our blog](#).
- [Terms of Use](#)
- Website: [www.DigitalScrapper.com](http://www.DigitalScrapper.com)
- [Facebook Business Page](#)
- [Facebook Community Group](#)
- [YouTube Channel](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

©2021 Digital Scrapper

### See What Others Are Creating

- Join & visit our [Community on Facebook](#).
- Search and post using hashtag **#DST** and/or **#dictionarywordart**

## Step 1: Prepare the Workspace

- Create a new 8x4 inch document (File > New > Blank File) at 300 ppi with a transparent background. (PS: Choose File > New.)
- Press Ctrl 0 (Mac: Cmd 0) to fit the image to your screen.
- Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to the default of black over white.

## Step 2: Create the Dictionary Word

- Get the Horizontal Type tool.
- In the Tool Options, open the Font Picker and choose a serif-style font. I'm using Alice which can be found for free at Font Squirrel.

Here are some examples of serif-style fonts:

Times New Roman  
Georgia  
Adobe Garamond Pro

- **Photoshop Elements Only:** Set the Size to 55, the Leading to Auto, and the Tracking to 0. The color chip should be black. Click on the Center Alignment icon.
- **Adobe Photoshop Only:** Set the Size to 55. Click on the Center Alignment icon. The color chip should be black. In the Character panel (Window > Character), set the Leading to Auto, and the Tracking to 0.
- On the document, click once slightly above the center of the document to place the cursor.
- Type a word or phrase you are going to define. I'm using the word "beautiful".
- Click the checkmark to commit the type.

beautiful

NOTE: A dictionary or dictionary website is a good resource for formal definitions and placement of interpuncts. An Interpunct indicates where to hyphenate a word or syllable breaks.

### **Mac Users Only:**

- To add the interpunct, click to place the cursor where you want the first break in your word to occur. For my word, I want the break between the u and t. Hold down the Opt key and press 8. You can use the numeric keypad or the number row on the main keyboard.
- To add the next interpunct, between the i and f in my example, click to place the cursor between the letters, and repeat the steps above.
- Repeat as necessary for your word or phrase.
- Press the checkmark to commit the type.

### **Windows Users WITH a Numeric Keypad Only:**

- To add the interpunct, click to place the cursor where you want the first break in your word to occur. For my word, I want the break between the u and t. Hold down the Alt key and press 7 on the numeric keypad.
- To add the next interpunct, between the i and f in my example, click to place the cursor between the letters, and repeat the steps above.
- Repeat as necessary for your word or phrase.
- Press the checkmark to commit the type.

### **Windows Users WITHOUT a Numeric Keypad Only:**

- Click to place the cursor where you want the first break in your word to occur. For my word, I want the break between the u and t. Add a space between the letters.
- Then place the cursor where you want the next break. In my example, I want the break between the i and f. Add a space between these letters.
- Click the checkmark to commit the type.
- To create the interpunct, hold down the Shift key and click in the center of the newly created space between the letters. I'm placing my cursor between the i and t. Note: Holding down the Shift key while placing the cursor will make sure the new type layer does not interfere with the previous type layer.
- **Photoshop Elements Only:** In the Tool Options, click on the Bold icon.
- **Adobe Photoshop Only:** In the Character panel (Window > Character), click on the Bold icon.
- Press the Period key. To reposition the period so it is centered in the space, hold down the Ctrl key and click and drag inside the bounding box.
- Click on the checkmark to commit the text.
- Press Ctrl J to create a duplicate layer.
- Get the Move tool.
- Hold the Shift key and click and drag the new layer to the next space created. My example is between the i and f. Note: Holding the Shift key will ensure the layers stay aligned vertically.
- In the Layers panel, click on the top layer to activate it.

- Holding down the Shift key, click on the bottom layer. Now all layers should be active.
- Click on the Create a New Group icon.
- Double click directly on the name of the Group and rename it beautiful. Note: By creating a group, all the contents of the group will stay aligned within the group.



### Step 3: Create the Definition Text

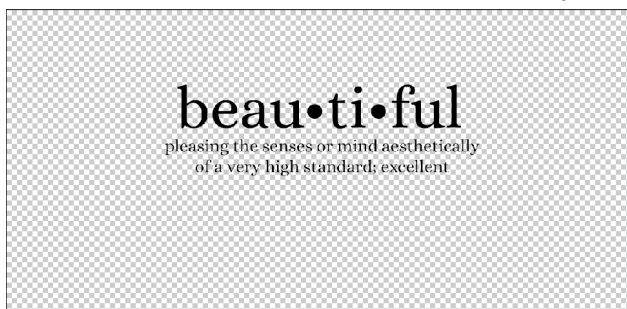
- In the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Layer icon.
- Get the Horizontal Type tool.
- In the Tool Options, make sure the serif font you used earlier is still active.
- **Photoshop Elements Only:** Set the Size to 16, the Leading to Auto, and the Tracking to 0. The color chip should be black. Click on the Center Alignment icon.
- **Adobe Photoshop Only:** Set the Size to 16. Click on the Center Alignment icon. The color chip should be black. In the Character panel (Window > Character), set the Leading to Auto, and the Tracking to 0.

Note: If you used the alternate method to create the interpuncts, in the Tool Options, click on the Bold icon to deselect it.

- On the document, click once below the center of your word to place the cursor.
- Type the definition of the word you are using. I'm going to type "pleasing the senses or mind aesthetically." on the first line and "of a very high standard; excellent." on the second line.

Note: To reposition the text, hold down the Ctrl key (Mac: Cmd key) and click and drag inside the bounding box

- Click the checkmark to commit the type.



## Step 4: Create the Background Word

- In the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Layer icon.
- Get the Horizontal Type tool.
- On the document, while holding down the Shift key, click once in the center of the document to place the cursor.
- In the Tool Options, open the Font Picker and choose a script-style font. I'm using Great Vibes. You can find the font Great Vibes for free at Font Squirrel.
- **Photoshop Elements Only:** Set the Size to 150, the Leading to Auto, and the Tracking to 0. The color chip should be black. Click on the Center Alignment icon.
- **Adobe Photoshop Only:** Set the Size to 150. Click on the Center Alignment icon. The color chip should be black. In the Character panel (Window > Character), set the Leading to Auto, and the Tracking to 0.
- Type the word or phrase you used in Step 2. I'm using the word "beautiful".
- Click the checkmark to commit the type.



- Get the Move tool.
- In the Layers Panel, click and drag the newly created layer to the bottom of the Layers panel.
- With the script type layer you just moved still active, lower the Opacity of the layer to about 30%.



## Step 5: Align the Centers

- In the Layers panel, the bottom layer should still be active.
- Holding down the Shift key, click on the top layer. Now all layers should be active.
- In the Tool Options, click on the Align Horizontal Centers (Middle) icon.



## Step 6: Save the Document

- To preserve the layers for later use, save the document (File > Save As) as a PSD file with a unique name. I recommend saving as a PSD file so you can make adjustments to the text.
- To create a flattened image, save the document (File > Save As) as a PNG file with a unique name. A PNG file will preserve the transparency of the background of your word art when adding it to your project.

Note: Photoshop users: Due to a recent update, to save your file as a PNG file, use File>Save a Copy.

Here is a layout I created using the beautiful word art. I love the simplicity of the page with the newly created word art.



Page & Photo by Carla Shute

Tutorial: Dictionary Definition Word Art by Carla Shute

Kit: Purple Passion by Aimee Harrison

Font: Alice, Great Vibes



Have fun creating word art using made-up words or words with special family meaning. Play with different fonts and text colors for variety. Here is a layout I created using the words Moosie Star. It's what my Grandfather called anyone who was dressed up or looked fancy.



Page by Carla Shute

Photo by Jim Flagg

Tutorial: Dictionary Definition Word Art by Carla Shute

Kits: Design Beautiful Pages Minimal Design Template 18 by Digital Scrapper; Sweet Hydrangea and Feeling Frosty by Aimee Harrison; Chasing Dragonflies and ScrapSimple Paper Edgers by Brandy Murry  
Fonts: Alice, Great Vibes