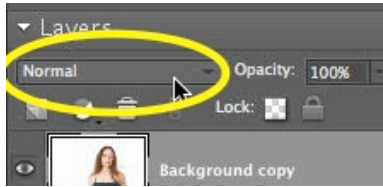


# Layer Blending Modes in Photoshop

## How Layers Blend With Each Other



**Layer Blending Modes** control how pixels on an image layer interact with pixels on layers directly beneath. The choice of Blending Modes is applied to the TOP layer. The different choices give you a number of ways to control the mixing, blending and general interaction of the layer content.

Lets concentrate on the handful of Layer Blending Modes used in typical image editing operations. First, be certain that the proper layer is selected (**the active layer**). Layer Blending Modes are selected from a pop-up menu located at the top-left of the **Layers Palette**:

**Normal** – *The default mode.* No changes are seen because, with Opacity at 100%, the image content on the upper layer obscures the content on the layer beneath.

**Darken** – Compares each pixel of the upper layer to its counterpart's pixel value of the lower layer and chooses the darker of the two to display.

**Multiply** – Used to produce an overall darker result. Darkens the lower layer based on the darkness of the upper layer. No part of the image will get lighter. Any applied tone darker than white darkens the lower layer. White becomes transparent. The result is always darker, and makes it a good mode for correcting “overexposed” images.

**Lighten** – Compares the two layers, pixel for pixel, and uses the lightest pixel value. No part of the image gets darker.

**Screen** – Used to produce an overall lighter result. Brightens by lightning the lower layer based on the lightness of the upper layer. The result is always lighter, and makes it a good mode for correcting “underexposed” images.

**Overlay** – Multiplies the light colors and screens the dark colors thereby combining the effect of both the Multiply and Screen modes while blending the top layer with the bottom. There is no effect if the top layer is 50% gray.

To a lesser extent, Blend Modes can also be applied to certain painting and drawing tools via a pop-up menu located in the tool’s Options Bar.



**Experiment! Try all the Layer Blend Modes!!**