

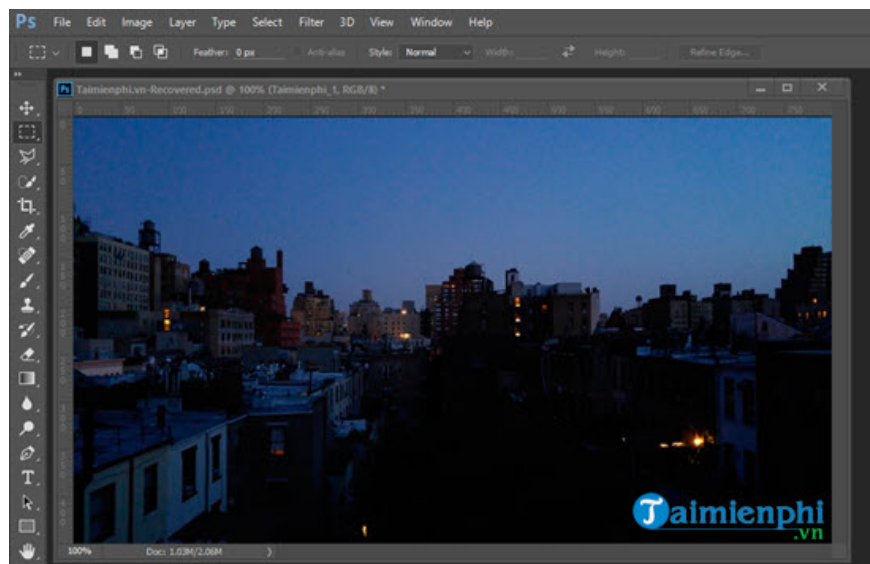
Guide to correcting underexposed photos using Photoshop

Insufficient lighting causes photos to lose sharpness and reduces overall quality. However, with Photoshop, you can easily improve brightness without losing important details.

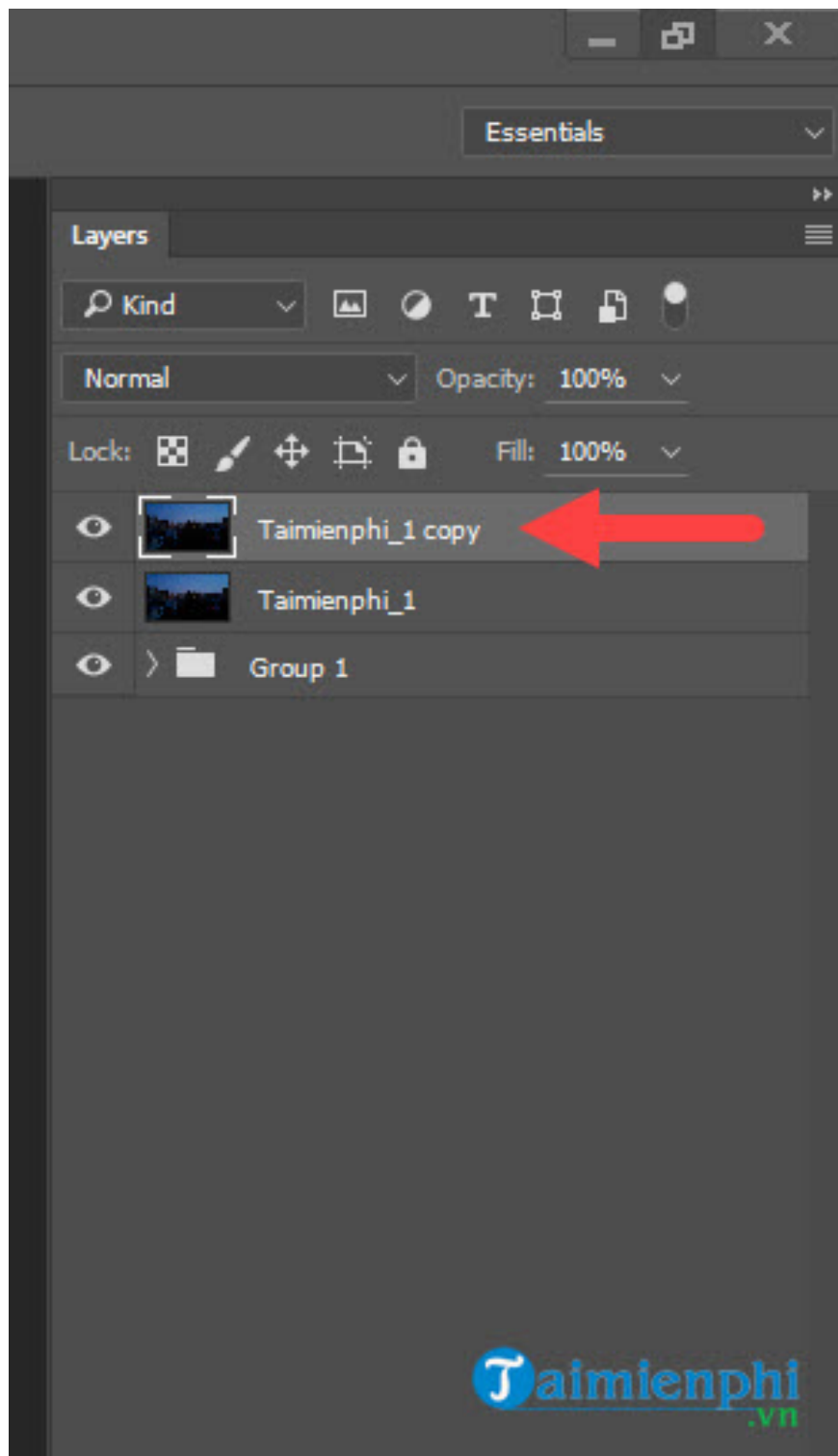
This article will guide you on how to correct underexposed photos using Photoshop with tools such as Curves, Levels, and Shadows/Highlights.

The simplest way to fix underexposed photos.

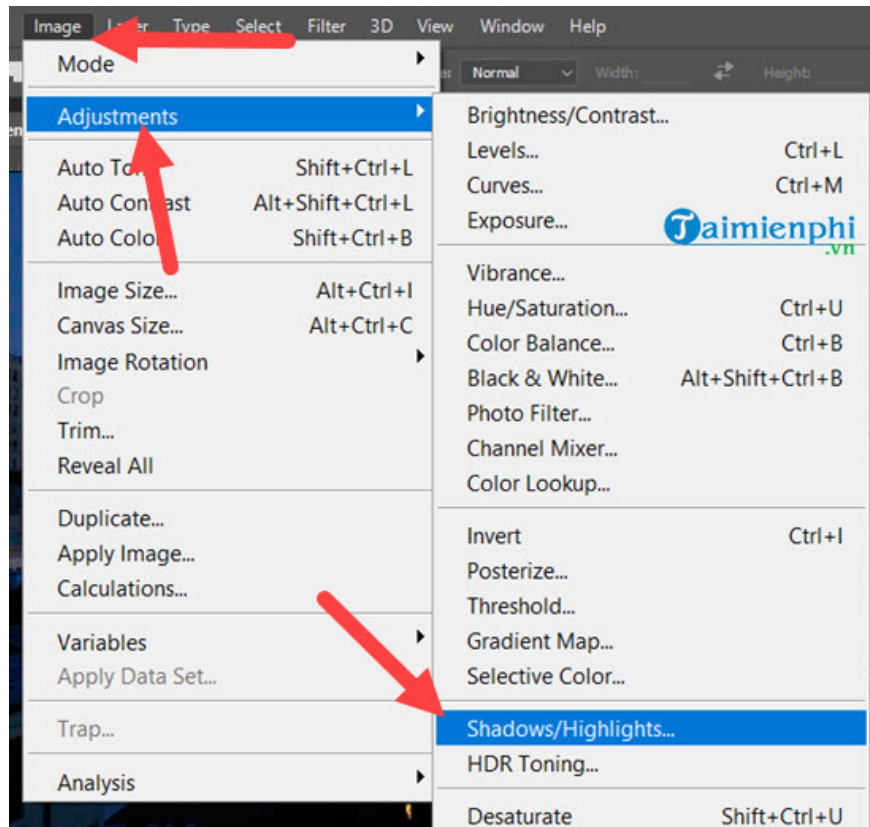
Let's say we have a dark image like the one below; now Free Download will use **Photoshop** to make the image look brighter.



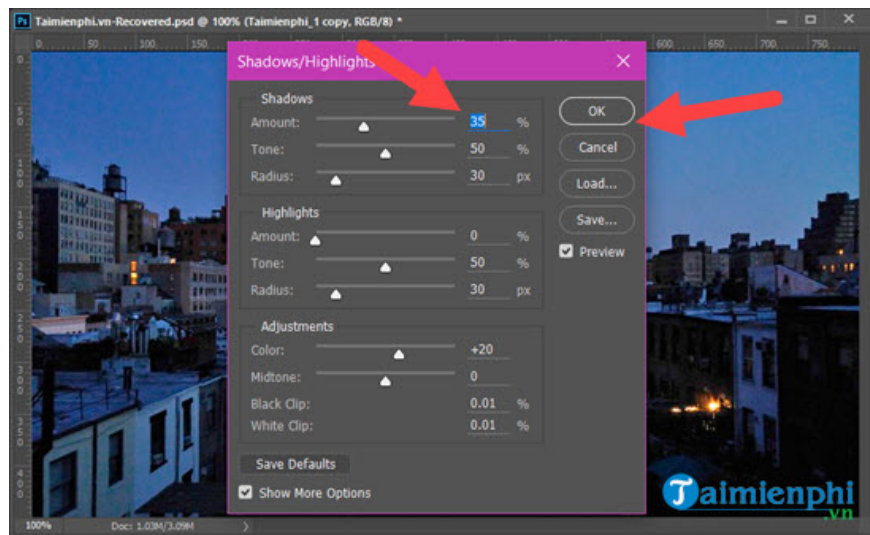
Step 1: First, duplicate the image layer. This is a habit you should develop before attempting any other techniques. To duplicate a layer, press the **Ctrl + J** key combination.



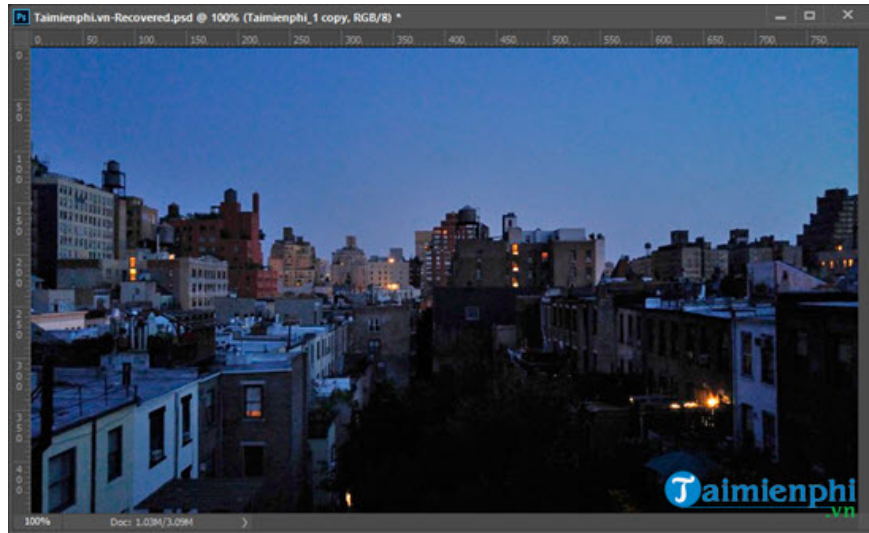
Step 2: The next step is simply to click on **Image** > select **Adjustment** > then select **Shadows/Highlights** to adjust the brightness of the dark areas.



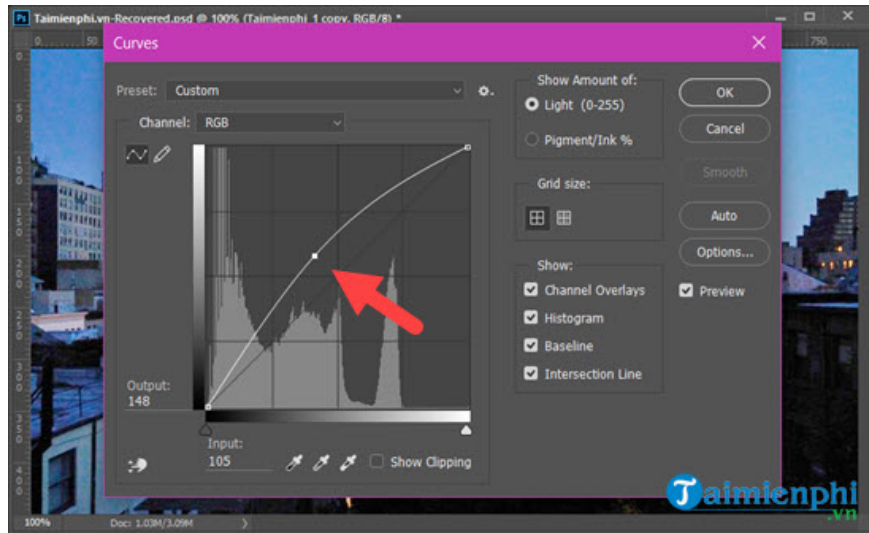
Step 3: Next, we can fine-tune the **Shadows** with an **Amount** value of **35%** , but of course, you can adjust it to suit your image.



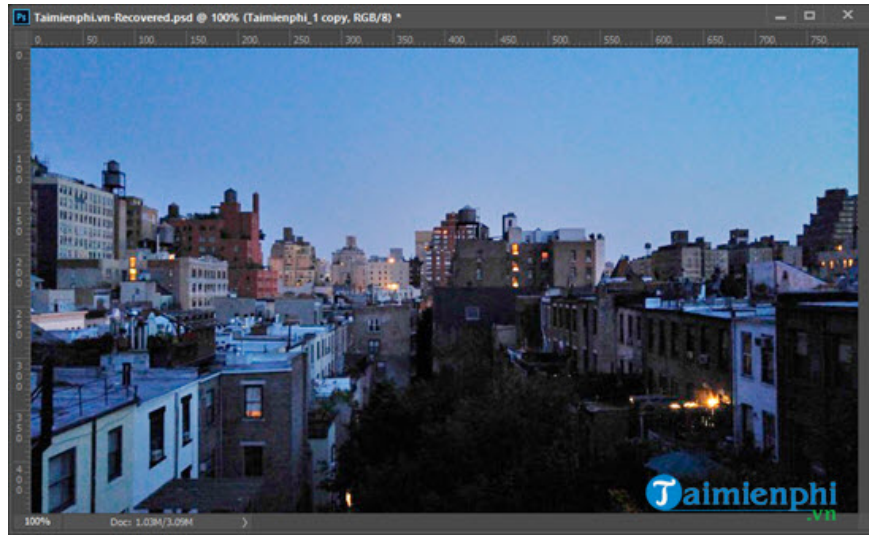
As a result, you'll see the picture is a little brighter than it was initially, right?



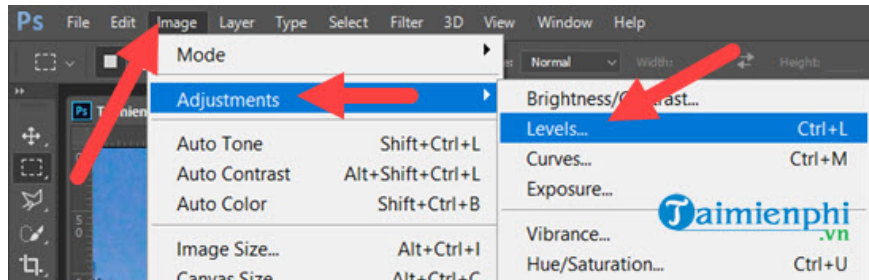
Step 4: Using **Curves** , press **Ctrl + M** and drag as shown in the image. It doesn't need to be perfectly curved, and you can adjust it to your liking at this step.



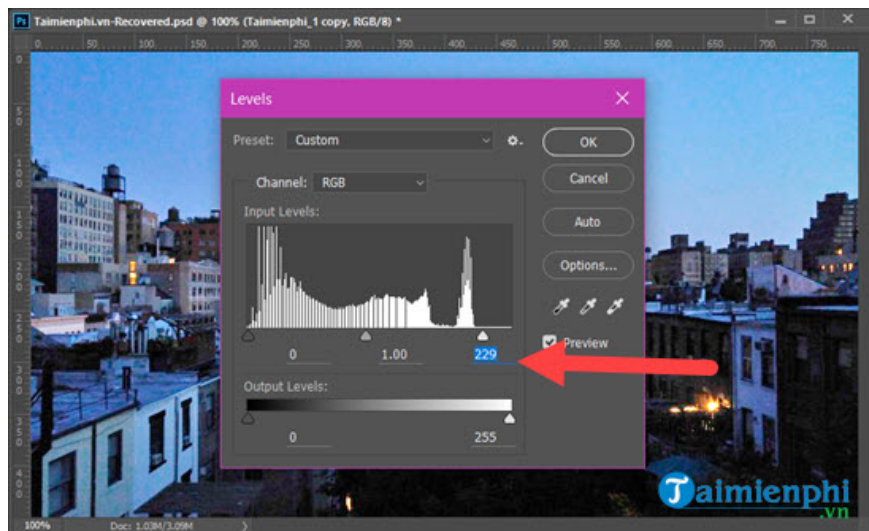
Result:



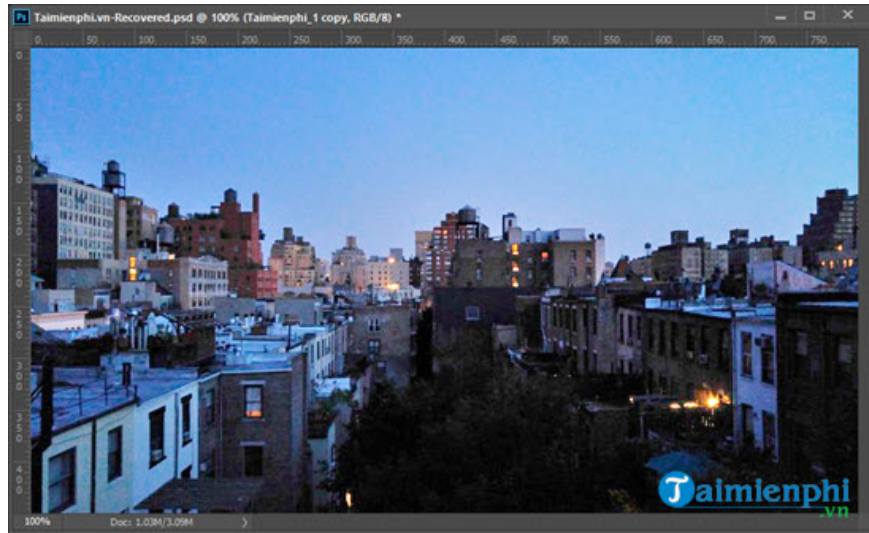
Step 5: Next, go back to **Image** > select **Adjustments** > select **Levels** , or use the shortcut **Ctrl + L** for quick access.



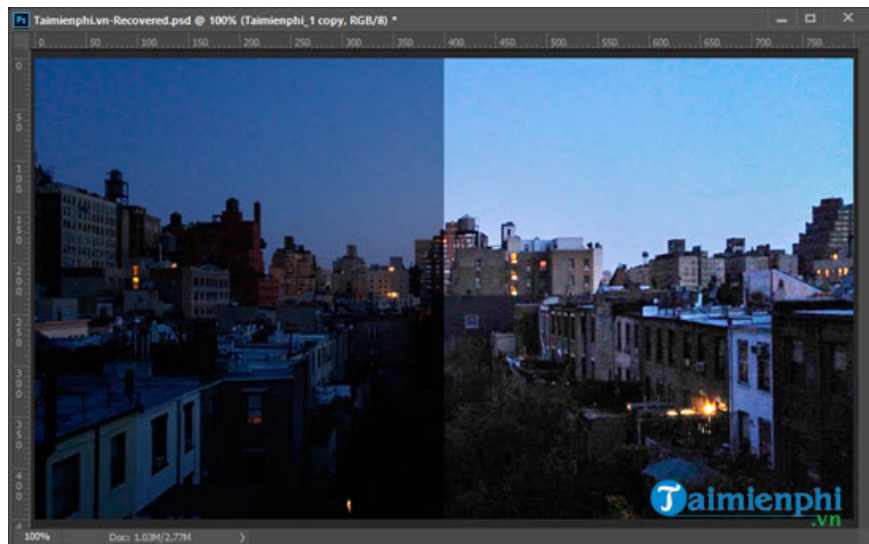
Step 6: Here, to adjust the brightness, select the section as shown below, then drag it from right to left to adjust.



The final result is that your image is much brighter than it was initially.



Let's compare the before and after edits:



If you're using RAW images, editing is easier thanks to the complete color data. However, even with JPEG images, you can still improve brightness by adjusting Shadows/Highlights, Levels, or Curves. To avoid noise after brightening, apply Noise Reduction to maintain the best quality. When editing, you need to be flexible depending on the lighting characteristics of each image to achieve optimal results. With these tips, you can confidently fix underexposed photos in Photoshop more professionally.

You finished reading the article "**Guide to correcting underexposed photos using Photoshop**" edited by the [TipsMake](#) team. We hope this article has provided you with many useful tech tips and tricks. You can search for similar articles on tips and guides. Thank you for reading and for following us regularly.