

Create an Animated GIF

Step 1: Create a new document: 600x200 pixels, white background. Save the documents as a Photoshop .PSD file. Name it “hello.psd”.

Step 2: Select the Type Tool. Choose the Adobe Garamond Pro font, size 150. Type the word “HELLO”. Be sure your text is left aligned.

Step 3: Open the Characters Palette and set the character tracking to 50. This will increase the separation between the letters.

Step 4: Select the Move Tool. Click on the background layer and ctrl+click on the HELLO layer to select both. On the Options bar, align vertical and horizontal centers.

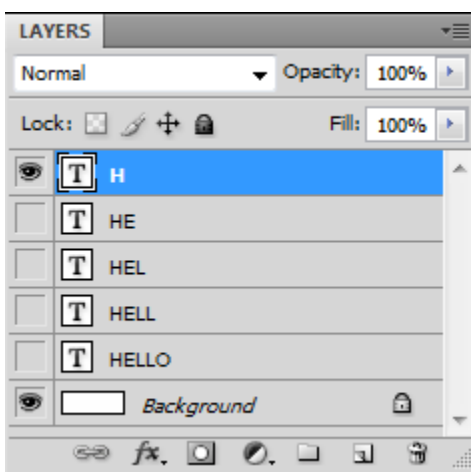
Step 5: Duplicate the HELLO layer 4 times.

Step 6: We’ll work from the top layer down and adjust visibility for each layer. Start by turning off visibility for all of the HELLO layers except the top.

Step 7: Select the Type Tool. Delete **ELLO** keeping just the **H** in that layer. The layer will automatically be renamed **H**.

Step 8: Turn off visibility on the top layer and turn on visibility on the layer beneath it (HELLO copy 3). Using the type tool, delete **LLO** keeping just the **HE**.

Step 9: Repeat these steps for the next 2 layers. This will give you 5 layers with 1-5 letters of the word HELLO.



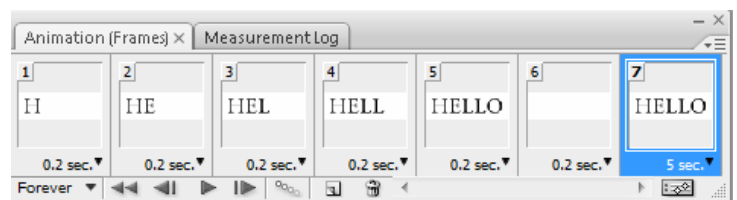
Step 10: Turn on visibility for the **H** and Background layers only. Open the Animation palette. Convert the view to Frame Animation.

Step 11: Set the frame timing to .2 seconds.

Step 12: Insert a frame. Turn off the **H** layer and turn on the **HE** layer. Continue to add frames and adjust visibility until you have 5 frames with successive letters.

Step 13: Add a frame of white (background). Add a 7th frame of the whole word. Set the timing of the 7th frame to 5 seconds and looping options to “forever”

Step 14: Use the Animation controls to play and stop the animation.



Step 15: Save your PSD document.

Step 14: Choose File > Save for Web and Devices. Select the 2-up tab. Under file options choose GIF, 256 colors. Save the GIF as hello.gif.

Step 15: Open hello.gif with Internet Explorer to see the animation.

Extra Credit

Step 16: Insert hello.gif into a PowerPoint presentation.

Step 17: Copy hello.gif to your cell phone and test it there.

Step 18: Re-create the GIF with different frame, timing and background options. Try a transparent background to see how the results change.