Photoshop Elements 6
Lesson 3-9

IMPROVED LIGHTING

© Darry D Eggleston, 813.677.2871, DarryD@darryd.com

Looking for a quick way to improve the lighting in that digital photo? This is it.

1. The original photo (**Figure 1**) was taken in a florescent-lit classroom with a 10x zoom at about 50 feet — without flash. As you can tell, it's acceptable; but, just barely.

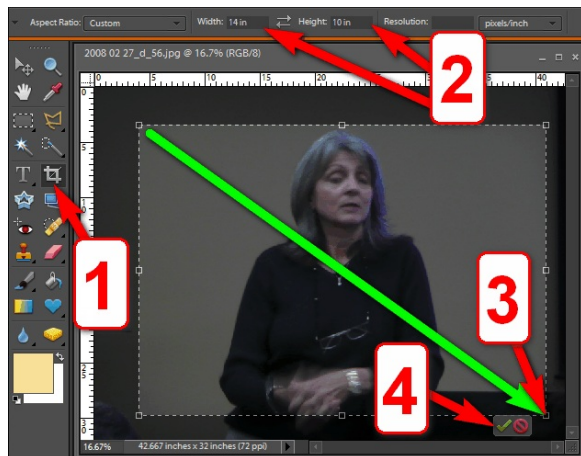I'll be working in the Editor for this entire process.

Figure 1

Figure 2

2. The first thing I did was crop it to get the unwanted things out of the photo (**Figure 2**):

❶ Select the Crop tool.

❷ By using "Custom," I ended up with a 14" wide x 10" tall selection.

❸ I left-clicked, held, and dragged the Crop tool to make the selection.

❹ Left-click on ✔ to accept the change.

---

3. I opened the Palette Bin by selecting Windows ➤ Palette Bin from the Menu-Bar (**Figure 3**).
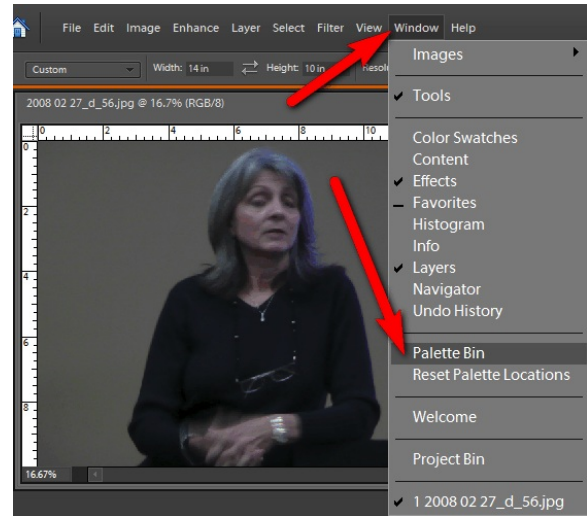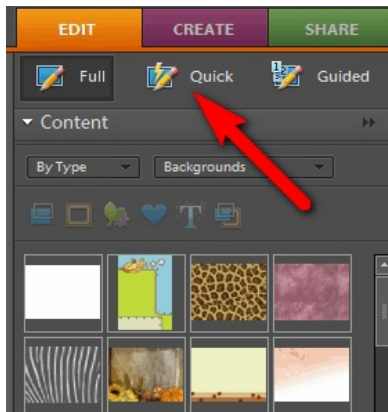

Figure 3

Figure 4

4. I selected the "Quick" edit (**Figure 4**).

5. From the Quick Correct, I selected — one-after-the-other — (**Figure 5**):
❶ Auto Smart Fix.
❷ Auto Levels.
❸ Auto Contrast.
❹ Auto Color.

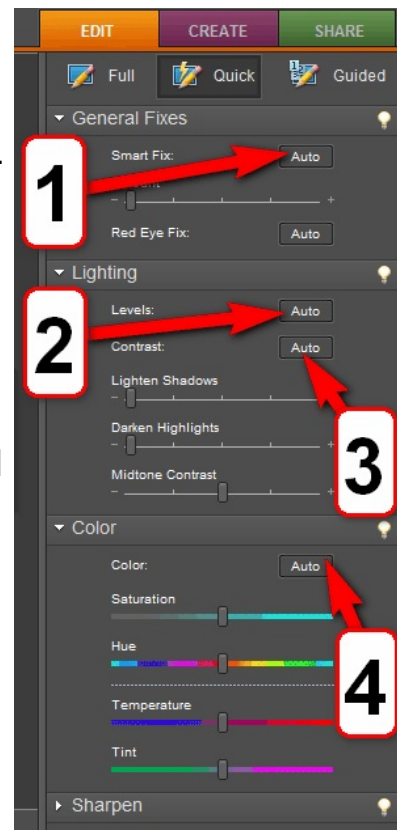Although Auto Sharpen is available, I elected not to use it.

Figure 5

Figure 6

6. The side-by-side comparison offered by the Quick Correct shows the comparison (**Figure 6**).
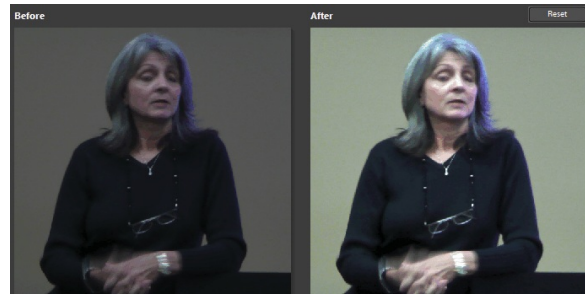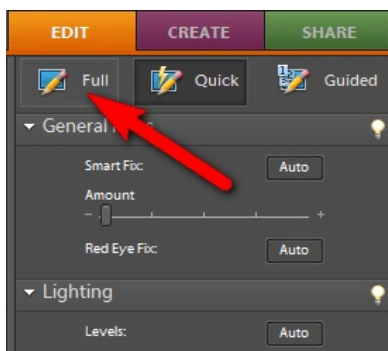

7. Now, I'll switched back to Full Edit (**Figure 7**).

Figure 7

8. To ease seeing the screen, I maximized the viewing area of the photo (**Figure 8**):
❶ Left-click on Magnifier.
❷ Left-click on "Fit Screen."

Figure 8

9. Next I adjusted the lighting (**Figure 9**)
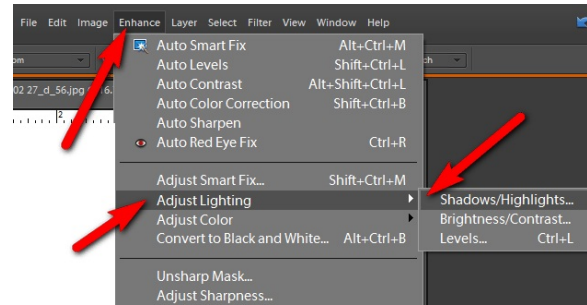by selecting Enhance ➤ Adjust Lighting
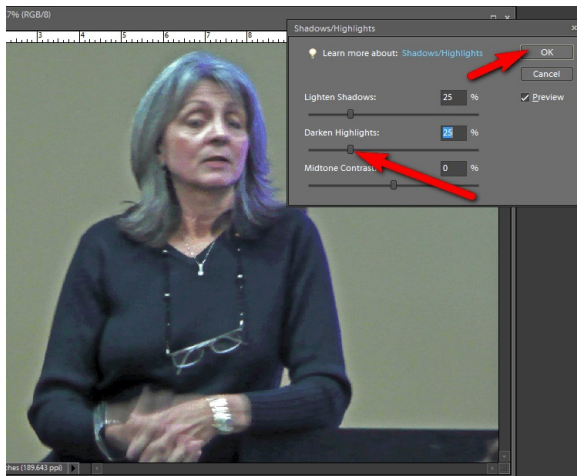➤ Shadows/Highlights.

Figure 9

Figure 10

10. In the Shadows/Highlights window
(**Figure 10**), I moved the Darken High-
lights somewhat and then clicked on the
"OK" button.

11. The original photo (**Figure 11**) is
greatly improved by just changing the
lighting (**Figure 12**). While I have more
work to do, especially fixing the color of
her hair, just changing the lighting makes
this photo so much better.

Figure 11
Original

Figure 12
Final