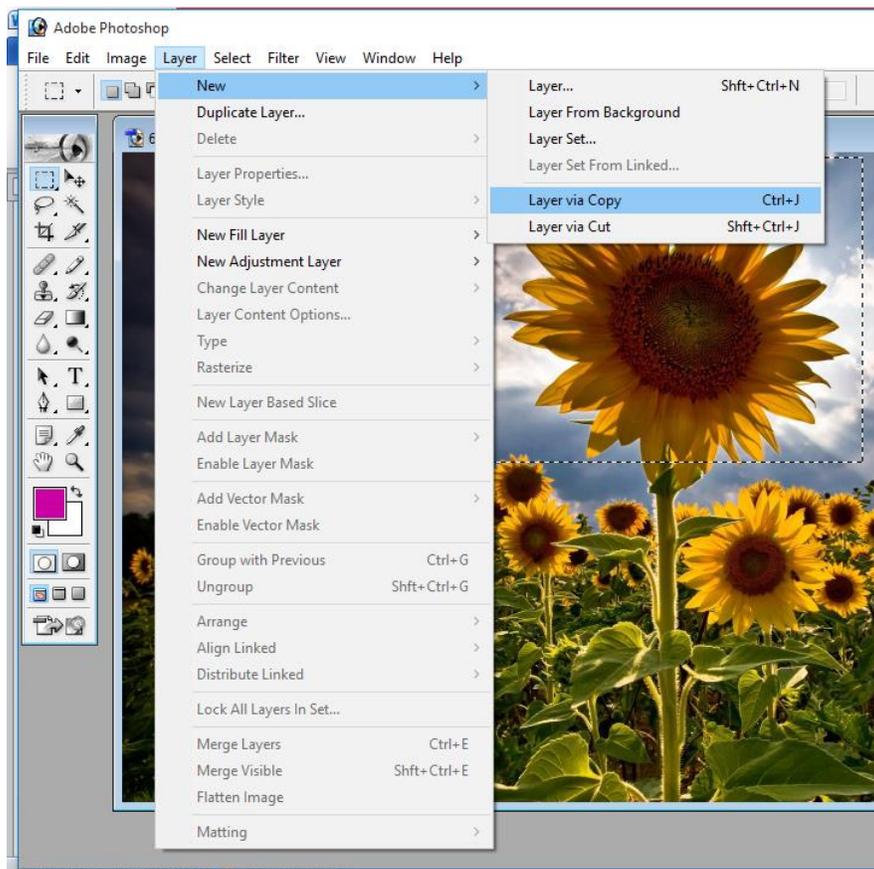


Layers cont'd

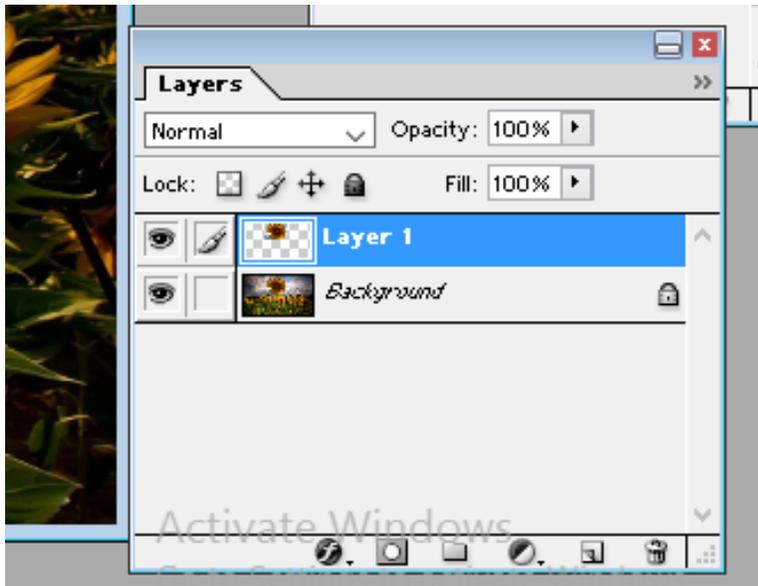
Converting a selection into a new layer

In Photoshop, we may convert any part or object of the image into a layer to do more modifications on that Object / layer for a better look/ editing of the image as a whole. To do so, first,

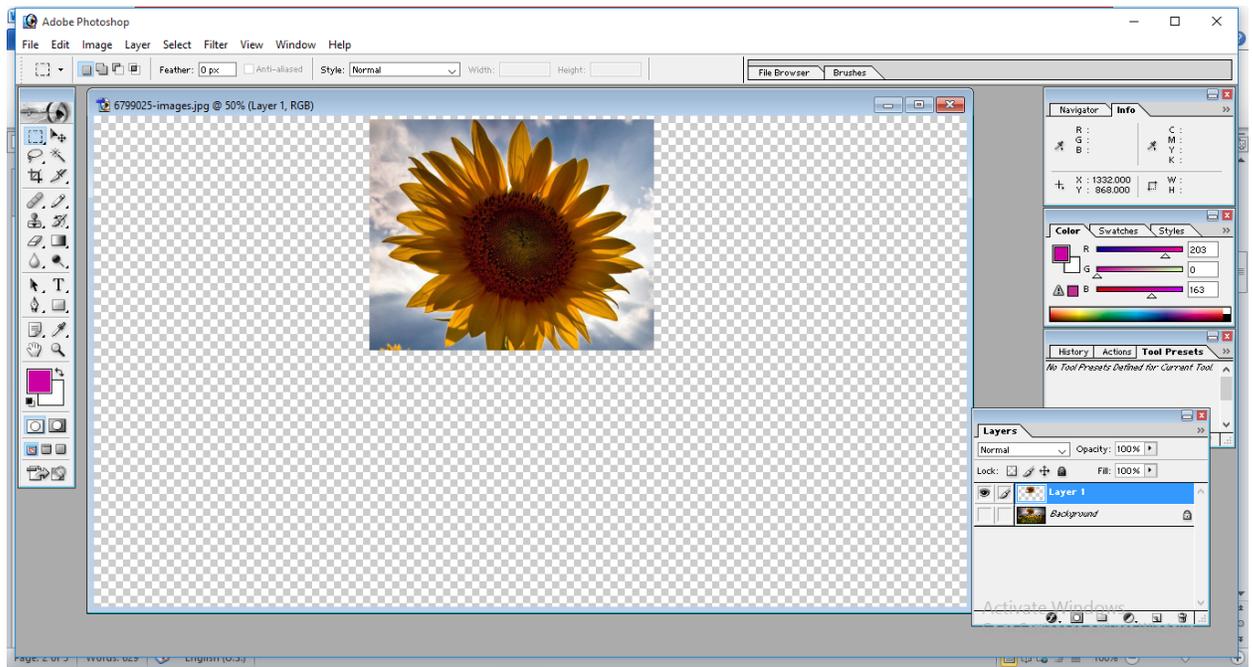
1. select the area or object of the image that we want to turn into a new layer
2. Then, From main Menu , choose **Layer>New>Layer Via Copy** or **Layer>New>Layer Via Cut** depending on your choice to Cut or Copy. Here we choose Layer via copy



- Now, we see that a new layer named as layer1 has been created for the selected portion of image.



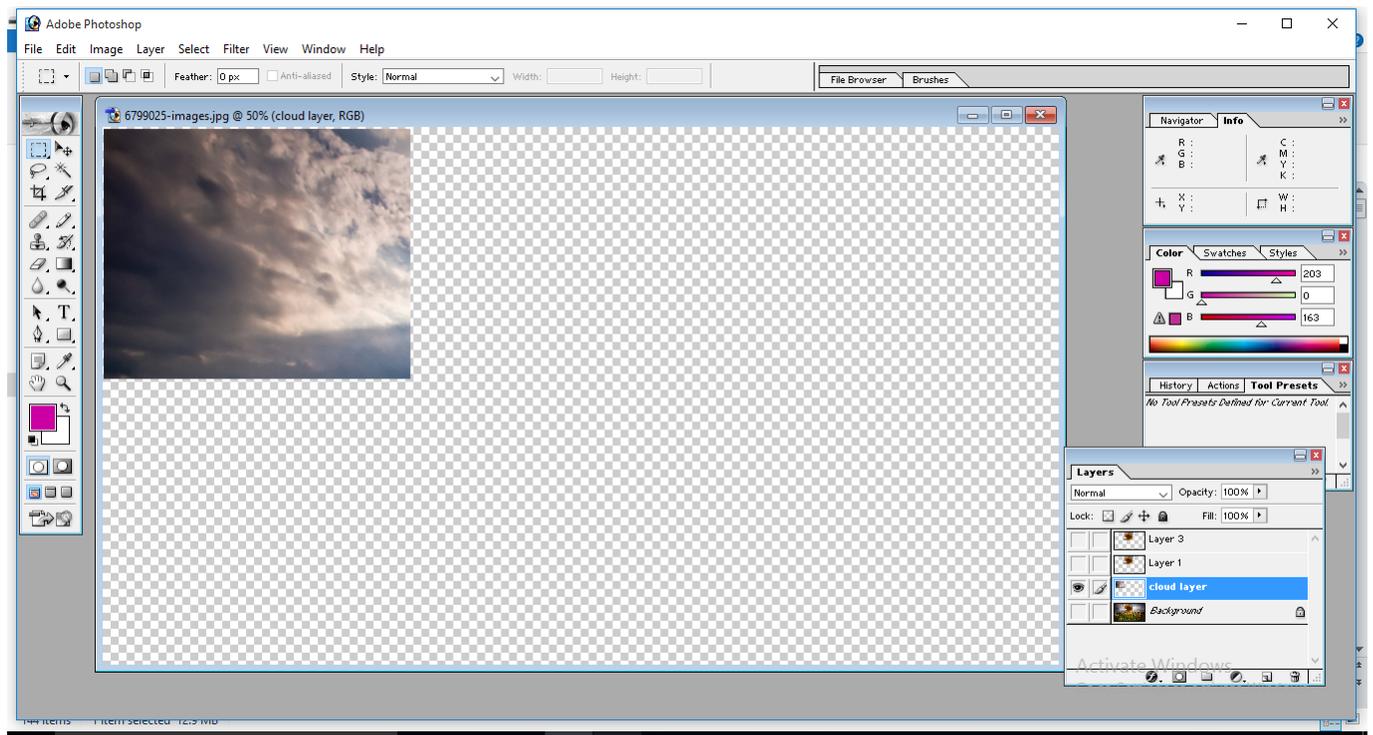
- Now, if we want to only view the Layer1 just created, i.e. **Layer visibility**. This can be done by just removing the eye symbol from all other layers which you don't want to see, by simply clicking the eye . Now we are only seeing the Layer1 and it will look like



We can see that only the selected part of the image (here flower) is visible in layer1.

Active Layer

While we are working with the individual layers, we may do this by selecting that particular layer and if required we may also hide the visibility of other layers, i.e. we can only work with one layer at a time. It is desired if painting or making tone adjustments on a particular layer. The layer we are working on is called the active layer. The name of the active layer appears in the title bar of the document window. In the below figure, **Cloud Layer** is the active layer and is displaying its title bar of the image window. Also we have made only Cloud Layer visible and we can see that eye icon is only seen in this cloud layer in Layer Panel.



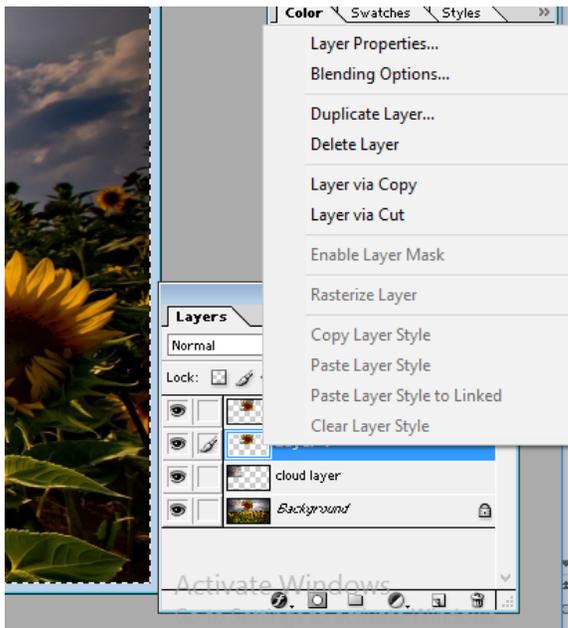
Deleting a layer

Sometime we may add layers by mistake or the added layer have no output, in such cases it is better to delete unwanted layers from the image. To delete a layer,

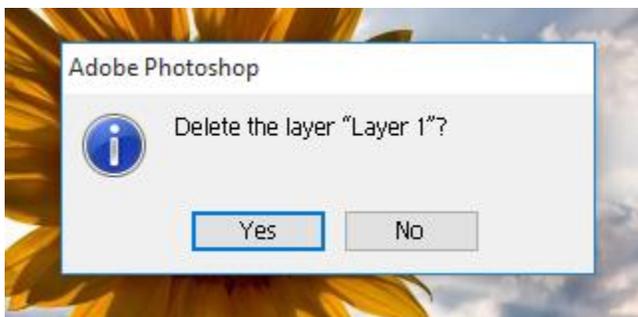
1. Select the layer to be deleted
2. then click the  icon at the bottom of the Layers panel.

Or

Right Click on the selected layer



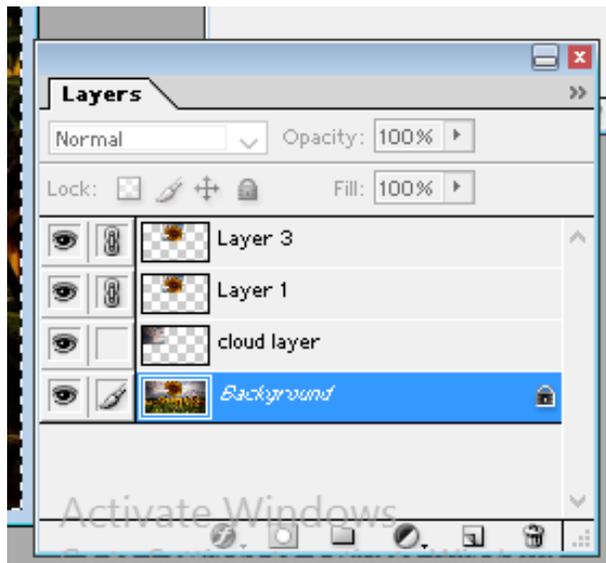
3. Once the Layer is clicked for deletion, a dialogue box will appear asking us to **Delete the layer**. Click Yes to delete the layer. The selected layer will be finally deleted.



Linking the Layers

We may link various Layers with the Active Layer so that they maintain their relationship even if the layers aren't selected. We can move or apply a transformation to the linked layers when layers are linked together. Linking layers do the common task easily instead of doing it one layer at a time. To link layers:

1. Select the layer you want to link in the Layers panel.
2. Click on the box next to layer image. 1st box is for visibility and the 2nd box is for link.
3. Once, you click in the box, a  icon appears resulting that the layer is linked.
4. To link multiple layers, the step shall be repeated.
5. When layers are linked, the link icon will appear beside each linked layer.



In the above figure, Background layer is linked with Layer1 and layer3.

Unlinking the Layers

To unlink layers,

1. Select a linked layer by simply clicking on that
2. then click the link icon 
3. To Unlink, multiple linked layer, do the steps for each linked layer.

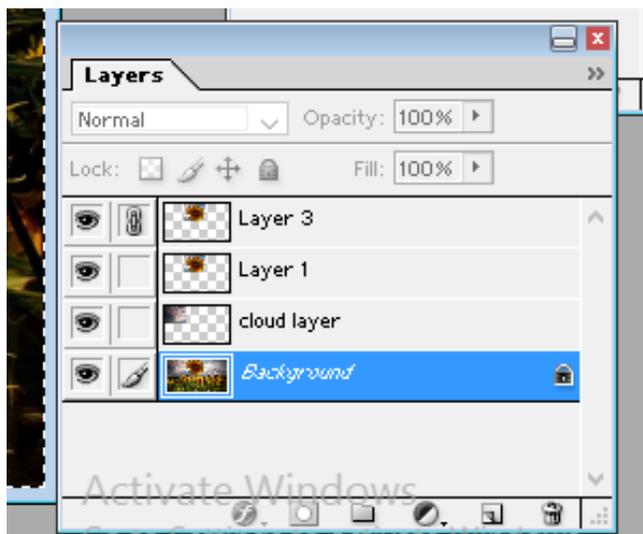


Figure here shows that we have unlinked layer1 and only layer3 is now linked with Background layer.

Locking Layers

Once we do some changes to a layer and want no more modification is allowed on that layer, we may Lock that Layer to protect the layer contents. Photoshop allows us to lock a layer fully or partially.

- A fully locked layer cannot be edited or modified as long as it's locked. For example, when we finished working with a layer, it may be locked fully.
- A layer can be locked partially to restrict some operations. These may be
 - Lock Transparent Pixels 
 - Lock Pixels 
 - Lock Position 

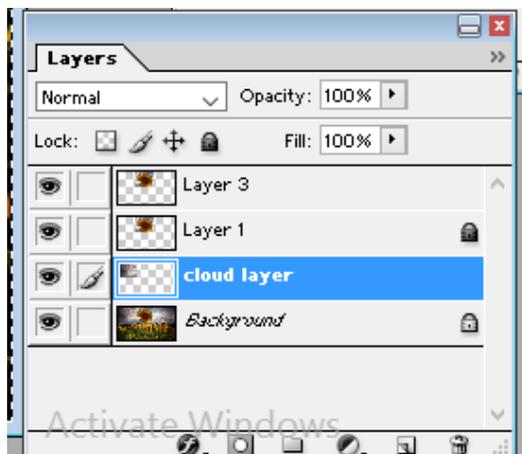
Whenever a layer is locked, a lock icon  or  appears to the right of the layer in the Layers panel. If a layer is fully locked, a solid lock  icon is displayed and if it's only partially locked, a hollow lock  icon is displayed.

To fully lock a layer:

In the Layers panel,

1. Select the layer to be fully locked,
2. then click the Lock All option .
3. The selected layer will be fully locked and fully locked symbol will be displayed.

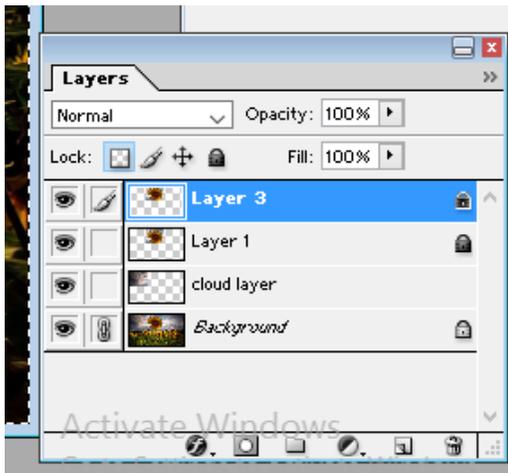
The Figure shows that Layer1 is fully locked.



To partially lock a layer:

In the Layers panel,

- Select the layer you want to partially lock,
- then click one (or more) of the options in the Layers panel
 - Lock Transparent Pixels  - Lock restricts any further editing to colored pixels in the layer.
 - Lock Pixels  - restricts that the layer's pixels can't be modified with the painting tools.
 - Lock Position  - This Lock prevents the pixels in the layer from being moved.
- The applied lock will be highlighted for that layer in the Layer Panel



In the above figure, layer3 is partially locked with Lock Transparent Pixels.

Note: In a new image, the Background layer is Partially Locked by the system atomically and this lock cannot be changed. However, we may delete or make copy (duplicate) the Background layer. In case of Duplicate Background Layer, no lock is applied by default.

Assignment

1. What is Full and Partial locking of Layers? Explain.
2. How Links are created ? What are its use?
3. What is an Active Layer?