

Lesson 9 FAQs

Q: I've never worked with a Zip file before. What are they, and how do I extract their contents?

A: Zip files contain compressed data. People often use them to transmit data over the Internet since they have a couple of major advantages over downloading or uploading uncompressed files. First, they're smaller than uncompressed files, so they download faster. Second, one Zip file can contain many source files, so the user can download them all at once instead of separately.

Once you've downloaded a Zip file, "unzipping" it is easy. If you use Mac OS X, just double-click the file, and the computer will extract its contents into the same directory that contains the Zip file. If there's only one source file in the Zip file, it should appear in that directory. If there are multiple files, OS X will create a new directory there to contain all the files.

If you run Windows, just right-click the Zip file, and choose the option **Extract All** from the drop-down menu. Windows will ask you where you want to extract the file or files to, and you can select the directory you want.