

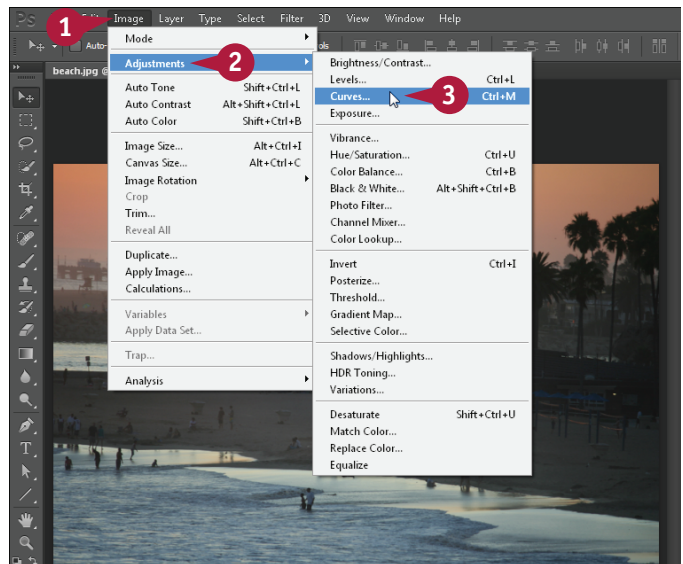
Adjust Curves

You can manipulate the tones and contrast of your image with the Curves dialog box. In the dialog box, a sloping line graph represents colors in the image. The top right part of the line represents the highlights, the middle part the midtones, and the bottom left the shadows.

If you make a selection before performing the Curves command, only the selected pixels are affected. Similarly, if you have a multilayered image, your adjustments affect only the selected layer. For more on making selections, see Chapter 4. For more on layers, see Chapter 8.

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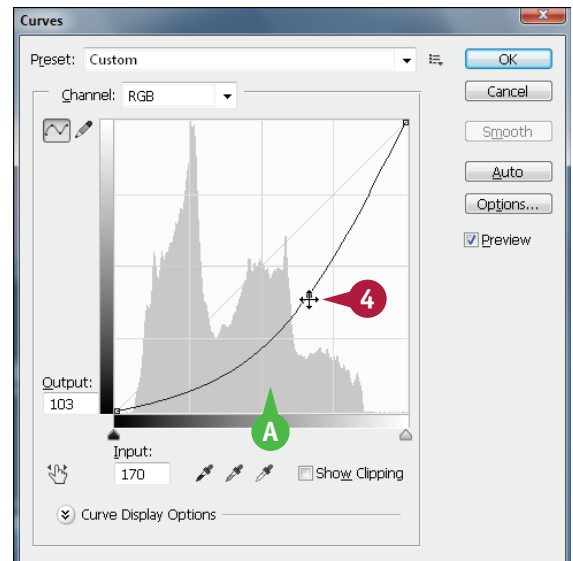
- 1 Click **Image**.
- 2 Click **Adjustments**.
- 3 Click **Curves**.



The Curves dialog box opens.

- A The dialog box includes a histogram of the existing colors in the image, with the dark colors represented on the left and the light colors on the right.
- 4 Click the line graph and then drag to adjust the lighting in the image.

Dragging the curve up and to the left lightens the image, and dragging it down and to the right darkens it.



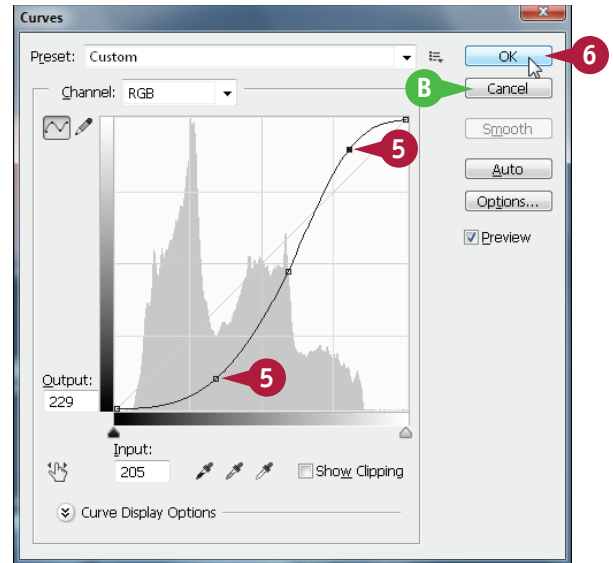
- 5** Click and drag at additional points on the line graph to fine-tune the lighting.

To boost contrast, you can create a curve with a slight S shape. This lightens the highlights, darkens the shadows, and keeps the midtones relatively unchanged.

- 6** Click **OK** to apply the adjustments and close the dialog box.

- B** To reset the line graph, you can press **Alt** and then click **Cancel**, which changes to **Reset**.

Photoshop adjusts the tones in the image.



TIP

How do I apply automatic adjustments to my image with the Curves dialog box?

The Curves dialog box offers several presets that you can select from to apply common adjustments.

- 1** In the Curves dialog box, click a setting in the Preset menu.

Photoshop adjusts the shape of the line graph and adjusts the colors in the image.

- 2** Click **OK** to apply the adjustment.

