Text Formatting

You can create a variety of different text effects using Flash. This ranges from standard text formatting through to detailed text animation. The PROPERTIES panel has all the text formatting options.

Creating Text

When using text within Flash you have all the fonts in the computer's system available to you. However, those fonts may not be available on the user's computer. Therefore, it is advisable to use fonts from regular font families.

For example:

The SANS SERIF font family includes Arial, Helvetica, Verdana.
The SERIF font family includes Times, Times New Roman, Century Schoolbook.

  1   Load Flash or close the current file and create a NEW ACTIONSCRIPT 3.0 file

2 Select the TEXT TOOL, click the I-Beam near the top left of the stage and enter:
          Global Tours

NOTE: If you use fonts that are unusual and possibly not in a user's system, it is best to use the EMBED button in the PROPERTIES panel to embed the font in the animation. This does increase the size of the file a little, but it ensures that the font is not replaced by a different font from the user's system.
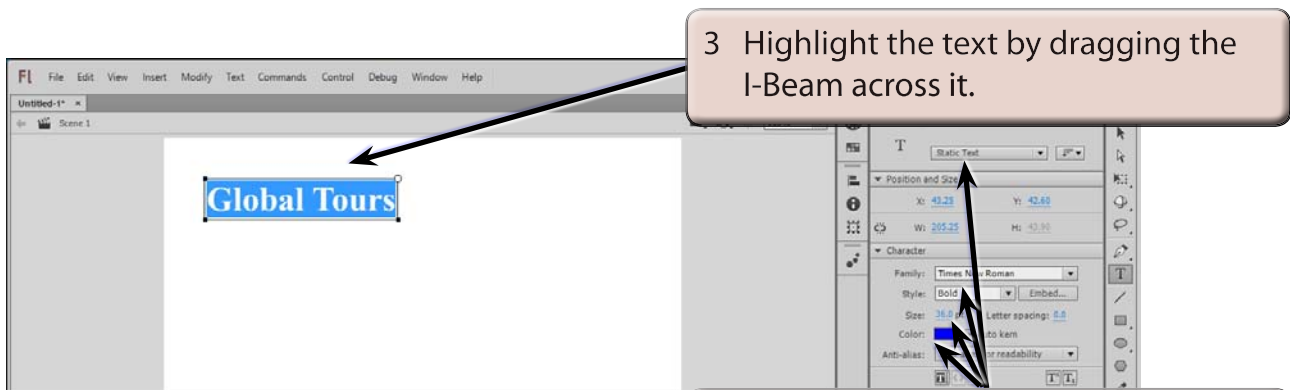
3 Highlight the text by dragging the I-Beam across it.

4 In the PROPERTIES panel check that the TEXT TYPE is set to STATIC TEXT then set the font FAMILY to TIMES (NEW ROMAN), the STYLE to BOLD, the font SIZE to 36 pt and the text COLOUR to BLUE.
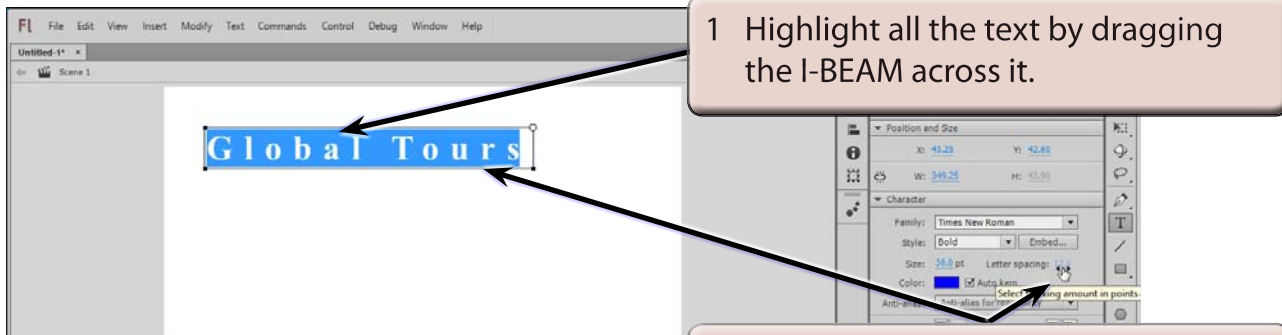
NOTE: i The text SIZE can be entered by clicking in the SIZE box in the PROPERTIES panel and entering the required size or by dragging the bottom border of the SIZE box.

ii There are 3 types of text. STATIC which is used in normal Flash animations, DYNAMIC which can change within an animation, for example the scores from a computer game, and INPUT where the user is asked to enter text from the animation. DYNAMIC and INPUT text are used in conjunction with ActionScript code.
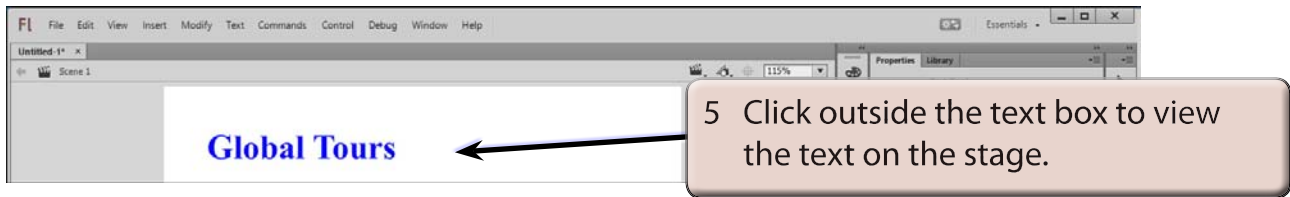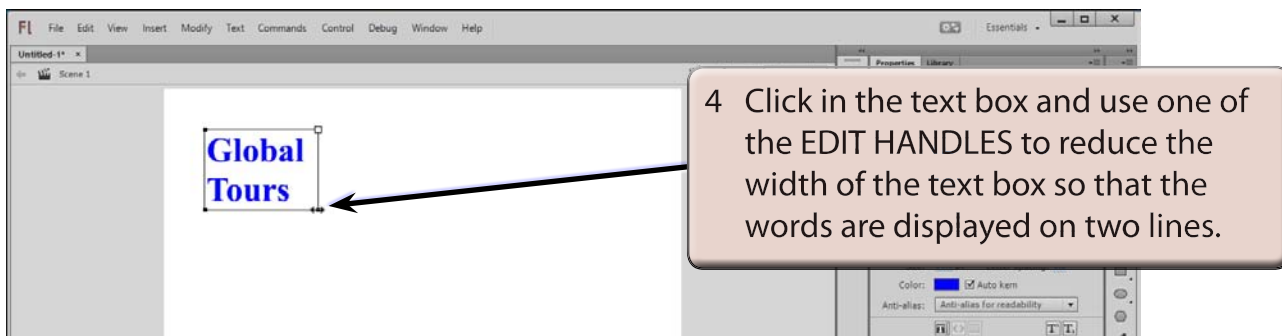
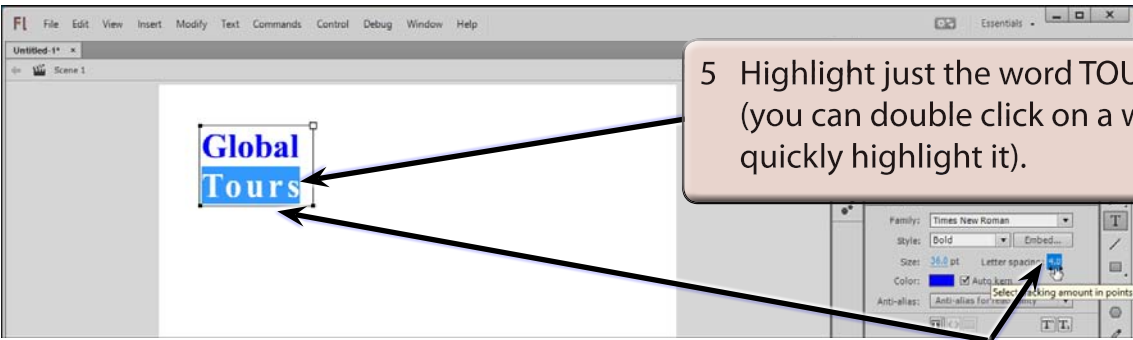5 Click outside the text box to view the text on the stage.

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Character Spacing

You can control the character spacing in all the text or just on selected letters.

1 Highlight all the text by dragging the I-BEAM across it.

2 In the PROPERTIES panel set the LETTER SPACING box to 12 pixels and all the letters in the text will be spaced out.

3   Return the LETTER SPACING to 0.

4 Click in the text box and use one of the EDIT HANDLES to reduce the width of the text box so that the words are displayed on two lines.
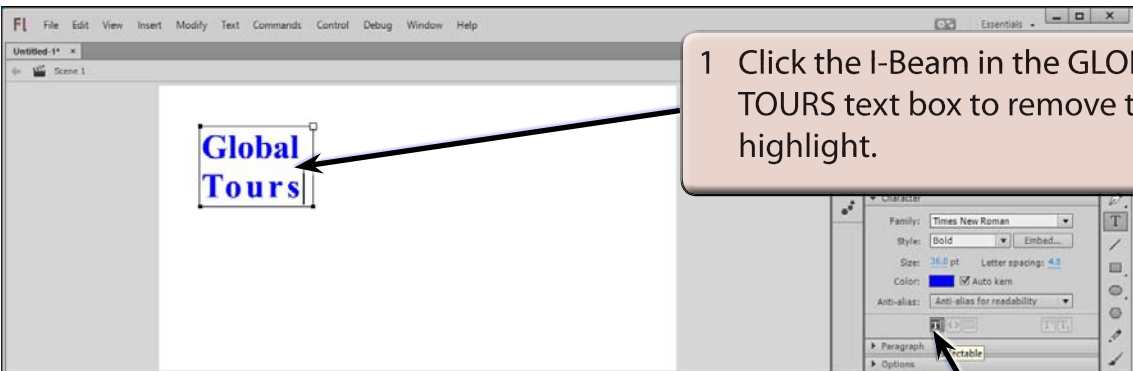
5 Highlight just the word TOURS (you can double click on a word to quickly highlight it).

6 Use the PROPERTIES panel to increase the LETTER SPACING to about 4 pixels so that the word TOURS is the same width as the word GLOBAL.

Selectable Text

You can allow text from a Flash file to be copied and pasted within a web site. This might be useful if you are providing information on a web site that others may wish to use. Only a whole text box can be made selectable, not individual words.

1 Click the I-Beam in the GLOBAL TOURS text box to remove the highlight.

2 In the PROPERTIES panel check that the SELECTABLE button is turned on. The button should be shaded.