

Important odds and ends

1. InDesign: preflighting as you work

Because InDesign files will eventually go to output, it is good practice to keep an eye on output issues, and possible errors. For this, one uses "Preflight". Also, the number of errors are always shown in the small strip at the bottom of your InDesign workspace.

If you have an error, go » [Windows](#) » [Output](#) » [Preflight](#). In the example shown right, there is an overset text error, meaning that a text box is too small for the actual text. You can double-click the error message to go to the error, and fix it.

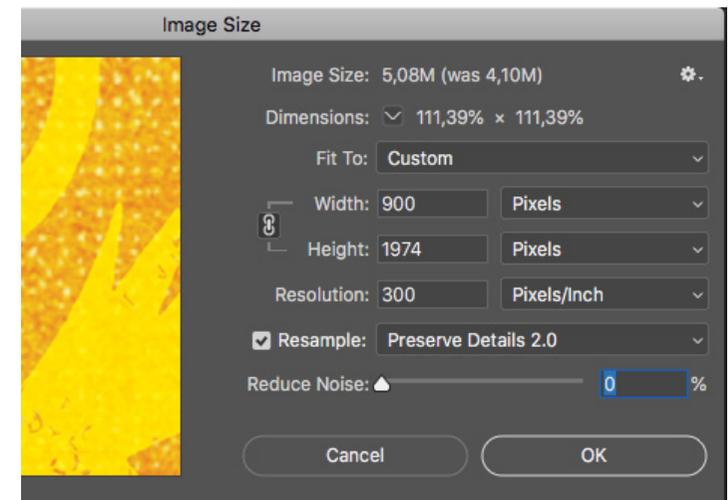
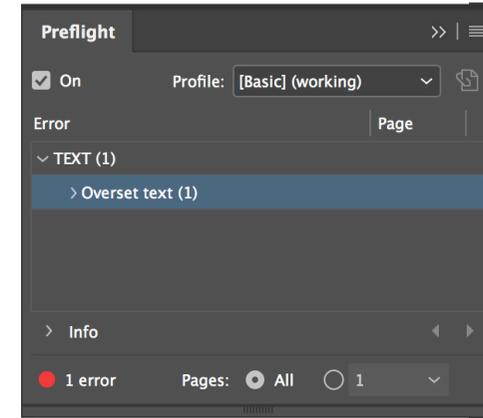
2. Photoshop: image size and settings for output

1. When InDesign is reading images (like JPGs) for output for professional printing, the actual **image resolution** generally needs to be at least 300 dpi. This can vary depending on the medium and format, for example for a large poster the required image resolution might be less. Find out the required printing specifications from your printer.

- DPI means "dots per inch", and here dots mean pixels.
One inch = 2,54cm, so 300 dpi = $300/2,54 = 118$ pixels per cm. So 120 is a good number.
- If an image is too small, one can sometimes get away with growing it in Photoshop, by maybe 10-20%. Use your judgement.
- To grow an image in Photoshop, go » [Image](#) » [Image Size...](#) When enlarging, note that you have a choice of "Resample" settings – so experiment. The new "Preserve Details 2.0" setting is usually particularly good – awesome in fact.

2. For professional offset printing, the **image mode** needs to be CMYK (» [Image](#) » [Mode](#)), with a **colour profile** depending on the paper, example "Coated FOGRA39" for coated paper (» [Edit](#) » [Convert to Profile...](#)).

- For screen (and web) one uses the RGB mode with the sRGB profile.
- Conventional office printers are usually so bad at rendering colour, that it does not matter what image mode or colour profile you use.



3. Packaging InDesign files

An InDesign file reads from images and renders fonts, so if you want to save your InDesign work to back it up, or to use on another computer, or to pass your work on to a colleague for further editing, you need to create a package, and the result is files in a directory. Go » [File](#) » [Package](#), and the rest is obvious.

4. Preparing a PDF for professional print

At your level of expertise, this is really simple (and has already been covered in this course). Go » [File](#) » [Export](#), and choose the "Adobe PDF (Print)" format option. The most common preset for professional printing is "PDF/X-1a:2001", and do not forget to correctly set the "Marks and Bleeds" to the specification or the printer.

5. Not covered, but easy and useful to learn...

1. **Acrobat** is included in the Adobe Creative Suite. This is a powerful application for working with PDFs. I use it for completing PDF forms (without having to print a form out and manually complete it), creating form-fields (to make an electronic form one can fill in), making a PDF file lighter, re-sequencing PDF pages, and for OCR (optical character recognition): converting text in an image to electronic text.
2. And then there is **Lightroom Classic**, which I have already talked about, and which is particularly powerful for working in camera RAW. The same "engine" is used in Photoshop » [Filter](#) » [Camera Raw Filter](#), so you already know much about how to use Lightroom. When working of photos (JTG images etc.), I use Lightroom Classic much more often than I use Photoshop. Furthermore, wherever possible I use Camera RAW. If your camera supports RAW then you should be using this too.
3. And then, of course, there is (what is confusingly called just) **Lightroom**, which can reside on your computer and on your mobile devices like on your smartphone. If you take a photo using your smartphone using Lightroom, your image can automatically synchronise via the Adobe Cloud, and within minutes (seconds) you can be editing your photo with your computer or tablet.