2026 ADOBE INDESIGN BOOTCAMP

Welcome to Adobe InDesign 2026. Build strong skills in desktop publishing as you move from core fundamentals to professional-level layout techniques used in real-world projects.

Lesson 1: Getting Started with Adobe InDesign

Learn the basics of navigating the InDesign interface & understanding how professional layout documents are built.

- Lecture: Raster versus Vector in layout workflows
- Lecture: Handling placed media and linked assets
- Lecture: Artificial Intelligence features currently available
- Creating & managing new docs, presets, workspaces
- Interface essentials and key panels
- Anatomy of frames, placeholder text, & Properties panel

Lesson 2: Working with Text and Images

Combine formatted text and images into cohesive layouts using modern InDesign workflows.

- Creating professional-looking text quickly
- How frames and images interact and update dynamically
- Working with swatches & color extraction to build themes
- Exporting clean, presentation-ready documents efficiently

Lesson 3: Focusing on Raster Images

Understand image formats, resolution, and quality management inside InDesign.

- Common image formats used in layout projects
- Resizing, cropping, and positioning images correctly
- Using the Properties panel for image control
- Understanding fitting options and best practices

Lesson 4: Fundamental Layout Workflows

Learn core layout techniques used in real-world publishing projects.

- Typography fundamentals in InDesign and Adobe Fonts
- Creating and managing text columns
- Styling pull quotes, captions, and credits
- Creative typography techniques without breaking structure

Lesson 5: Pages and Spreads Essentials

Master page management and document structure.

- Pages versus Parent Pages and their modern usage
- Navigating and customizing the Pages panel
- Working with facing-page spreads
- Creating automatic page numbers
- Working with layer effects and object effects

Lesson 6: Packaging and Export

Prepare documents for delivery, archiving, and collaboration.

- Export options available in InDesign
- Creating professional PDF exports
- Templates, IDML workflows, and backward compatibility
- Packaging projects for transfer or long-term storage

Lesson 7: Graphic Design in InDesign 101

Create and manage graphic elements directly inside InDesign.

- InDesign versus Illustrator for vector artwork
- Creating and editing basic shapes
- Combining shapes with effects
- Buttons, lower thirds, and custom layout elements

Lesson 8: Custom Creative Framing + Styles

Build reusable design systems using styles and custom framing.

- Custom frame and shape creation
- Advanced typographic features such as fractions and contextual alternates
- Paragraph, Character, and Object Styles as workflow foundations
- Improving layout precision and alignment

Lesson 9: Working with Complex Vector Images

Manage detailed vector artwork inside layout documents.

- Working with layered vector maps and diagrams
- Feathering edges and soft selections
- Expanding and contracting selections
- Foundations of Select Subject and masking workflows

Lesson 10: 2-Sided Designs + Stylizing Tricks

Design multi-sided documents with consistency.

- Business cards, postcards, and folded layouts
- Generated content features inside InDesign
- Styling titles with blend and overlay techniques
- Borrowing and adapting stock design elements
- Reliable sources for free and licensed assets

Lesson 11: Multi-panel Project Part I

Plan and build multi-panel documents with consistent branding.

- Project planning for brochures and fold-outs
- Color themes using CMYK and Spot Color strategies
- Creating simple brand elements and logos
- Working panel by panel using shared styles
- Managing linked vector updates efficiently

Lesson 12: Multi-panel Project Part II

Advance multi-panel layouts with automation and metadata.

- Drop caps and advanced paragraph styling
- Text blurbs and next-style workflows
- Batch image handling techniques
- Working with slugs for internal and external use
- Embedding authoring and copyright metadata

Lesson 13: Working with Color & Color Settings

Control color accurately across print and digital projects.

- Primary color modes used in design workflows
- Color considerations for different file formats
- Creating custom swatches, patterns, and gradients
- Importing and exporting color presets

Lesson 14: The Perfect Text + Columns & Grids*

Refine alignment and structure for professional layouts.

- Creating polished text and titles
- Advanced paragraph alignment and grid usage
- Managing complex multi-column layouts
- Working with Text Wrap and layered artwork

Lesson 15: Multi-Level Layouts and Text Flow

Design complex publications with flowing content.

- Creating and saving layout templates
- Managing layered content across long documents
- Inline imagery and anchored objects
- Handling linked content and troubleshooting updates

Lesson 16: Object Styles + Dynamic Captions

Maintain consistency using styles and metadata.

- Using metadata for batch workflows
- Understanding Object Styles and their advantages
- Creating Object Styles from existing objects
- Applying and editing Object Styles
- Static versus Dynamic Captions
- Managing caption updates and metadata changes

Lesson 17: Creative Design + Batch Techniques

Speed up production using grouping and batch edits.

- Working with grouped artwork
- Troubleshooting loaded cursor behavior
- Editing grouped content from Parents to Pages
- Managing layer priority and targeting

Lesson 18: A Quick Overview of A.I. in InDesign*

Understand how AI currently integrates into InDesign workflows.

- Features considered AI-assisted in InDesign
- Working with Adobe Firefly and Adobe Express
- Firefly content workflows into InDesign
- Practical AI-assisted layout and production use cases
- Where AI stops and human control matters

Adv. Lesson 1: Creative Table Design

Design functional and visually engaging tables.

- Understanding table structures in InDesign
- Importing data from text and spreadsheets
- Creating tables manually and from text
- Designing readable tables for print and digital
- Troubleshooting table formatting issues

Adv. Lesson 2: Introduction to GREP

Use GREP to automate advanced text formatting.

- What GREP is and how designers use it
- Understanding basic GREP logic
- Common GREP expressions
- Using GREP in Paragraph Styles
- Repairing formatting issues efficiently

Adv. Lesson 3: Scripts, Extensions & Tweaks

Extend InDesign using scripts and extensions.

- Understanding scripts versus extensions
- Popular script and extension locations
- Installing and managing scripts
- Using scripts in production workflows
- Troubleshooting script behavior
- Understanding the Plug-Ins menu

Adv. Lesson 4: Liquid Layouts & Auto-styling*

Learn the power of Liquid Layouts and auto-styling to speed up re-design of content for different deliveries.

- Different page sizes and adjustment
- Social Media, Digital Marketing cross design
- Comparative design and design Alternates
- What are Liquid Layouts?
- The Liquid Layout Page Rules

Adv. Lesson 5: Formatting a Publication

Adapt layouts efficiently for multiple formats.

- Setting up a publication from scratch
- Managing sections and chapters
- Front matter including TOC and copyright pages
- Body formatting and autoflow
- Back matter including indexes and author pages
- Designing covers for print and ebook delivery

Adv. Lesson 6: Working with Book Projects
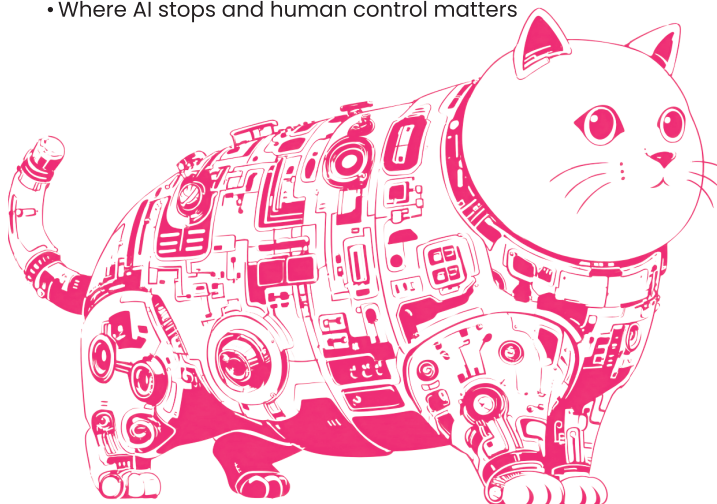
Manage large publications using Book features.

- Best use cases for Book Projects
- Creating and organizing Book files
- Synchronizing styles and preflighting
- Preparing books for print and digital output
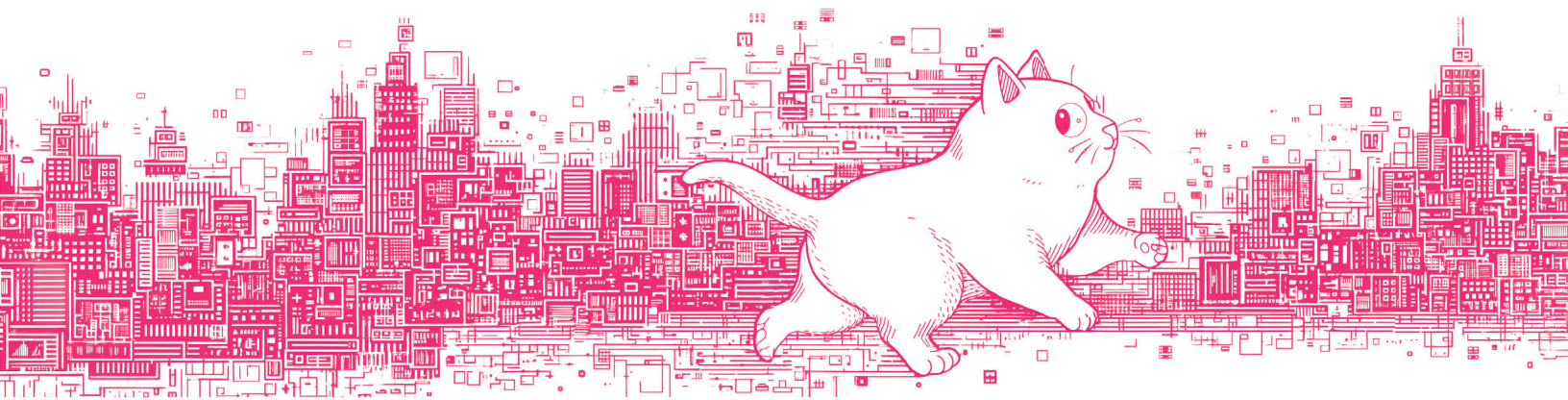- Troubleshooting Book workflows

*Please note that the Publication Formatting and Book Projects can be used with many other types of non-book projects like Manuals,How-Tos,Syllabi,Magazines, and more!

Adv. Lesson 7: Working with Variables

Automate repeating information across documents.

- Understanding text and image variables
- Working with text variables
- Using image variables
- Cross-references and custom variables

Adv. Lesson 8: Presentations & Pitch Design I

Create pitch decks and presentations in InDesign.

- Sizing and setup considerations
- Dynamic presentation layout concepts
- Designing from scratch or templates
- Adding charts and infographics

Adv. Lesson 9: Presentations & Pitch Design II

Enhance presentations for digital delivery.

- Print versus digital presentation workflows
- Hyperlinks, anchors, and navigation
- Cross-application asset design
- Using Adobe Document Cloud for distribution

Adv. Lesson 10: A Guide to Interactive Features

Build interactive documents for PDF and digital formats.

- Understanding interactive features
- Compatibility considerations
- PDF versus EPUB workflows
- Buttons, forms, and navigation
- Animations, transitions, and media
- Exporting and troubleshooting interactive content

Adv. Lesson 11: Story Editor & InCopy

Improve editorial workflows and collaboration.

- Using the Story Editor for text management
- Editing styles through Story Editor
- Collaborative workflows
- Understanding InCopy and its integration with InDesign

Adv. Lesson 12: AI Workflows Beyond InDesign*

Explore broader AI workflows across Adobe applications.

- The evolving role of AI in design
- Firefly backend capabilities and direction
- Third-party AI services in layout workflows
- Emerging uses such as translation, auto-layout assistance, and templating

This outline represents a general overview of topics covered in class. Lesson order and content may be adjusted or combined as needed to create the most effective learning experience. Due to frequent application updates, provided books and materials may not always reflect every feature discussed in class, including Adobe's own documentation, which can occasionally lag behind current versions. We will always strive to provide the most accurate and up-to-date information available. Students are encouraged to take notes during class and to take full advantage of Training Connection's audit option, which allows you to retake the course at your convenience.