Photoshop Tutorials & Shortcuts

Open a file: "File," then "open."

        Do NOT drag a file into Photoshop!

Save a file: "File," then "save as."

        If you want to keep your layers, save as a PSD file.

        If you want to save as a JPG, select JPG.

                To save as a JPG, your layers must be flattened (layers, flatten)

                To upload to your blog, your image file must be a JPG.

                Make sure quality is "12."

Create Blank Layer: "Layer," then "New Layer."

Create Duplicate Layer: "Layer," then "Duplicate Layer."

Change Opacity: "Window," then "Layers" (to make sure layers are visible).

        Then select the layer you would like to change. You can enter a different percentage of opacity (for example, 50%) or use the slider.

Select All: Control A

Copy: Control C

Paste: Control V

Paste Into a Selection: Control Alt Shift V

Clone: Tools then the tool that looks like a stamp. To use, hit alt/click on the area you want to copy from, then start clicking on the area you want to copy to. You have to hit alt/click at new areas if you want to have a different spot to source from.

Heal: Tools then the tool that looks like a bandaid. To use, hit alt/click on the area you want to copy from, then start clicking on the area you want to copy to.

Auto-Heal: Same as above, but the computer picks the spot for you. The icon looks like a bandaid with a dotted circle to the left of it. Sometimes it works great, and sometimes the computer picks a bad area to source from.

Erase: Tools then the eraser icon. You can choose the opacity and hardness of the edge on the top bar of Photoshop.

Actions: Window, then actions. You can play an action to create certain effects on your image. Highlight the action, then hit play.

Color Select: Eye-dropper icon. Select a specific color from a photo.

Fill: The bucket icon. Will fill a selected area or canvas with specified color.

Gradient: Choose two colors. Drag across area to fill.

Crop: Enter dimensions (like 8 and 10 for an 8"x10" photo). Try to avoid cropping too much (will create pixelation/poor quality).

Make a New Canvas: File, New, enter dimensions and 300 ppi. Minimum canvas size should be 8"x10". Maximum canvas size should be 20"x30". Make sure you are using inches and 300 ppi - very important.

Painting with Paintbrush: Paintbrush icon. Choose brush size, hardness, and type. Can download free paintbrushes and install. Always paint on a new layer.

Painting with Paint Filters: Filter, filter gallery, adjust. Some paint filters look crummy. Use your best judgment.

Liquify: See Rapp for a tutorial

Transform: Control T. Hold the shift key down while dragging at the corner.

YouTube and other website links are great resources.

Inspiring Artists/Photographers:
Erik Johannson
Scott McCormick
Maggie Taylor
Katrin Eismann
Jerry Uelsmann