

Do You Speak Camera?

SIMPLE TO UNDERSTAND DEFINITIONS OF COMMON PHOTOGRAPHY TERMS

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EXPOSURE TRIANGLE

The three components that make up the exposure of an image on the camera's sensor. It consists of aperture, shutter speed and ISO.

APERTURE

A small hole or opening in the camera's lens that allows light in, or blocks light, from hitting the camera's sensor.

SHUTTER SPEED

How fast (or slow) the camera's shutter opens and closes when capturing an image.

ISO

A measure of the camera's sensitivity to light. The lower the number, the less sensitive, and vice versa.

AUTOMATIC MODE

You let the camera do all the decision making. A set it and forget it approach to capturing pictures.

SEMI-AUTOMATIC MODE

You control one aspect of the exposure triangle (the shutter speed or the aperture), the camera decides the rest.

APERTURE PRIORITY

A semi-automatic camera mode where the photographer controls the aperture, and the camera fills in the blanks with ISO and Shutter Speed.

MANUAL MODE

A camera mode where the photographer is in full control of the three aspects of the exposure triangle - aperture, shutter speed and ISO.

FOCUS MODE

This refers to how your camera grabs focus. Options range from completely automatic, to controlling by a single point (my preferred method).

SUBJECT

The person or thing/object you are photographing. The primary focus of the photograph.

GOLDEN HOUR

The time one hour to 90 minutes after sunrise, or 90 minutes to one hour before sunset when the sun is soft and glowing in the sky. The PERFECT time of day for photos.

OPEN SHADE

A certain type of shade that is great for photography. It's any kind of shade you are standing in where you can look up and still see the sky.

DIRECTIONAL LIGHT

A type of indoor light. This light comes from one direction of the image, and sweeps across the frame from left to right or vice versa.

BACKLIGHT

A type of light where the primary light source is coming from behind your subject.

PRESET

A pre-determined group of settings applied to an image in order to enhance it's artistic appearance.

AUTOMATIC MODE

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COMPOSITION

This refers to how you frame your subject in an image, or where you put them in the frame when snapping a photo.

RULE OF THIRDS

A set of principles that act as a guideline for compelling composition by dividing the frame into nine equal compartments and framing based on the intersection of those points.