How do I use the healing tools in Adobe Photoshop Elements 8.0?

Subject Descriptors: Adobe, Photoshop, Elements, PSE, Spot, Healing, Tool

Application (Version): Adobe Photoshop Elements 8.0

Task Description: I want to use healing in Adobe Photoshop Elements. How do I do that?

Tutorial Date: 15 May 2009, Marita Jackson. Updated 17 June 2010 Kasidy Stafford

First, select the Spot healing brush from the toolbox by clicking the bandaid icon...

Spot healing is a tool that can be used to erase parts of an image by replacing it with parts around it. It is a common tool for erasing/hiding blemishes and/or freckles.

Next, make a new layer to go over your original image and then click ALL LAYERS under the options at the top of the screen...
One problem with the spot healing brush is that it samples from spots near it. So if your brush is too big, or you get too close to a certain area, you will get an unnatural, weird looking area...

Instead, we will use the healing tool. Select it from the menu by clicking and hold down the spot healing tool and selecting the healing tool from the new menu...

Next, carefully spot small areas away at a time...
Remember to click ALL LAYERS under the options at the top of the screen...

You can use the healing tool by first holding down alt and then clicking on an area of clear skin (good pixels)...

and then clicking on an area of freckles (bad pixels)...

Note: The plus shows where you sampled the "good pixels" from.
Basically, we've been making a simple layer of good pixels over your original...
With some complex effects...