

Continuing Professional  
Development  
in Vocational Education  
and Training



# How to Create a Selection in GIMP Image Editor Application

Inspiration for online teaching



In the COVET project, we have collected many great examples of teaching that have been transformed from the classic off-line version into a modern online learning method.

These sample lessons have been created by VET teachers from different EU countries. We present them to you as inspiration for your work.

The lessons are particularly suitable for vocational teachers, but can also serve as a training tool for teachers, trainers and lecturers in other educational settings.

All sample lessons, training materials as well as all information about the project are available at:

<https://www.covet-project.eu/>

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# How to Create a Selection in GIMP Image Editor Application

## Offline version of the lesson

The goal of this lesson is to learn how to create a selection in GIMP. First of all, the teacher will provide an example of how to use the different tools to create a selection in GIMP; the rectangle selection, the ellipse selection, the free selection, the selection by colour and the intelligent scissors. Following this explanation, each pupil does the example on his/her computer while following the explanation on the projector in the classroom. While doing so, the teacher makes sure that the students can follow the instructions and are able to solve the example.

After this, the students practise using the newly learned tool and also the rest of the tools that have been taught previously. The students can approach the teacher with any difficulties they have in solving the exercise and get immediate feedback.



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## Online version of the lesson

First of all, I had to ask the students what kind of computer equipment they had at home and, if necessary, try to provide some hardware and help them download some software. The students needed to be encouraged and motivated to see this online lesson as a personal challenge and a

demonstration of their ability to work independently. I had very clear objectives for the lesson, giving clear instructions that are easy to follow is a must.

It can be difficult for students to adapt to online learning, especially if they are participating from home. Therefore, an online lesson should be shorter than an offline lesson to avoid loss of interest.

A teacher should also bear in mind that the students are alone at home and it may be the first time they have had to complete such a task without help from the teacher.

In terms of explanation, video tutorials may be a better option than written instructions to provide information on difficult topics.

I decided to provide the students with a shared written tutorial file with screenshots showing the steps to be taken and the parameters to be set in each window of the tool to solve the assignment. Such clear instructions help prevent students from getting lost. I also simplified the exercises that the students had to solve by making them shorter, in order to try to avoid disappointment and frustration.

I shared a link to a video tutorial on how to use the tool (video tutorials on YouTube) to help support the students learning from home. I also shared a link <https://docs.gimp.org/> where they could find the full GIMP manual.

I ensured that I had video links with my students twice a week using Google Meet to resolve any queries.



## Final result

The online lesson had the following scenario. The teacher gave the students a written tutorial file with screenshots showing the steps to be followed and the parameters to be set in each window of the tool to solve the proposed task.

The students were assigned an exercise to be done following the instructions in the written tutorial file.

The teacher also shared a link to a video tutorial on how to use the tool (Video tutorials on YouTube) to give the students the opportunity to see and hear an explanation on how to use the tool.

We would then try to resolve any questions in the next Google Meet video call. I would also have an individual Google Meet video call with a particular student if the collective video call was not successful enough to solve the problem.

I used these free tools. We were lucky we did not have to buy anything special for this particular lesson.

- [Google Drive](#). To share explanations, tutorials and exercises with the students.
- [Google G-mail](#). To have an easy and clear communication channel between teacher and students.
- [Moodle](#). To share explanations, tutorials and exercises with the students and get the students tasks.
- [Google Meet](#). To join regular virtual meetings in order to clear up all doubts that might come up.

I also had to learn how to organise online sessions or record the meetings and tutorials.

## Final feedback

The final feedback confirmed that most students had learned the topic successfully. The vast majority of students had been able to develop their autonomy in following instructions at work and even organising their time to complete the given tasks.

Only a very few students with some reading difficulties needed additional private Google Meet chats to answer some extra questions.



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