The Complete Guide to Photography for Beginners



NEW TO PHOTOGRAPHY? HERE ARE SOME BASICS TO HELP YOU GET STARTED...

A PHOTOGRAPH'S EXPOSURE AFFECTS HOW IT LOOKS; ITS SHAPE, FORM, TEXTURE, AND COLOUR.



Over-exposure = too light and 'washed out'.

Under-exposure = too dark.

Wide aperture: portraits, close ups.

Small aperture: group or team shots of people, landscapes and scenery.

2 SHUTTER SPEED

THE SHUTTER SPEED SETTING ON YOUR CAMERA CONTROLS THE LENGTH OF TIME THAT LIGHT IS ALLOWED IN THROUGH YOUR LENS AND ONTO YOUR IMAGE SENSOR.



3 ISO

ISO CONTROLS THE SENSITIVITY OF YOUR CAMERA TO LIGHT.

Higher ISO setting:
- Creates the sensitivity to light
- More noise

Lower ISO setting:
- Decreases sensitivity to light
- Less noise



METERING MODES...

HOW TO OPTIMISE EXPOSURE BY MEASURING THE BRIGHTNESS OF YOUR SUBJECT.

CANON

- EVALUATIVE METERING
- PARTIAL METERING
- SPOT METERING
- CENTRE WEIGHTED AVERAGE METERING

Spot metering takes a reading from a 'spot' of the image.
- Zooms in/excludes ~3% of the total scene.
- Useful for high-contrast scenes or backlit subjects.

Partial metering takes a reading from a larger circular area.
- Usually measures up to 13% of the total scene.
- Useful for portraits of people or similar distance items from your lens.

Centre-weighted metering gives priority to the centre portion of the photograph.
- Takes a reading less than partial metering (~3%) centred/focus.
- Useful when your subject is in the centre of your photograph.

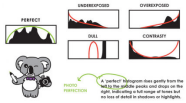
Evaluative metering is the default setting on most cameras.
- Uses the whole frame to assess the appropriate metering.
- Useful when elements are at different distances away from your lens.

NIKON

- MATRIX
- SPOT
- CENTRE WEIGHTED

HISTOGRAMS

A **HISTOGRAM** IS A GRAPH THAT REPRESENTS THE RANGE OF BRIGHTNESS IN AN IMAGE.



SHOOTING MODES

CANON	NIKON
MANUAL	MANUAL
APERTURE PRIORITY	APERTURE PRIORITY
SHUTTER PRIORITY - Tv MODE FOR THIS PAGE	SHUTTER PRIORITY
PROGRAM	PROGRAM



Program auto exposure = You set the ISO. The camera sets the shutter speed and aperture.

Aperture priority = You set the ISO and aperture. The camera sets the shutter speed.

Shutter priority = You set the ISO and shutter speed. The camera sets the aperture.

Manual mode puts you in the driver's seat – it gives you full control of the exposure triangle: the ISO, aperture and shutter speed.

DEPTH OF FIELD

DEPTH OF FIELD REFERS TO **WHAT IS IN AND OUT OF FOCUS** AS YOU LOOK AT AN IMAGE



WHITE BALANCE ALLOWS YOU TO **CONTROL THE APPEARANCE OF THE COLOURS** IN YOUR PHOTOGRAPHS. IT TELLS THE CAMERA WHAT THE AMBIENT LIGHT IS LIKE WHERE YOU'RE PHOTOGRAPHING.



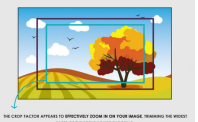
FOCAL LENGTH

FOCAL LENGTH IS THE **DISTANCE BETWEEN** THE CONVERGENCE POINT IN YOUR LENS AND THE IMAGE SENSOR IN YOUR CAMERA.



CROP FACTOR

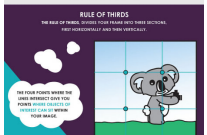
THE CROP FACTOR IS THE **RATIO OF A CAMERA SENSOR'S SIZE** RELATIVE TO A FULL FRAME SENSOR.



THE CROP FACTOR APPEARS TO **EFFECTIVELY ZOOM IN ON YOUR IMAGE**, TRIMMING THE WIDEST PARTS OF THE SCENE YOU'RE SHOOTING.

RULE OF THIRDS

THE **RULE OF THIRDS** DIVIDES YOUR FRAME INTO THREE SECTIONS, FIRST HORIZONTALLY AND THEN VERTICALLY.



TRIANGLES

TRIANGLES IN YOUR PHOTOGRAPHY WORK TO GROUP TOGETHER POINTS OF INTEREST AND CAN BE USED TO 'FRAME' YOUR SUBJECT.

THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE SPLITS THE FRAME OF YOUR IMAGE INTO THREE TRIANGLES, EACH CONTAINING THE SAME ANGLES, TO GIVE A COMPOSITION THAT IS PLEASING TO THE EYE.



LEADING LINES

LEADING LINES CARRY OUR EYES THROUGH THE PHOTOGRAPH, HELPING TO CREATE DEPTH AND DIMENSION AND **DRAW YOUR VIEWER INTO YOUR IMAGE.**

ELEMENTS LIKE **ROADS, RIVERS, PATHWAYS, SHORELINES, ROCKS, TREES AND TALL GRASSES.**



BALANCE

A PHOTOGRAPH IS SAID TO BALANCE WHEN THE ELEMENTS WITHIN IT CARRY EQUAL VISUAL WEIGHT. YOU CAN ACHIEVE BALANCE IN YOUR IMAGES USING:



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