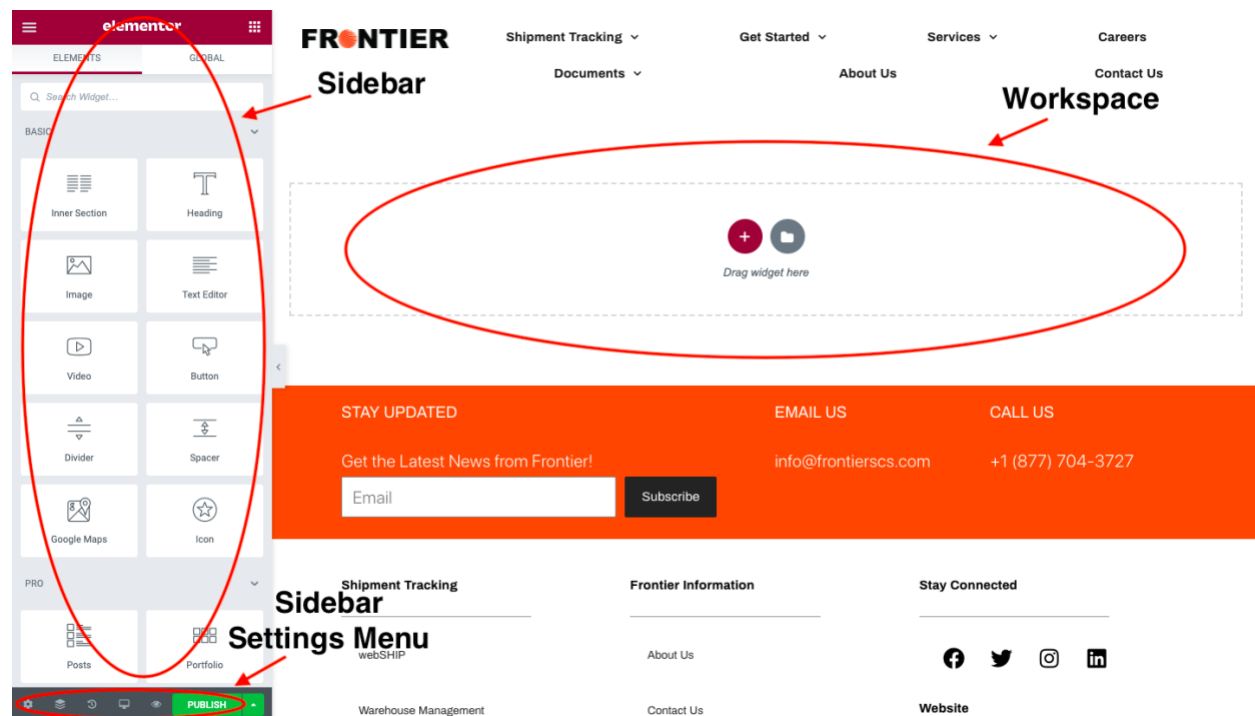# Elementor: In-depth

Frontier's websites are made using a Wordpress plugin called Elementor. In this guide, you will learn the about the layout, components and how to use Elementor.

Layout:

Understanding the layout of Elementor will help you navigate around and better follow along with information presented in this guide.

Sidebar: the sidebar is where you will find all of your widgets (Elements) that you will use to create content on your website. In addition, when you click on your widget that has been placed, you will be able to customize its attributes here. Don't worry about that too much, we will go over it later.

Workspace: this is where your actual content is going to go. Click the plus sign button to create a section. Drag and drop widgets from the sidebar into the section you created. Clicking the folder icon will take you to the templates screen where you can access premade templates or templates you made on your own.

Sidebar Settings Menu: we won't touch on this again, so here is what the icons mean in this menu from left to right:
- **Settings:** will open up settings for your page, has same options as the Wordpress site for your page as well as page background color and custom CSS for the page
- **Navigator:** this brings up a menu which shows all the contents of your workspace

- **History:** shows all the history of changes made on the page
- **Responsive Mode:** this will let you switch view and edit the document as if you were doing so on a different device like a tablet or phone
- **Preview:** opens up a new tab that shows your page how it is and lets you interact with it
- **Publish/Update:** the most important button on this menu, **publish** saves your changes and makes your page go live on the internet from being a draft, **update** saves your changes that you made
    - o Don't be nervous about publishing your page, you can always update or delete it

Components:

The three main "components" of an Elementor website are sections, columns and widgets (Elements).
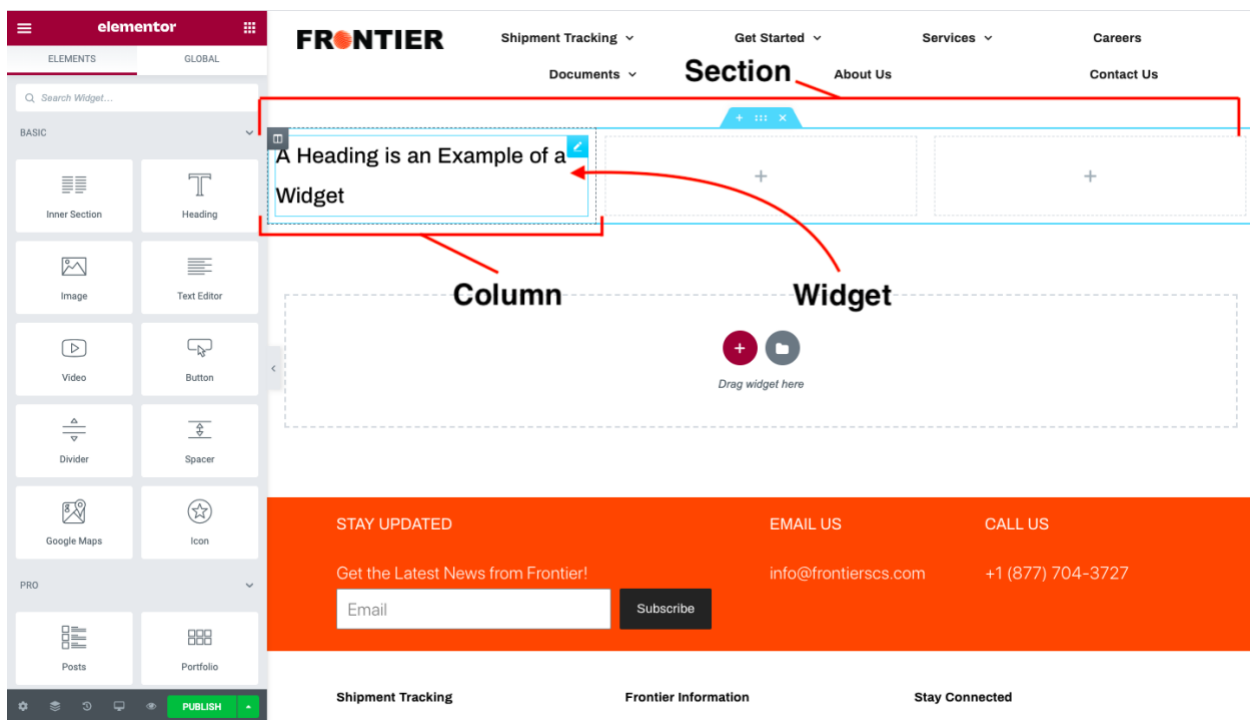
Section: this is the outermost container of content (the blue box you're working within), directly inside the section are the columns. When creating the section, Elementor gives you the option to have between 1 and 6 columns.

- After placing the section, you can move it around by dragging the 6-dot icon at the top (middle) of the section
- This will move all the content inside of it as well

Column: this is the middle-tier container of content; it is inside the section and the widget is placed within it. To add content to your page, drag and drop your widgets into one of your columns.

- To move the column and all of its contents, click and drag the grey square in the top left corner to where you want to move the column

Widget (also called Element): where all of your content is going to come from. Some examples of widgets are headings, text editors, buttons and various other sources that you can drag and drop into your workspace to create content. We will go over a few of the most commonly used widgets but there are a bunch of other less common widgets that can be fun and helpful to play around with.
- These can usually be moved by just clicking anywhere on the widget and dragging it but to make sure that you grab it, click and drag the blue pencil in the top right corner

Widget Sidebar:
From sections to columns to widgets, every component can be customized to your liking. This primarily happens in three tabs in the top of the sidebar.
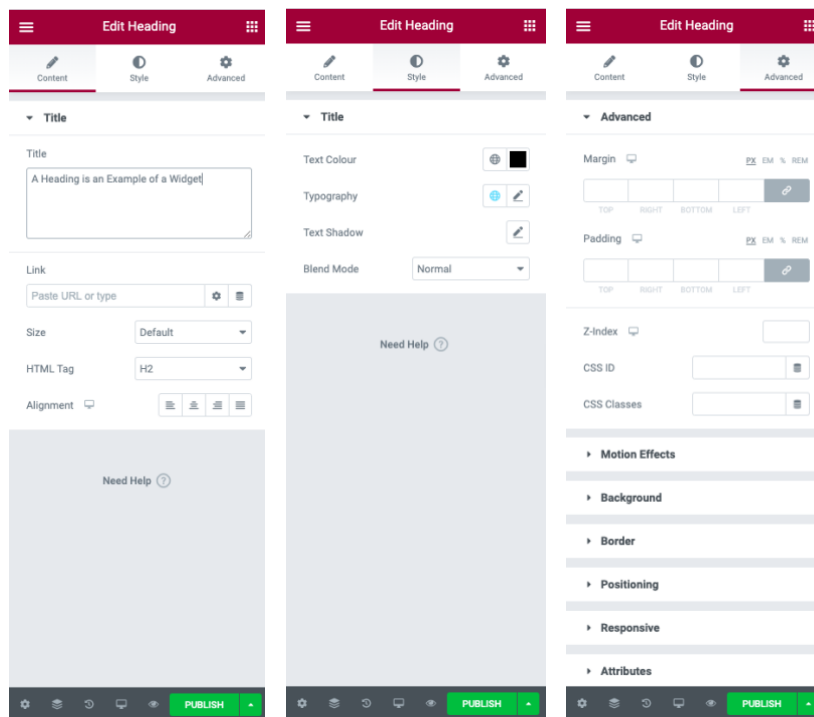
While all widgets are slightly different, below is a brief overview of the main characteristics of each of the widget tabs.

Content: the content tab is simply where you will edit the content of your widget. For example, with a heading widget as we see above, the content tab is where you will edit the text you want to be displayed in your heading. In an image widget, it would be where you insert the image.

Style: after adding the content, the style tab is where you will be able to design it and customize it to your liking. For the heading above, you can change the colour, font, weight, size and more in this tab.

Advanced: the advanced tab is where things can get more complicated but also allow you to completely express your creativity. It is recommended to not to use this tab until you care comfortable with Elementor's layout, using the widgets and using the other two tabs.
- When you are ready to jump in to advanced you will have access to the following:
  - Adjusting margins and padding around a component
  - Motion Effects: which are basically animations as you scroll
  - Positioning: the width and position of the component on the page
  - Responsive: used for making the website mobile friendly
  - More
    - The mentioned options are the most useful but feel free to play around with whatever you like

Column and Section Sidebar:
The sidebar for columns and sections is essentially the same as for the widget where you can customize the appearance (like adding a background picture) of the component in the style tab and changing things like margins and animations in the advanced tab.

However, instead of the content tab that widgets have, sections and columns have a layout tab where you can change various alignments and size of the component. See below:
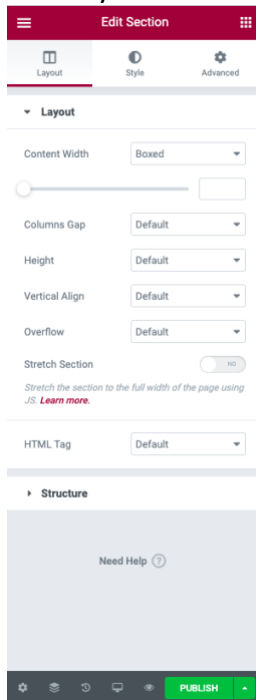
Widget Library:

Perhaps the most confusing part of bringing your ideas to life with Elementor is knowing which Widget to use. Below is a breakdown of what some of the most commonly used widgets do (the image is included so you can see which widget is being described but the name of it is also typed out so you can easily search for what you are looking for):
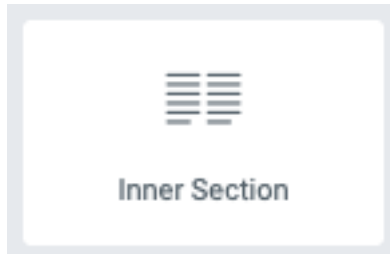

Inner Section

Inner Section: when you drop this widget in a column, it will split that column in two and allow you to put widgets in either side of the column.
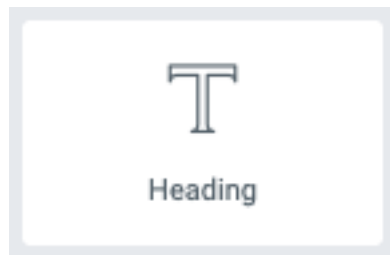
Heading

Heading: the heading section gives you a space to type. It is to be used only for headings and subheadings in your pages.
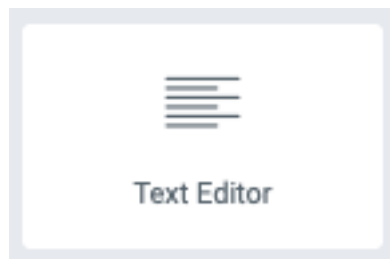
Text Editor

Text Editor: similar to the heading widget, you can also type in the text editor widget. However, this is what you will use if you are looking to add paragraphs or a full body of text.
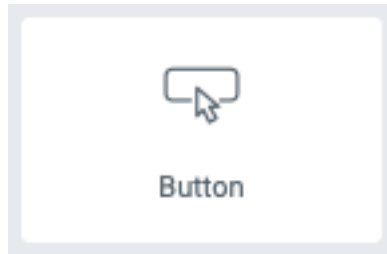
Button: the button is pretty self-explanatory, drag and drop this widget in to place the button. It is generally used to link to a different page you want to direct visitors to.
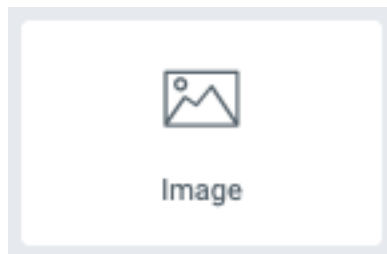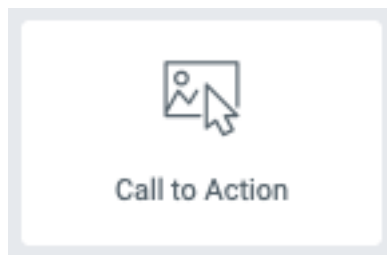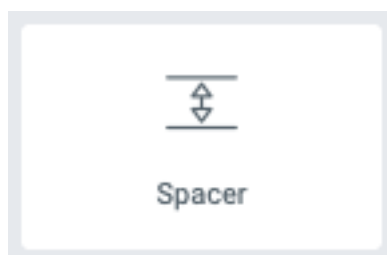

Image: the image is pretty self-explanatory as well. This widget is where you will input any photo media files that you have uploaded to the site.


Call to Action: the "Call to Action" widget is a combination of the image, heading, text editor and button widgets. Drag and drop this in to easily work with aforementioned widgets.

Spacer: this is used frequently to easily edit the formatting of your website if it is starting to look too crowded. Drop the spacer in and adjust the size to expand/contract it vertically.
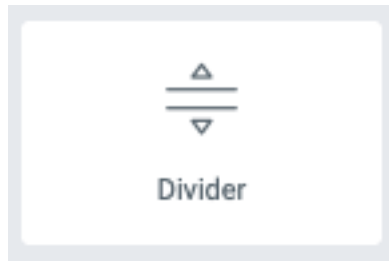
Divider: the divider is almost the exact same as the spacer except it has a line the runs through the middle horizontally (you change the length of this line).
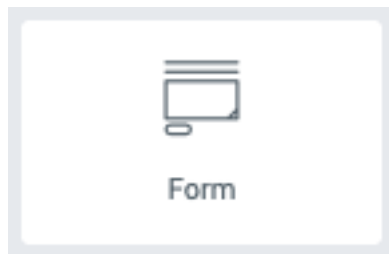

Form: this is for users who come to the website to fill out. After they fill it out they click submit, and you can choose an action that the form takes. The most common action is email, where the website will send all the information of the form to the email(s) of your choosing.

**Slides:** The slides are similar to a Call to Action where it incorporates the image, heading, text editor and button widgets. Unlike the Call to Action, you can add multiple blocks of information which the widget can transition through.
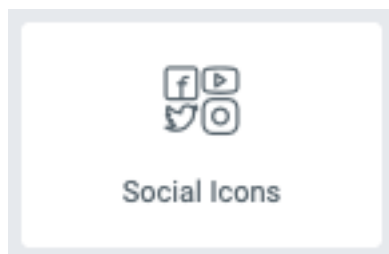

Social Icons: these are similar to a button, but let you choose from various social media icons to click. The benefit of using this is you can format all of the icons at the same time.
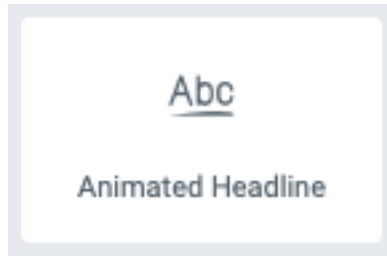
Animated Headline: this is similar to a heading; however, it lets you apply various animation to the text. These should be used sparingly as your pages will be start to look too cluttered.
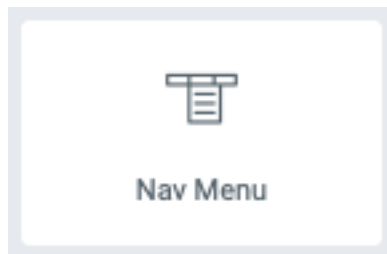
Nav Menu: the nav menu is slightly more complicated to use. This can create a drop-down type menu that people can click to navigate your site. To use this, you need to first create a menu in the WordPress menu section (found under appearance). Within the Nav Menu widget, you will select the name of the WordPress menu that you just created.
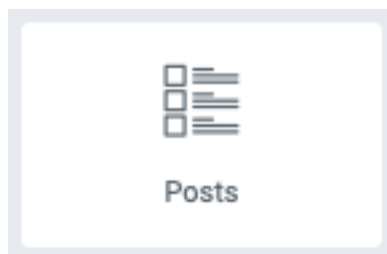

Posts: again, slightly more complicated. Usually this would be used more for blogging. To use this, you must first create a couple WordPress posts (found in the post section and works the same way as a page does). This widget will bring up a short version of all of your posts which users can click to look at the full post. You can style these short versions however you like.

Time Saving Actions:

Elementor is very easy to use once comfortable but can be time consuming. Luckily there are shortcuts that make using it much easier.

Templates: if you're working in a section and have either put a lot of time into it or know you are going to use it again on the website, you can save it as a template. You can then insert a copy of your section anywhere else on the website. If you change your original section, no need to worry as it won't have an effect on the template you already saved.

To save a template, right click on the 6-dot icon at the top of the section. Next, click save template from the drop-down menu (shown below). You will then be prompted to name your template. We named ours below "Example Template"
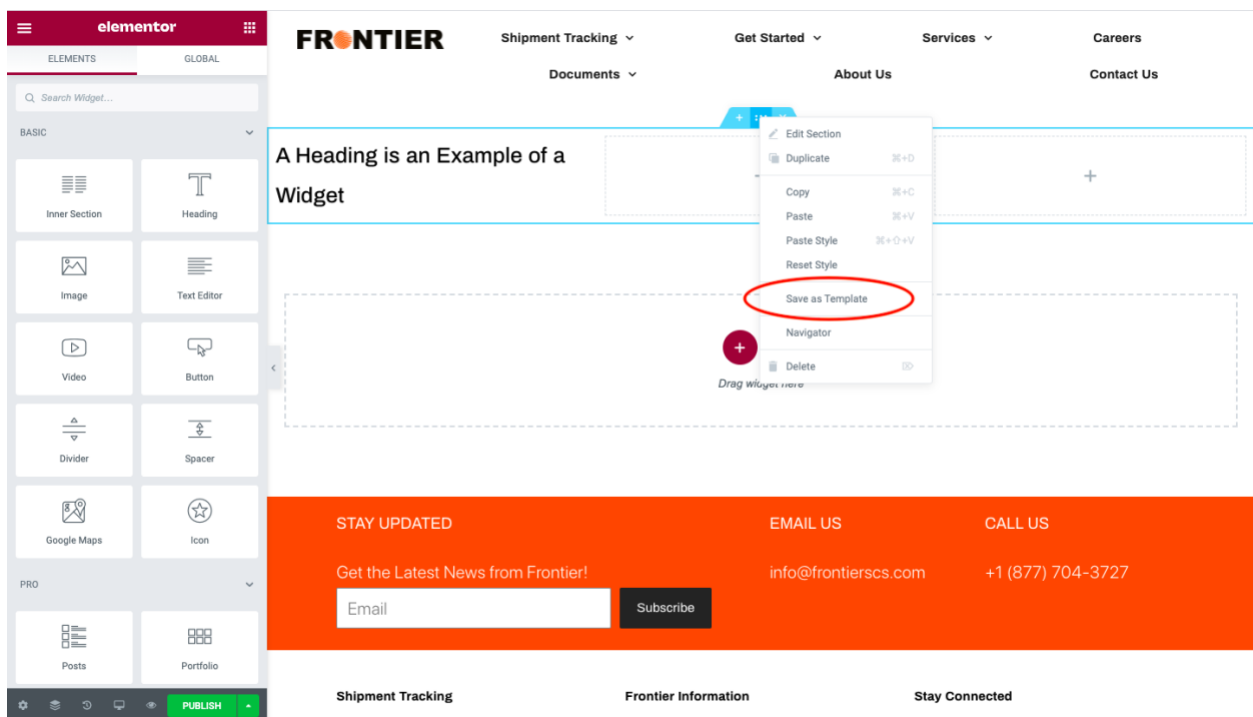
To access your saved templates, click the grey folder icon that was mentioned earlier. Next, click the "My Templates" tab at the top and click insert on your template.
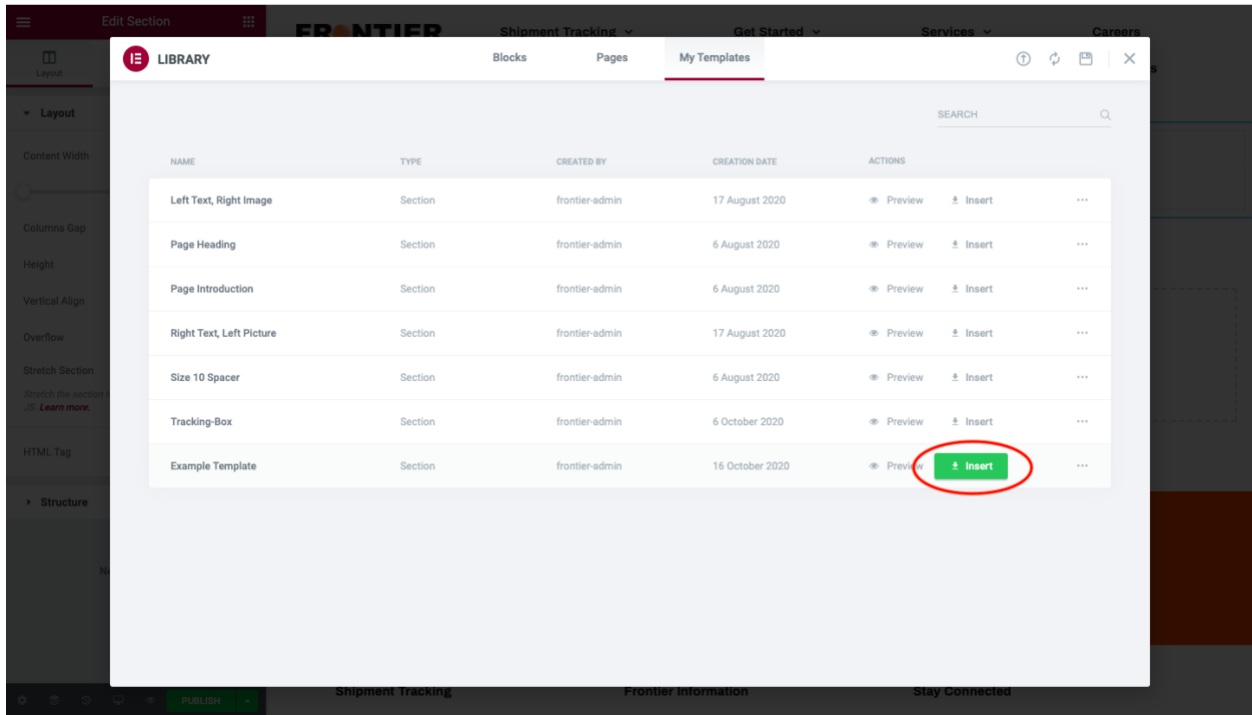
Paste Style: this is similar normal to copy and paste, however you don't actually affect any of the content, only the style is changed. This can only be done if the widgets are the same (i.e: a heading can only change the style of another heading). See below for example:
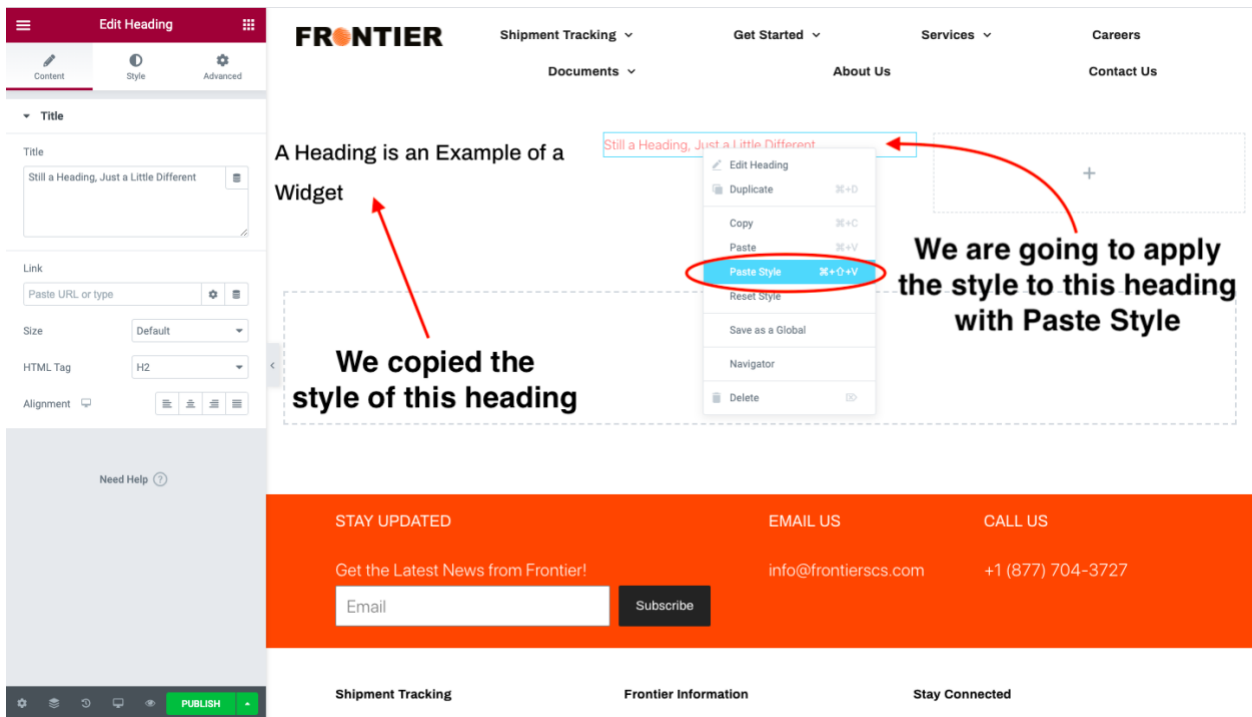
As we can see below, both headings now have the same style, but none of the content has been affected:
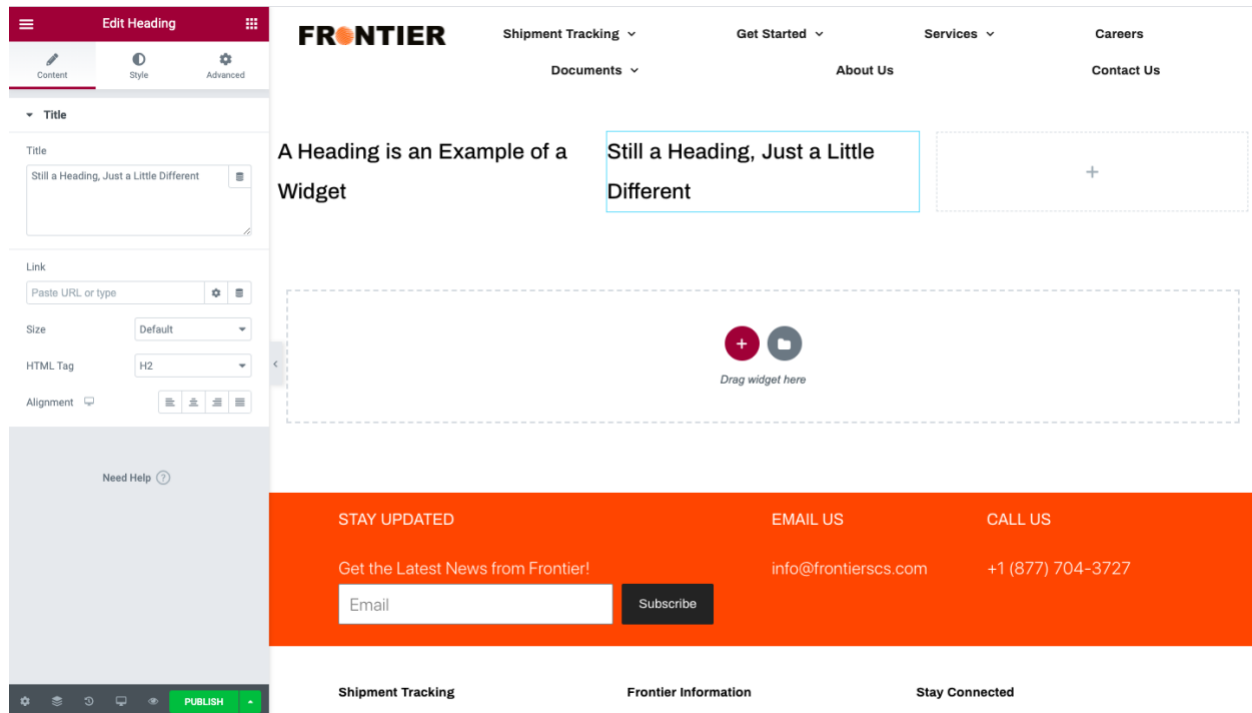
Global Settings: these settings are relatively intuitive to set and once they are set. When you place a widget, you have the option to apply the global style.

Here's how to navigate to and use the global settings via the sidebar (reference the images on the next page):
- **First Image:** click the three lines in the top left corner
- **Second Image:** click site settings
- **Third Image:** these are the global settings; you can change every setting on here and decide whether or not you would like to apply it to your widget stylings
- **Fourth Image:** using typography (font, text size, weight, etc.) as an example, if we click the globe, we can pick one of the global fonts that we created

Panel 1 — elementor

ELEMENTS | GLOBAL

Search Widget...

BASIC

- Inner Section
- Heading
- Image
- Text Editor
- Video
- Button
- Divider
- Spacer
- Google Maps
- Icon

PRO

- Posts
- Portfolio

PUBLISH

Panel 2 — elementor

SETTINGS
- Site Settings
- Theme Builder
- User Preferences

NAVIGATE FROM PAGE
- Finder
- View Page
- EXIT TO DASHBOARD

PUBLISH

Panel 3 — Site Settings

DESIGN SYSTEM
- Global Colors
- Global Fonts

THEME STYLE
- Typography
- Buttons
- Images
- Form Fields

SETTINGS
- Site Identity
- Background
- Layout
- Lightbox
- Custom CSS
- Additional Settings

Need Help ?

UPDATE

Panel 4 — Edit Heading

Content | Style | Advanced

Title

Text Colour

Secondary Headline

Typography

Global Fonts

Primary Headline

✓ Secondary Headl...

Body Text

Accent Text

PUBLISH