Layers and Masks in PhotoShop and Elements

Our objective, tonight.

- Explain what layers and masks are.
- How to use them
- Try to answer all your questions about them
- Provide you with resources that will give you more in-depth instruction

So, it's going to be pretty simple and shallow instruction to begin.

We're not making any attempt to create art – just demonstrate the concepts

Because we don't know where you are in an understanding of the subject matter -

Discussion will be guided by your questions

Show of hands – experience with layers and masks

- What are layers?
    - o Think of transparancies
    - o Edits to the image
        - Allows adjustments of properties (luminance, color, contrast, etc.)
            - To the entire image or just selected parts of it
        - Allows edits with constructs such as blending modes
        - Allows advanced methods such as compositing
- Why would you want to use layers?
    - o At the most basic level – edit your image non-destructively allowing revisions
        - And, in concert with Smart Objects
            - Allow for changes in the edits after committing them
    - o Probably the most important reason is the ability to go back and re-do what you have done previously as long as you have not flattened the file.

So let's look an example of creating and using a simple layer.

With the orchid image

- Create a new layer
    - o Button,
    - o shft + ctrl + N
    - o Layer>New>Layer
    - o Mask can be added
        - Button
        - Layer>Layer Mask>[select type]
    - o Demonstrate
        - Patch Tool to make visual adjustments

- - - Clone tool to continue adjustments
- Show that original image is still intact
- Create a new Adjustment layer [Curves]
  - Adjustment layer button>select type
    - PS automatically puts layer mask on it
    - Alt+Layer mask button creates a black one
  - Layer>New Adjustment Layer>[select type]
  - Lower luminance with curves
    - Black brush to restore just the leaves to original luminance
- Create new adjustment layer [Hue/saturation]
  - Adjust color of the leaves
  - Invert the mask to black
  - Paint the effect in on the leaves
- Most importantly
  - Revisions can be made
  - Even after closing the file with Smart Objects

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yQsYziKvx9c&t=1358s Phlearn

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fDFMt5icRgI PixImperfect

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zAjWAJsVhe8 Photoshop Training Channel

https://helpx.adobe.com/photoshop/how-to/ps-layers-basics.html?playlist=/services/playlist.helpx/products:SG_PHOTOSHOP_1_1/learn-path:get-started/set-header:ccx-designer/playlist:ccl-get-started-1/en_us.json&ref=helpx.adobe.com

https://helpx.adobe.com/photoshop/how-to/layer-mask.html?playlist=/services/playlist.helpx/products:SG_PHOTOSHOP_1_1/learn-path:key-techniques/set-header:layer-masking-projects/playlist:topic/en_us.json&ref=helpx.adobe.com

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F0WlhTZNh2Y Elements

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xHjiqL0VYjs Elements

https://www.simonsezit.com/article/how-to-use-layers-in-adobe-photoshop-elements-2019-part-4-layer-masks/ Elements