

Creating and formatting point text

When you enter point text, each line of text is independent—the length of a line increases or decreases as you edit the text, but it doesn't wrap to the next line. The text you enter appears in a new text layer. The small line through the I-beam marks the position of the text baseline.

1. In the Tools panel, select the Horizontal Type tool (T).

Note

If you press Enter or Return on the regular keyboard instead of on the numeric keypad, you'll begin a new paragraph.

2. Click anywhere in the Composition panel, and type **Road Trip**. Then press Enter on the numeric keypad to exit text-editing mode and to select the text layer in the Composition panel. Or, you can select the layer name to exit text-editing mode.

Using the Character panel

The Character panel provides options for formatting characters. If text is highlighted, changes you make in the Character panel affect only the highlighted text. If no text is highlighted, changes you make in the Character panel affect the selected text layers and the text layers' selected Source Text keyframes, if any exist. If no text is highlighted and no text layers are selected, changes you make in the Character panel become the new defaults for the next text entry.

1. Choose Window > Workspace > Text to display only those panels you need while working with text.

Tip

To open the panels individually, choose Window > Character or Window > Paragraph. To open both panels, select the Horizontal Type tool, and then click the Toggle The Character And Paragraph Panels button in the Tools panel.

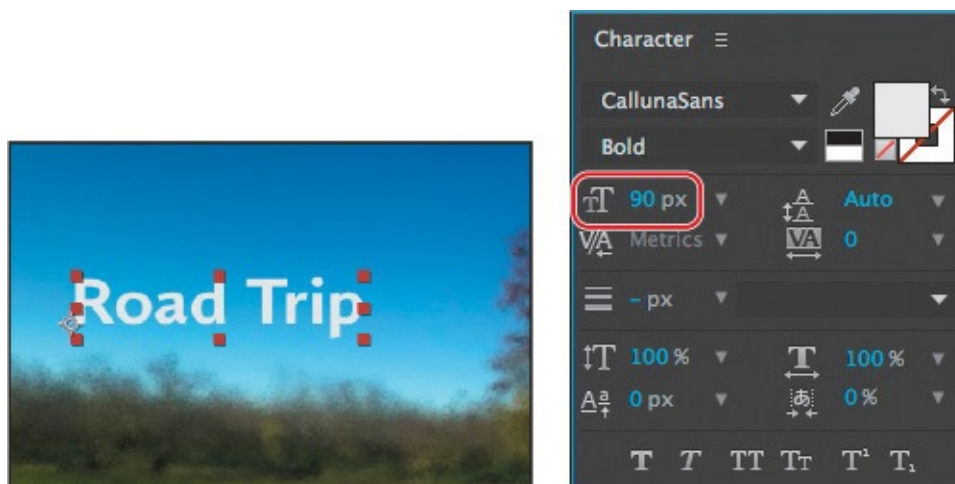
2. Select the Road Trip text layer in the Timeline panel.
 3. In the Character panel, choose Calluna Sans from the Font Family menu.
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Tip

To select a font quickly, begin typing its name in the Font Family box. The Font Family menu jumps to the first font on your system that matches the letters you've typed. If a type layer is selected, the text in the Composition panel takes on the newly selected font.

4. Choose Bold from the Font Style menu.
5. Set the Font Size to **90** pixels.

6. Leave all other options at their default settings.



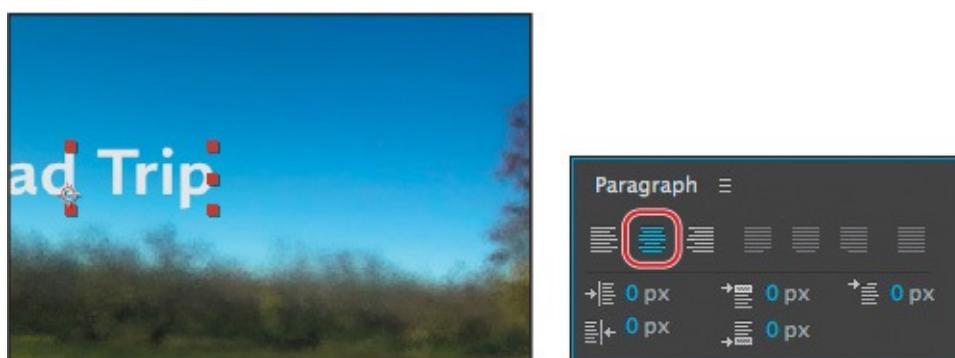
Using the Paragraph panel

Use the Paragraph panel to set options that apply to an entire paragraph, such as alignment, indentation, and leading. For point text, each line is a separate paragraph. You can use the Paragraph panel to set formatting options for a single paragraph, multiple paragraphs, or all paragraphs in a text layer. You just need to make one adjustment in the Paragraph panel for this composition's title text.

1. In the Paragraph panel, click the Center Text button (≡). This aligns horizontal text to the center of the layer, not to the center of the composition.

Note

Your screen may look different, depending on where you started typing.



2. Leave all other options at their default settings.

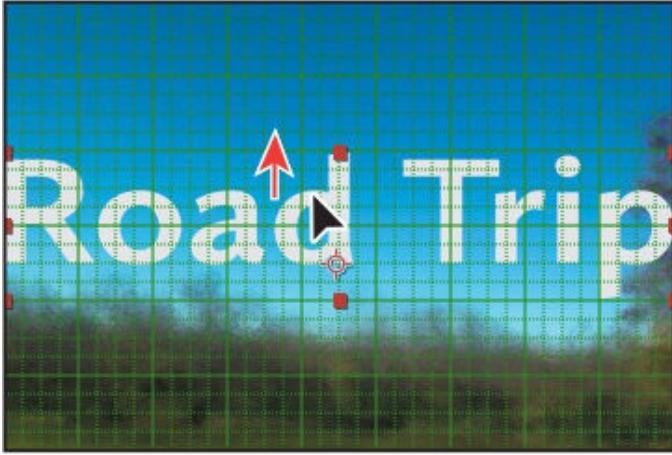
Positioning the type

To precisely position layers, such as the text layer you're working on now, you can display rulers, guides, and grids in the Composition panel. These visual reference tools don't appear in the final rendered movie.

1. Make sure the Road Trip text layer is selected in the Timeline panel.
2. Choose Layer > Transform > Fit To Comp Width. This scales the layer to fit to the width of the composition.

Now you can position the text layer using a grid.

3. Choose View > Show Grid and then View > Snap To Grid.
4. Using the Selection tool (⬚), drag the text up in the Composition panel until the base of the letters sits on the horizontal gridline in the center of the composition. Press Shift after you start dragging to constrain the movement and help you position the text.



5. When the layer is in position, choose View > Show Grid again to hide the grid.

This project isn't destined for broadcast TV, so it's okay that the title extends beyond the title-safe and action-safe areas of the composition at the beginning of the animation.

6. Click Essentials in the Workspace bar at the top of the application window to return to the Essentials workspace. (Click the double arrows to see Essentials if it doesn't fit in the Workspace bar.)
7. Choose File > Save to save your project.

Using a text animation preset

Now you're ready to animate the title. The easiest way to do that is to use one of the many animation presets that come with After Effects. After applying an animation preset, you can customize it and save it to use again in other projects.

1. Press the Home key or go to 0:00 to make sure the current-time indicator is at the beginning of the time ruler.

After Effects applies animation presets from the current time.

2. Select the Road Trip text layer.

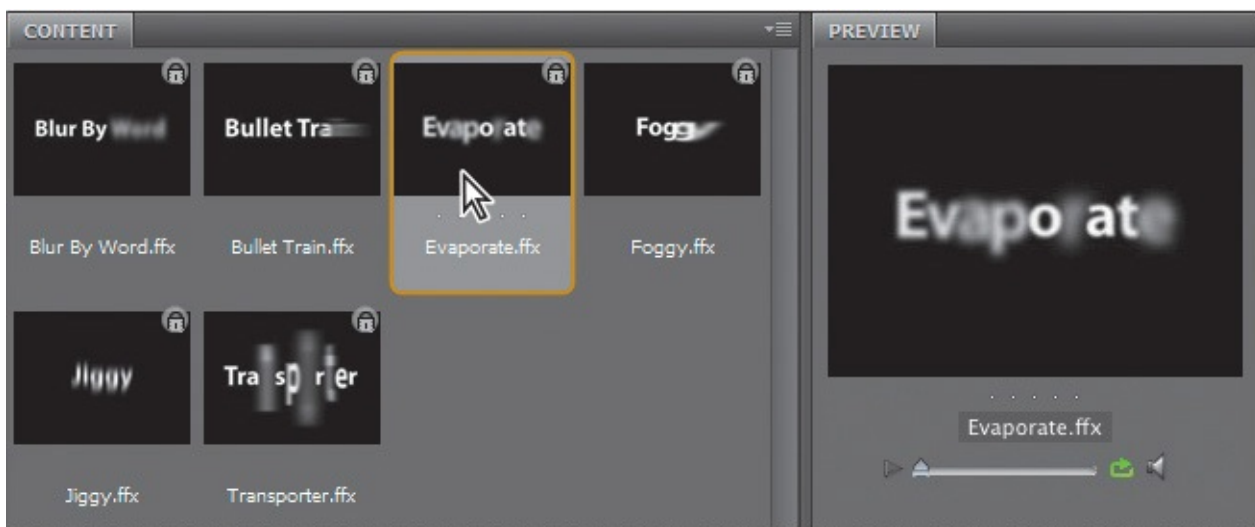
Browsing animation presets

You already applied an animation preset using the Effects & Presets panel in [Lesson 2](#), “[Creating a Basic Animation Using Effects and Presets](#).” But what if you're not sure which animation preset you want to use? To help you choose the right animation preset for your projects, you can preview them in Adobe Bridge.

● Note

If Bridge isn't installed, you'll be prompted to install it when you choose Browse In Bridge. For more information, see page [2](#).

1. Choose Animation > Browse Presets. Adobe Bridge opens, displaying the contents of the After Effects Presets folder.
2. In the Content panel, double-click the Text folder, and then the Blurs folder.
3. Click to select the first preset, Blur By Word. Adobe Bridge plays a sample of the animation in the Preview panel.
4. Select a few other presets, and watch them in the Preview panel.
5. Preview the Evaporate preset, and then double-click its thumbnail preview. Alternatively, you can right-click (Windows) or Control-click (Mac OS) the thumbnail and choose Place In After Effects CC 2015.



After Effects applies the preset to the selected layer, which is the Road Trip layer, but nothing appears to change in the composition. This is because at 0:00, the first frame of the animation, the letters haven't yet evaporated.

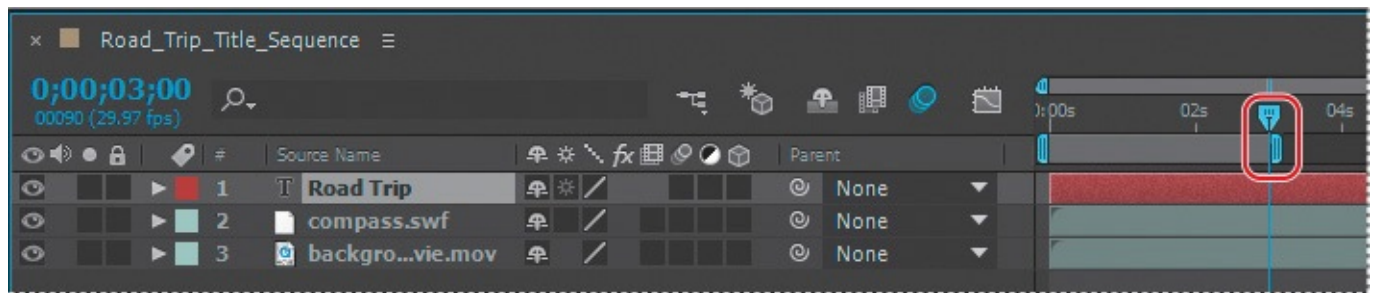
● Note

Leave Adobe Bridge open in the background. You'll use it again later in the lesson.

Previewing a range of frames

Now, preview the animation. Although the composition is 10 seconds long, you need to preview only the first few seconds, since that is where the text animation occurs.

1. In the Timeline panel, move the current-time indicator to 3:00, and press N to set the end bracket of the work area.



2. Press the spacebar to watch a preview of the animation.



The letters appear to evaporate into the background. It looks great—but you want the letters to fade in and remain onscreen, not disappear. You'll customize the preset to suit your needs.

3. Press the spacebar to stop the preview, and then press the Home key to move the current-time indicator back to 0:00.

Customizing an animation preset

After you apply an animation preset to a layer, all of its properties and keyframes are listed in the Timeline panel. You'll use those properties to customize the preset.

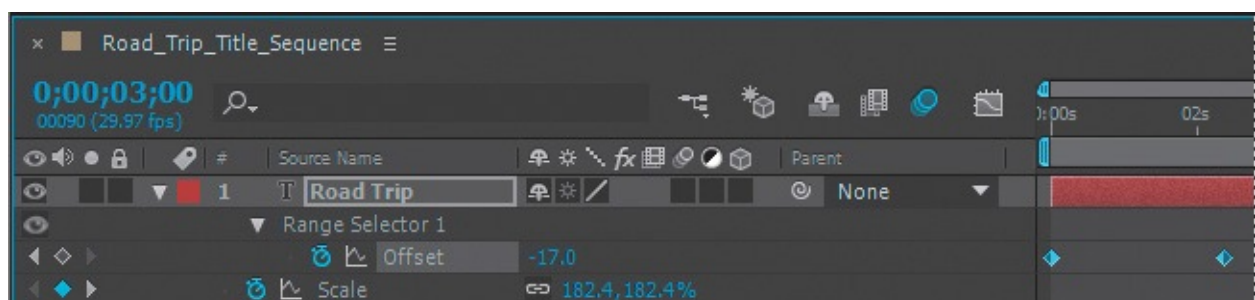
1. Select the Road Trip text layer in the Timeline panel, and press U.

Tip

If you press U twice (UU), After Effects displays all modified properties for the layer, instead of only the animated properties. Press the U key again to hide all the layer's properties.

The U key, sometimes referred to as the *Überkey*, is a valuable keyboard shortcut that reveals all the animated properties of a layer.

2. Click the Offset property name to select both of its keyframes.



The Offset property specifies how much to offset the start and end of the selection.