

CAMERA SETTINGS

Review all available camera settings on the Photography 101 graphic. Get familiar with exposure modes (auto, program, aperture priority, shutter priority), and with the exposure triangle - shutter speed, f-stop, ISO.



PRACTICE: Create your own images to match each of these scenarios. Put your camera in Manual mode and learn how to adjust each setting to achieve a usable image without relying on editing software to fix exposure, shadows and highlights afterwards.

Shutter Speed	Settings are in fractions of a second. 1 = 1 second, 1000 = 1,000th of a second. Low shutter speed adds brightness plus shows motion. Fast shutter speed freezes something in motion.
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Long shutter speed	Fast shutter speed
25 second exposure to show people moving around - ON TRIPOD	1/320 second to freeze something in motion - HANDHELD

f-stop / Aperture	How wide your camera lens opens when you press the shutter button. f1.4 is a large aperture and f22 is a small aperture. Use the largest f-stop your lens offers. Note the max f-stop is different if your lens is zoomed. f1.4 to f4.0 have 'shallow depth of field' with only a small area in focus and brighter images. f16 to f32 has 'deep depth of field' with more distance in front of the lens in focus.
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f2.8 to f4.0 for shallow focus on the front hand with blurred background. Good to separate a subject from background.	f2.2 to f4.0 at 1/50 second to capture more light in a very dark scene.	F5.6 to f10 for well lit scenes & most elements in focus	f11 or higher for all elements close to the lens and far from the lens in focus. f16 to f32 make nice sunstars too. Usually shot on a tripod for longer exposure times above 1/60th second and for sharper images.	

Focus Points	I stay in manual focus mode 80% of the time. For live action situations I use spot focus and I always focus and recompose - also called back button focus. Watch the video for additional explanation.
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Set a focus point then recompose in scenes with people moving or situations changing quickly-use f5.6 to f10 and place focus point on eyes or most interesting subject.	Use manual focus when you have time to contemplate the scene and decide exactly what you want in focus - also when you don't trust your camera's autofocus in a busy scene or in low light.				