This was a Digital Skills session conducted online by Laura Sedgwick, as part of the Digital Skills Application module. This is a two-part module in which students practice and acquire digital skills through a series of tutorial-led sessions, and they then apply these skills to a set brief.

This is the second year of a foundation degree, so the students have already had a year of digital skills tuition at this point in Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator. This session is part of a series of tutorials to introduce Adobe InDesign.

Due to the problems students faced in trying to follow live walkthroughs held over Teams while simultaneously doing the work in the Adobe software, these tutorials took the form of pre-recorded tutorials. That way, students could pause and revisit earlier parts of the video as required. We also found they had fewer issues managing bandwidth by watching a video on YouTube compared to have the software and Teams running simultaneously.

We had some initial issues with videos on Microsoft Stream being unavailable to individual students, so videos were hosted as unlisted videos on Youtube for easy access [1].

A written walkthrough was also available as a PDF for those students who needed less instruction, or perhaps only a refresher in the software [2].
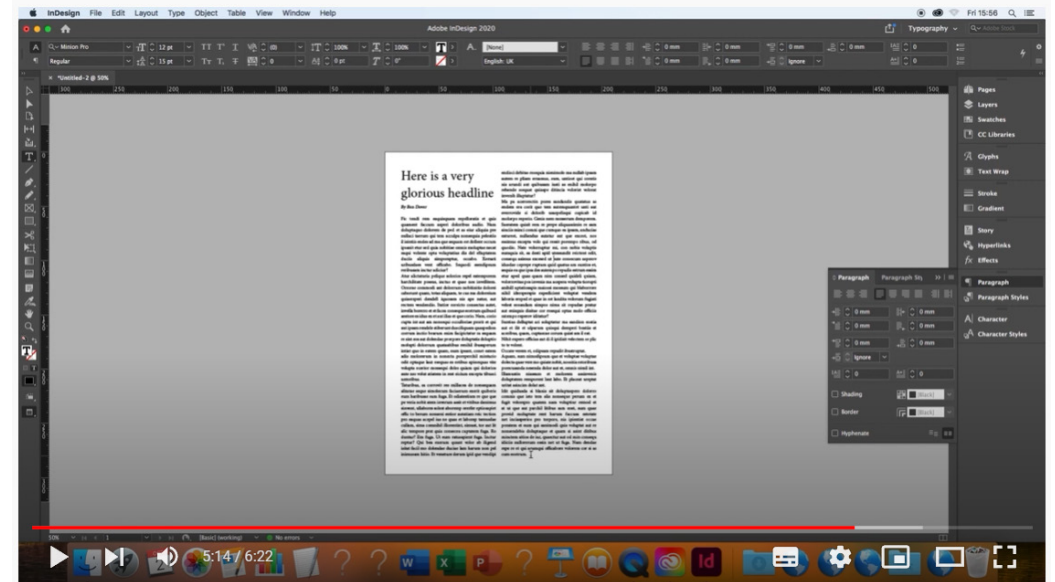
The aim of the walkthrough was to correctly set up a document and its baseline grid in Adobe InDesign, and then create a simple two-column sheet with correctly formatted text. Students were permitted to use Lorem Ipsum, or they could use articles from the internet as placeholder text if preferred.

The learning outcomes were simple:

- Create a new document and set up a baseline grid
- Set up a two-column layout
- Format text and align it with the grid

Students posted their own efforts on Teams to show what they'd done [3], and they received verbal feedback in a group session on Teams later that morning so all students could benefit from the feedback.

You can find the link at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rYtT9Jo6ApI

Styling text with baseline grids

Unlisted

1

2

3

Digital Skills Application session for FdA Graphic Communication degree

Newcastle College