

# Removing People (or Objects) from Backgrounds Using Photoshop Elements 6

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(Remember: (1) “Command - z” (⌘ - z) to undo any step that you are not happy with!

(2) Need help? See Photoshop Elements Help under the pull down help menu.

**Step 1** – In upper right corner of window select **Edit** and **Full**. Select the **Quick Selection** tool in the Toolbox just above the T type tool. Adjust the size of the brush using the [ for smaller and ] for larger.

**Step 2** – Drag the brush around the inside edge of the person(s) or object(s) until you see the dotted lines have selected everything you want. If you get more than you want you may go over the area you want to deselect with a – (minus) brush. In the upper left of the window you can change the + (plus) setting of the brush to a – setting. It is better to have selected a little too much because you can always erase what you don’t want.

**Step 3** – Go to Select and Inverse and you will see the dotted lines shift from the object to outlining the background. Click Delete and the background should be replaced with a white background. If it is black or some other color you didn’t have the color chips set to the default of black foreground and white background.

**Step 4** – With the eraser brush cleanup any areas that you want to remove.

**Step 5** – With the magic eraser brush (on the eraser pull down widow) click on the white background. If it removed some areas that it shouldn’t have, restore with command-z and then reduce the tolerance to 5 (upper left corner). Then click on the background again.

**Step 6** – Open the new background photo. Have the two photos side by side. Click on the person/object with the Move tool (press v) and drag it to the background photo where it will become a layer on top of the background. If the object is too large press Command T to bring up the Free Transform bounding box then press and hold the Shift key and scale it down to size. Either double click on the object or press the enter key to lock in your resizing.

**Step 7** – If you see a halo effect around the object you may select the object’s layer and do some fine turning with the eraser tool.

**Step 8** – Be sure to do a “save as” and give it another name. Note that it will be saved as a .psd rather than a .jpg because you have 2 layers. You may do another save us and change the 2<sup>nd</sup> photo to a .jpg format. This will flatten the image. You can put the .jpg in your iPhoto library where you may email it or include in a photo album. Save the .psd version because you can continue to edit the object layer or add another layer or so.

Have fun!