



by Jenifer Juris

## Secrets of Terrific Type

### Lesson 04-02: Justification—Photoshop

Now that we've covered alignment, it's time to move on to text justification.

Last time, we discussed that Alignment is how text lies between a set of margins.

This is not to be confused with Justification. Justification is when text is flush with BOTH margins, not just one.

Here is an example of a paragraph of text where one is center aligned and one is fully justified. The difference is clear and there will be times when using justified text is more advantageous.

#### Center

This paragraph is center aligned. Every line in this paragraph is centered between the margins.

#### Justified

This paragraph is fully justified. Every single line in this paragraph reaches to both margins.

But before we get into examples of when to use justification, let's go to PS and take a very quick look at the different justification options and how they work.

### Step One: Prepare the Workspace

I've already created a new document that is 12 inches by 12 inches at 300ppi with a white background.

Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips.

In the Menu Bar, choose Window > Character to open the Character panel.

Click on the Character panel Menu icon and choose Reset Character.

### Step Two: Add Type

Get the Horizontal Type tool. In the Tool Options, set the Font to Bodoni XT, the Size to 36 pts, and use Left Alignment.

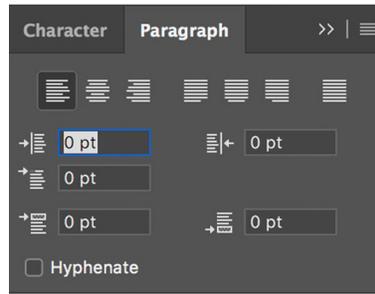
On the document, click and drag to create a text box.

Type in a paragraph of words. To save time, I'm going to paste in words I've already typed. Click the checkmark to commit.

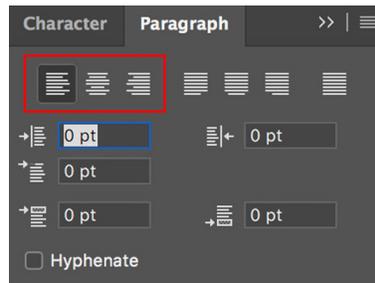
Winter, spring, summer, or fall. Do you have a favorite season? Mine used to always be fall but as I get older, I find that spring and summer are becoming my two favorite season's instead. The cold days and long nights make winter harder to enjoy. And since fall is the precursor to winter, I find I have less desire to see it arrive than before.

### Step Three: Access Paragraph Panel

Now in the Menu Bar, choose Window > Paragraph to open the Paragraph panel.



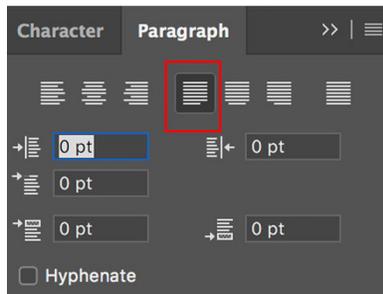
Notice that the first three icons are Alignment icons and right now, Left is the one that's turned on because that's what we used in the Type tool options.



But after the first three Alignment icons, we have four Justification icons. Let's click on each one to see the difference.

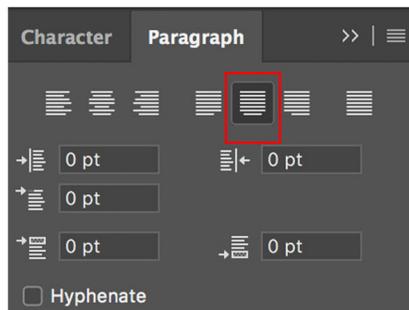
### Step Four: Use Justification Settings

The first one is called Justify Last Left. This means that for every line in the paragraph, except the last line, the text will be fully justified between both margins. But the last line, will be left aligned.



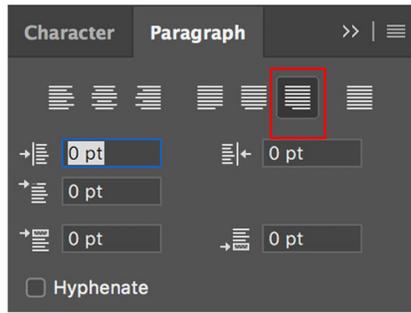
Winter, spring, summer, or fall. Do you have a favorite season? Mine used to always be fall but as I get older, I find that spring and summer are becoming my two favorite season's instead. The cold days and long nights make winter harder to enjoy. And since fall is the precursor to winter, I find I have less desire to see it arrive than before.

The next icon is called Justify Last Centered. This means that every line but the last will be fully justified but the last line will be center aligned.



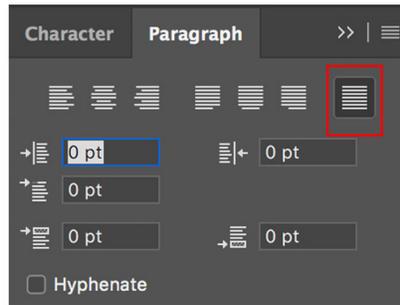
Winter, spring, summer, or fall. Do you have a favorite season? Mine used to always be fall but as I get older, I find that spring and summer are becoming my two favorite season's instead. The cold days and long nights make winter harder to enjoy. And since fall is the precursor to winter, I find I have less desire to see it arrive than before.

The third icon is called Justify Last Right. Again, this means that every line but the last will be fully justified but the last line will be right aligned.



Winter, spring, summer, or fall. Do you have a favorite season? Mine used to always be fall but as I get older, I find that spring and summer are becoming my two favorite seasons instead. The cold days and long nights make winter harder to enjoy. And since fall is the precursor to winter, I find I have less desire to see it arrive than before.

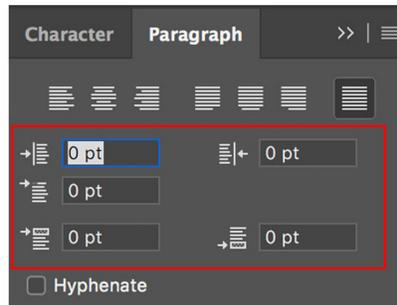
The last icon is called Justify All. This means that every line will be fully justified.



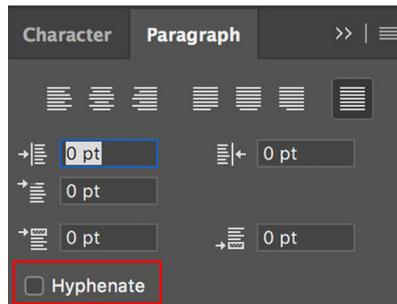
Winter, spring, summer, or fall. Do you have a favorite season? Mine used to always be fall but as I get older, I find that spring and summer are becoming my two favorite seasons instead. The cold days and long nights make winter harder to enjoy. And since fall is the precursor to winter, I find I have less desire to see it arrive than before.

### Step Five: Finish Paragraph Panel Review

The other icons in this panel have to do with indenting either the entire paragraph or the first line of a paragraph.

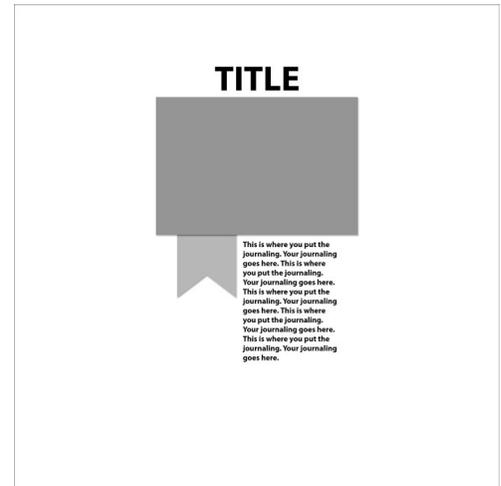


And don't forget this pesky Hyphenate option. Unless I'm writing a book and using PS to do it, I'm not the biggest fan of having the Hyphenate option turned on. Don't get me wrong, having it there is great. I'm just glad I have the ability to turn it off because I find I prefer to not use it most of the time.

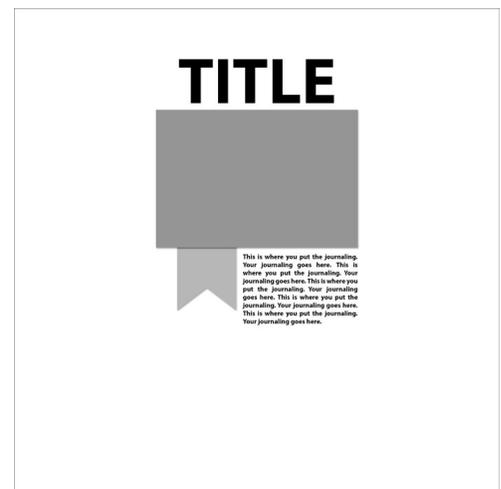


So now that we've seen HOW to use the Justify options in PS, let's cover a few reasons why we might want to Justify our type.

Do you remember this template from the last video? In this first version, I've used my banner shape as my implied margin on the left side of my type. But, what if I want my type to have a straight implied margin on the right side as well? Well, we can use the Justify Last Left option to do this.



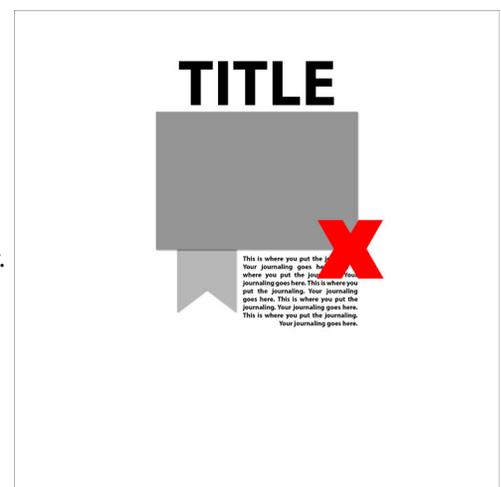
So here I've changed the text box to use Justified Last Left. My implied margin on the left is the banner, and my implied margin on the right is the right edge of the photo. I just LOVE the way this gives my design crisp, clean edges.



Let's cover a few do's and don'ts when it comes to Justifying type.

### #1. Do keep Alignment rules in mind when it comes to your last line of type.

In the example we just looked at, if I had used Justify Last Right, the last line would look like it was wrong. Think about it this way, if you wouldn't have used Right Alignment here, you shouldn't use Justify Last Right either. In this example, the journaling now gives the page an unbalanced look. It makes me feel like the page is going to tip the right which is not what we want.



## #2. Do be careful when using Justify All.

When using Justify All, the last line of your type can end up looking very weird if it is much shorter in length compared to the rest of the paragraph. Don't use Justify All if your last line looks like this. Change it to one of the other 3 Justify options. OR if you need to keep it Justify All, change the font size or paragraph size so that your last line has more words in it.



**This paragraph is set to Justify All. This means that all lines of type will be fully justified to both margins.**



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## #3. Don't leave one word alone in the last line of any paragraph if it can be helped.

While this is good advice for any paragraph, whether you're justifying the type or not, it especially stands out when you have justified the type. So, if possible, change the font size or paragraph width to prevent this from happening.



**This paragraph is set to Justify All. This means that all lines of type will be fully justified to both margins.**



**This paragraph is set to Justify All. This means that all lines of type will be fully justified to both margins.**

In the next video, we will take a look at our next project! We're going to create a Grid Style Postcard where we use text justification to make our design look its best!