Remove Person or Subject from Background

Select subject now available in latest PS version, try it if you have it.

We are going to select a subject/create a mask/refine the edges of the mask/paint onto the mask/ move subject to a new image. Using a mask is a non destructive process and allows alterations to be made and corrected easily.

1. Use quick selection tool and drag over subject to make a good selection slightly overlapping the subject.

Amend selection by altering the brush size, to deselect parts = alt + drag (Apple=opt + drag) (brush tip shows a +/-) Selection shows as marching ants.

1. Click on the background thumbnail in the Layers palette. Right click, select Layer from background and title becomes Layer 0.
2. Move to bottom of layer palette and select icon 3rd from left, add layer mask (square with circle inside) this creates a mask in black and white next to the thumbnail.

Right click on the coloured thumbnail and select large thumbnail.

1. Right click on the layer mask and select Refine mask.

Click on view mode/view/select On Layers option. This gives Transparent background, bit like tracing paper. Look at other view options. This removes the background from sight and just leaves the mask to view. Magnify the image to 100% to work on it.

In Refine mask box /select Edge detection/click on smart radius and increase radius slightly.

If hair is involved then under Adjust edge, select, smooth and feather = keep both low but increase contrast to help define the edge. Shift edge to bring the selection in a bit.

Click on white box to left of edge detection box and select refine radius tool for fine hair. Paint over and this helps PS pay more attention to these areas and refines the edge selection. Keep brush small. Output = Layer Mask. Click OK

1. Apply refinements to the mask by refining the selection. Select the brush and colours set to black and white. Right click on the mask /select disable mask = shows original background, if needed for reference. You will see bits the selection has missed on the fur stole, paint these back in.

Click on layer mask/ok layer mask. Mask display options box may appear/ok that.

We review the edges, alter by painting with the brush set to black to erase or white to paint the background back in. Once satisfied with mask, right click on mask and select apply layer mask. Save as un-flattened psd.

1. Or drag selection to new blank canvas File/new/but background contents alter to transparent and then in future you have your cut out ready to go anywhere.

Open any image and drag selection over to it. Edit/transform/scale **and keep the shift key pressed down** to resize your selection. Alter images layers as needed, B+W, levels etc.