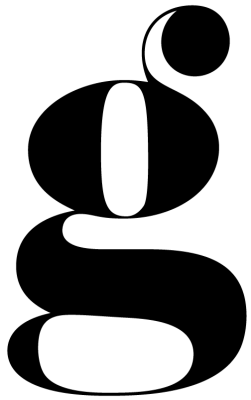


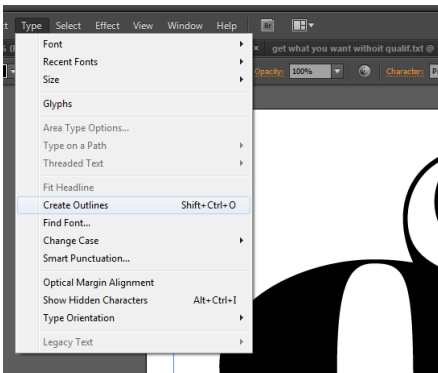
# Fill a letterform with Text

Create a new document and type in a letter. I've used the letter 'g' from a free font called 'Pistilli' designed by Claude Pelletier. Go to any of the usual free font sites and you'll find it easily. I want to thank him for sharing such a gorgeous font set. Thank You Claude!

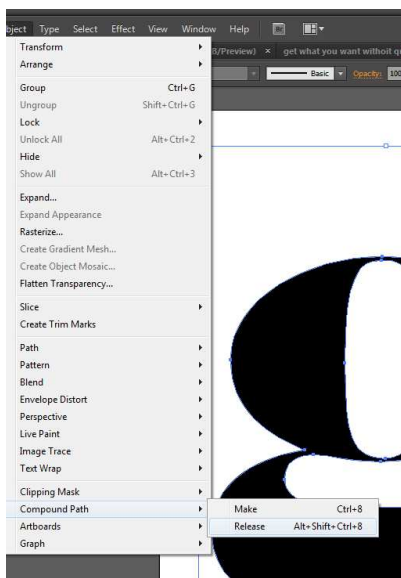


So here is my letter g and I want to fill it with text.

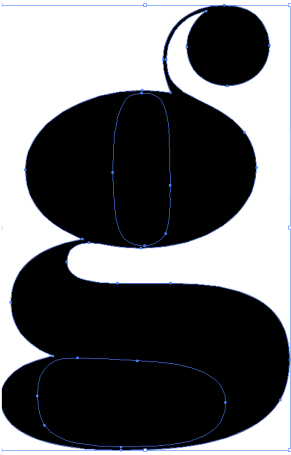
Step 1: Select the letter and go to [Type>Create Outlines](#).



Step 2: With the letterform still selected, go to [Object>Compound Path>Release](#).

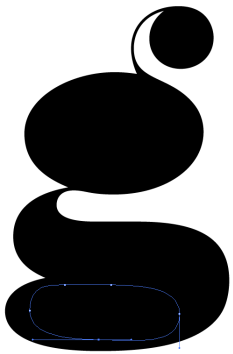


Step 3: This is how the letterform will look after being released from the compound path the compound path is released.



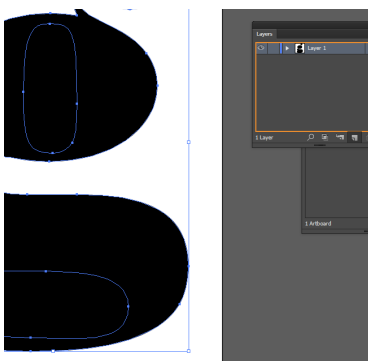
Step 4: Go to **Object>Ungroup** - this will let you tweak the sizes of the inner shapes so that more room can be created around them for the filler text to flow around. This step isn't always necessary but you can see the space below the bottom 'ellipse' doesn't leave much of a channel for text, at least, legible text, to run.

Step 5: Use the **Direct Selection Tool (A)** to click on individual nodes to tweak the shape or the standard **Direct Selection Tool (V)** to scale it generally.

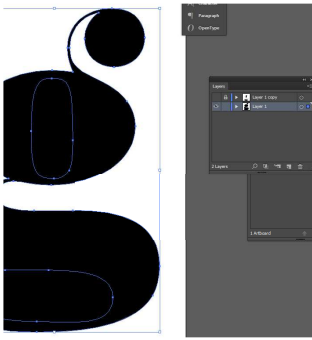


You can see that I've made more room below the oval shape to create more room for text to flow around it within the letterform.

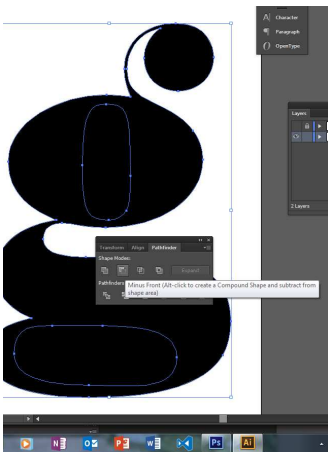
Step 6: When you are happy with the reshaping of the inner bits, duplicate the layer by simply dragging the layer down to the duplicate layer icon in the Layers palette.



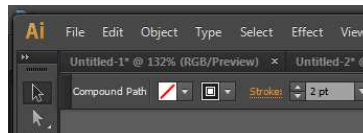
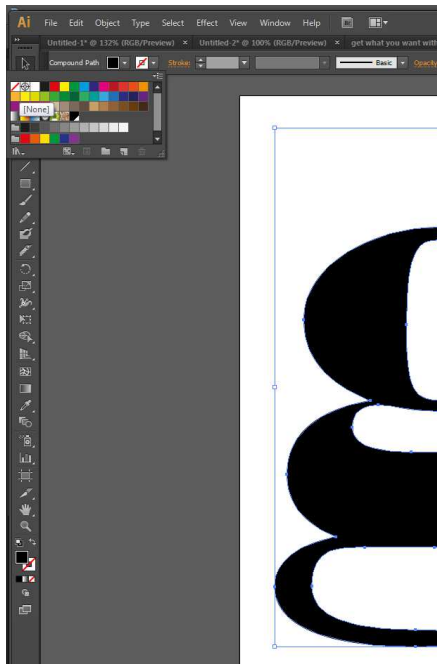
Step 7: Lock and hide one of the layers. On the visible layer, select all, ie, the outline and the inner shapes.



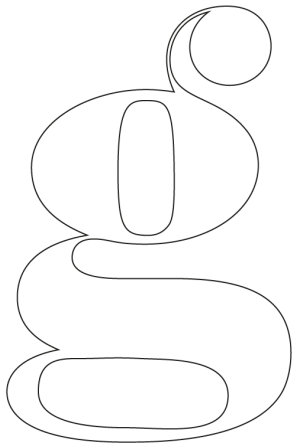
Step 8: Go to **Pathfinder > Minus Front** to cut the inner shapes from the outline.



Step 9: Select **No Fill** from the colour palette. Give the outline a **Stroke**. I've used 2pt.

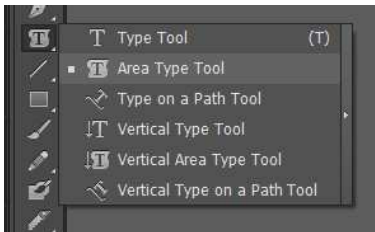


Step 10: The previous step gives you an outline with a border (stroke). Lock and hide this layer.

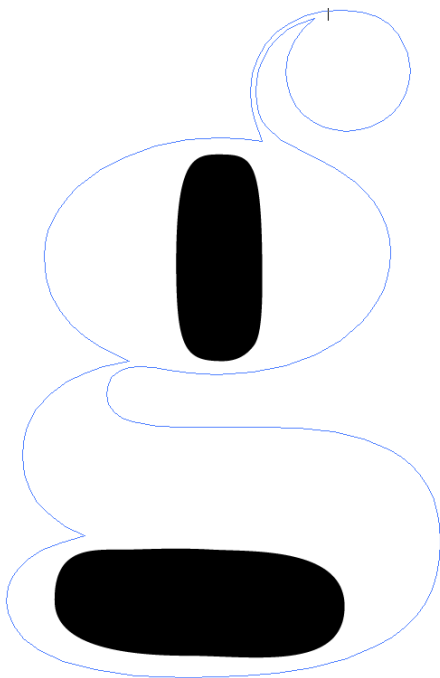


Step 11: Go back to your first layer, click on the eye icon to 'unhide' and unlock it.

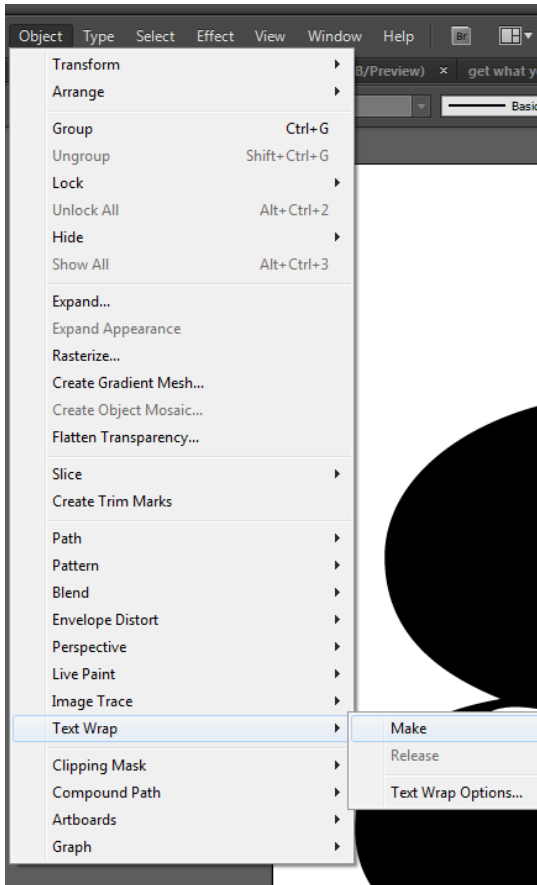
Step 12: Select the [Area Type Tool](#) from the Text option drop-down options in the [Tools](#) palette.



Step 13: Click in the letterform with the [Area Type Tool](#).

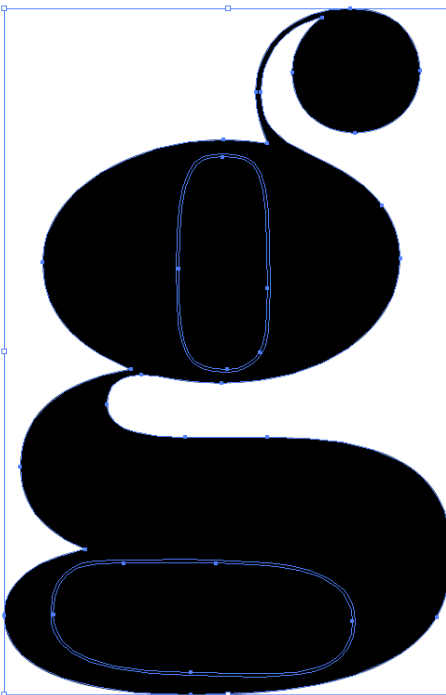


Step 14: With the inner shapes selected, go to **Object>Text Wrap>Make**.

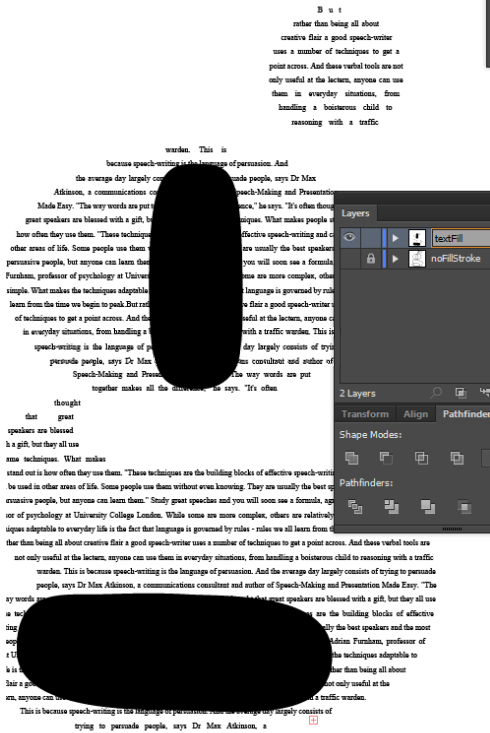


You can go to **Text Wrap Options** to change how much space you want to create.

Step 15: You can see the inner shapes now have a 'wrapper' around them - a buffer that text will flow around.

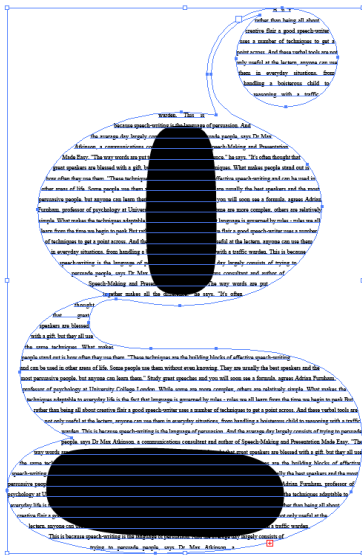


Step 16: With the **Area Type Tool** still selected, type in some text or paste in text from an existing document. I set mine to be fully justified using the Paragraph settings. Fully justified can result in ugly spaces so you might need to change the font size, adjust the kerning and leading, etc.



I'm not going into them here but so as you know, you can refine your text in the **Type>Character** settings to tweak the text as you want.

Step 17: You may find that the text wrap isn't working, as in the screen grab below - don't worry.

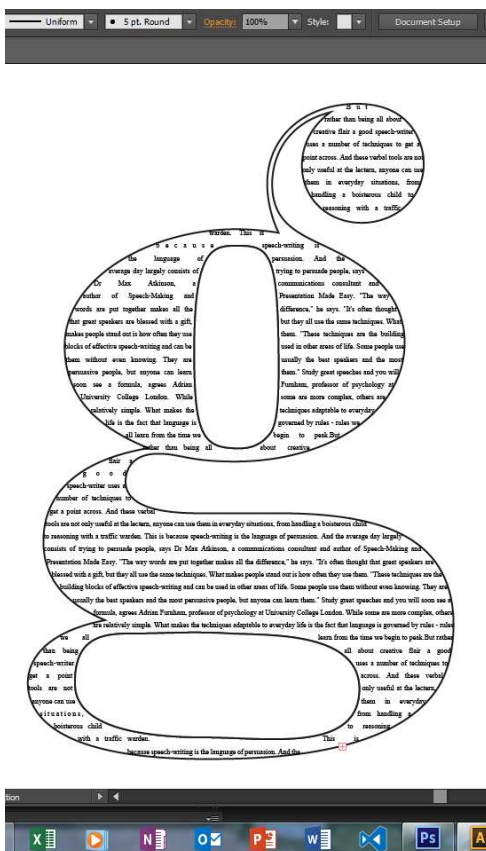


Click on the letterform and go to **Object>Arrange>Send to Back**.

Step 18: Click on the inner shapes and fill with White from the colour palette. Nice enough but it needs some definition - like the outline we created on the other layer.



Step 19: Go to the outline layer, unhide and unlock it. You can copy and paste it onto your top layer and position it to give the unbordered text from the previous step an outline.



There, all done. I hope you found it easy to follow and find it useful and / or fun to use in the future.