Shopify Templates, Sections & Blocks Practice Guide

Understand the Structure First. Design Becomes Easier After That.

Section 5: Themes and Store Design

Video: Understand Templates, Sections and Blocks

Shopify pages are visually assembled in layers.
You do not need to memorise every option.
First understand how templates, sections and blocks fit together.

Understand the structure first. Design becomes much easier after that.

1 The Shopify Page Hierarchy

TEMPLATE
Controls the overall structure/layout assigned to a page type or page.

↓

SECTION
A larger design area inside the template.

↓

BLOCK
A smaller editable element inside a section.

Template = overall page structure
Section = larger page area
Block = smaller content element

ABOUT PAGE TEMPLATE

↓ **HERO SECTION**
Heading Block | Text Block | Button Block

↓ **IMAGE WITH TEXT SECTION**
Image | Heading | Text

↓ **ICONS WITH TEXT SECTION**
Icon | Heading | Text

2 Common Examples

TEMPLATES
- Homepage
- Page
- About Page
- Product
- Collection

SECTIONS
- Hero
- Image with Text
- Icons with Text
- Video
- Featured Collection

BLOCKS
- Heading
- Text
- Button
- Image
- Icon
- Menu

You do not need to use every available section or block. You do not need to learn every section and block before building a Shopify store.

3 Normal Page Editor vs Theme Editor

NORMAL SHOPIFY PAGE EDITOR
= Creates the basic page and simple page content.

Best for:
- Page title
- Basic text
- Links
- Images
- Simple page content

THEME EDITOR / TEMPLATE
= Controls how the page is visually structured using sections and blocks.

Best for:
- Page layout
- Visual structure
- Sections
- Blocks
- Hero areas
- Richer presentation

The page editor creates the content.
The template controls how the page can be visually presented.

4 Theme Editor Orientation

TOP: Page / template selector

LEFT
- Template structure
- Sections
- Blocks

CENTER: STORE PREVIEW

HEADER

TEMPLATE CONTENT AREA

FOOTER

SETTINGS PANEL / SELECTED ITEM

Options for the section or block being edited

Header and footer are separate/global areas. The area between them is the template content being designed.

5 Safe Beginner Practice

- [ ] Open Online Store → Themes → Customize
- [ ] Confirm the correct working theme is open
- [ ] Select a page/template
- [ ] Identify the sections shown on the left
- [ ] Open one section
- [ ] Identify the blocks inside it
- [ ] Change one text block
- [ ] Change one image
- [ ] Hide/show one block or section
- [ ] Rearrange one section
- [ ] Add one new section
- [ ] Preview the result

Explore a few controls. You do not need to understand every available setting. For now, experiment with a few sections and blocks so you understand how the system works.

6 About Page Template Practice

1. **Open the Theme Editor**
2. **Create a new page template**
   Suggested name: About Us
3. **Start from the default page template**
4. **Inspect the existing/main page section**
5. **Open its blocks and explore title/content controls**
6. **Hide the existing section temporarily if required**
7. **Add a Hero section**
8. **Update:**
   heading · text · button · background image
9. **If the image makes text difficult to read:**
   change text colour · use overlay where appropriate
10. **Add:**
    Image with Text · Icons with Text
11. **Rearrange the sections**
12. **Add another section between them**
    Example: Video section
13. **Save the template**

7 Section Practice

- [ ] Add a section
- [ ] Hide a section
- [ ] Show a section
- [ ] Rearrange a section
- [ ] Remove a section safely
- [ ] Change a section image
- [ ] Change section background where available
- [ ] Review section-specific settings

Different sections provide different settings. Learn the workflow rather than memorising every option.

8 Block Practice

- [ ] Open a block
- [ ] Change heading text
- [ ] Change paragraph text
- [ ] Change a button label
- [ ] Hide a block
- [ ] Rearrange blocks
- [ ] Add a supported block
- [ ] Review block-specific settings

Blocks depend on the section. Not every section contains the same block types.

9 Using Demo Content

FINAL CONTENT NOT READY?
That is okay.

For this lesson you may use:
- Temporary text
- Placeholder/demo text
- Temporary images
- Course/demo assets

The goal is to understand the Shopify design workflow.

Final content, images and branding can be replaced when those topics are covered properly later.

10 Working with Pre-Made Layouts

- [ ] Treat demo layout as a starting point
- [ ] Replace placeholder images when ready
- [ ] Replace demo text when ready
- [ ] Update buttons and links
- [ ] Remove sections the store does not need
- [ ] Add sections only when useful
- [ ] Keep the first version simple

Do not chase every layout option.

11 Assign the Template to the Page

1. **Save the new template**
2. **Open the relevant Shopify page**
3. **Find the template/theme-template setting**
4. **Select the newly created About template**
5. **Save the page**
6. **Refresh if the change takes time to appear**
7. **Open the storefront preview**
8. **Confirm the correct template is displaying**

- [ ] Correct template assigned
- [ ] Page saved
- [ ] Store preview opened
- [ ] New template visible
- [ ] Desktop checked
- [ ] Mobile checked

Shopify may sometimes take a moment to reflect a template assignment. Save, refresh and check again before assuming something is broken.

12 Do Not Learn Everything at Once

YOU DO NOT NEED TO MASTER EVERY SECTION

For now:
- Understand templates
- Understand sections
- Understand blocks
- Practice adding/removing/rearranging
- Learn how settings appear
- Assign one template to one page

Learn later:
- Important sections in depth
- Product templates
- Collection templates
- Final content creation
- Final image creation
- Advanced design
- Custom coding

13 Final Practice Check

- [ ] I understand what a template is
- [ ] I understand what a section is
- [ ] I understand what a block is
- [ ] I can identify them in Theme Editor
- [ ] I can add a section
- [ ] I can rearrange a section
- [ ] I can hide/remove a section
- [ ] I can edit a block
- [ ] I can use temporary content
- [ ] I created a simple About template
- [ ] I assigned it to the About page
- [ ] I previewed the result

- [ ] **TEMPLATE / SECTION / BLOCK WORKFLOW UNDERSTOOD**

If your Theme Editor, available sections, blocks or template-assignment options look different from the lesson, use the Shopify Course Help & Direction Form from the resource hub and describe what you are seeing.