

Glossary of some terms used in Post Processing

(Tim Keane's explanations)

Term	Explanation	Comments
Adobe Camera Raw (ACR)	A piece of software built into Lightroom and used as a plug-in for Photoshop and Photoshop Elements to convert RAW files and do some global editing.	
Aspect Ratio	Formally, the ratio of the height of an image to its width (or vice versa). Describes how square or long and narrow an image is.	Full frame Aspect Ratio is 3:2, Square is 1:1, a Micro four thirds camera's (native) aspect ratio is 4:3.
Blurring	Has the reverse effect to sharpening.	
Burning	Decreasing the brightness selectively and gradually (with a brush).	
Clarity	A feature in some software which generally adjusts the mid tone contrast.	
Cloning	A feature of some software for copying and pasting from one part of an image to another (with a brush), e.g to block out a distraction.	
Composite	An image composed from more than one shot from a camera.	
Contrast	The balance between light and dark areas of an image.	
Crop	Reducing the field of view of an image to emphasize something or remove unwanted portions.	
Culling	Choosing or prioritising which photos from a shoot you will delete, think about or process.	
Dodging	Increasing the brightness selectively and gradually (with a brush).	
Editing	Usually used to mean the same as post processing. Sometimes used to mean just the culling phase.	
Exposure	Generally the brightness or darkness of an image or part of an image.	If exposure is not correctly applied, important details can be lost in shadows or "burnt out" in bright areas. Sometimes losing detail in distracting areas can be good.
Feathering	With selective tools, you can often select how abrupt or gradual the difference is between what is selected and what is not. More feathering is more gradual and helps blend the adjustment applied to the selection into the surrounding image.	
Highlights	Brighter areas/ pixels within an image.	See also shadows, split tones.
Hue	The colour produced by the various proportions of red, green and blue in a pixel. Adjusting the hue changes the colour. Some software includes adjustment simply for Hue, others split the adjustment into Tint and Temperature.	See also Tint, Temperature (Warmth).

Luminance	A feature of some software which allows you to adjust the brightness of a particular colour range within an image. Luminance sometimes also affects the saturation of the adjusted colour.	
Post Processing	Post means after capturing an image with a camera; Processing means manipulating the image (to enhance it and prepare it for viewing).	
Pre-Set	A group of adjustments which can be applied to the image as a single step.	Often included in software packages to give a certain feel or look. Can be purchased or developed yourself.
Saturation	Strength/ intensity of colour, regardless of hue.	
Shadows	Darker areas/ pixels within an image	See also highlights, split tones.
Sharpening	A feature of some software which attempts to emulate sharpening the image by manipulating the detailed contrast.	Easily overdone!
Split tones	A function in some software whereby you can adjust the split between what is a highlight and what is a shadow in order to make adjustments to a range of tones.	
Spot removal	A feature of some software which allows you to remove unwanted spots/ areas. Generally the software does this by cloning (copying and pasting) what it thinks is a similar area of the image over the spot.	Can have some surprising results; if so, try undoing and doing again, perhaps with your brush set at a slightly different size.
Temperature	Adjusting the Temperature moves the Hue between Blues and Oranges.	Sometimes called Warmth.
Tint	Adjusting the Tint moves the Hue of the colour between Greens & Purples.	
Tone	The brightness of a particular pixel in an image. The position (left to right) of a pixel's brightness on the image histogram.	Mid tones are the greys in a B&W image. Usually there are 256 possible tones for each pixel.
Vibrance	A feature of some software which cleverly increases the saturation of muted colours in an image, leaving the more intense colours alone.	
Vignette	Adding a vignette darkens (or lightens) the edges and corners of an image, usually to highlight a more central subject.	
Warmth	Increasing the Warmth moves the hue more toward the orange.	