

How to take the perfect picture with a digital camera

- 1.) Choose your camera and SD card- From Canon to Nikon and all that fall between, the camera you choose depends on what you are going to use it for. A photographer with many different styles of photography would best be suited with an all-around good camera. A detachable lens is a must with any avid photographer. My first camera was a Canon Powershot, it did the job, but not very well. I used this camera for engagement pictures and it did a great job. However when the wedding day came, and action was present, the camera gave me very blurry pictures. So my point is, if you are going to take pictures of your sons soccer game, get a camera with a detachable lens in either a sports or action mode. Also all cameras come with either an SD card or require one to be purchased. Do not be cheap and buy an inexpensive SD card. A card with 16 GB or more of storage is a perfectly acceptable size for most cameras.
- 2.) Choose your mode- My “go to” mode for most events is an action or sports mode. This gives me a quick shutter speed and automatically adjusts for perfect lighting every time. However, it doesn’t blur out background scenery very well. If you want a super blurred background then Creative mode or Manual mode will work better for you. My camera, a Canon EOS Rebel t5, has a Manual, aperture priority, shutter priority, portrait, nighttime, close up, auto, sports and video mode. This is a little overwhelming for a first time photographer but I suggest using a sports or auto mode. These modes are the easiest to use and will produce quality pictures most of the time. Anytime you are about to take pictures, make sure your camera is in the correct mode and has plenty of SD card space.
- 3.) Shutter speed explained- As mentioned before shutter speed is super important to get the type of picture you desire. The shutter is a little flip plate in the cameras body that opens and closes to take pictures. The faster the shutter, the darker the picture. A way to balance this is, in extremely dark places turn your shutter down really low to let more light in. In bright places turn your shutter up to let less light in. Learn how to balance the dark and light to get the perfect picture. In sports mode, the shutter is automatically adjusted based on the amount of light in the surrounding area. Shutter speed is the most important factor in learning how to take amazing pictures. TV mode or shutter priority mode lets you adjust your shutter, but the camera automatically adjusts aperture, exposure, and white balance. On my camera the fastest the shutter will take is 1/4000 of a second and the slowest it will take is 30 seconds. Shutter can be adjusted to create super artsy pictures and even freeze super-fast moving objects.

- 4.) What's up with all of these buttons? All cameras are different so I'm not going to explain fully how to use every single camera in the world. But I will give basic instructions on what some buttons mean. Every camera has a shutter button which forces the shutter down, and takes the picture. On most cameras there is also a view button which is a box with a triangle in it. When I first got my camera, I sat down and basically hit every button to see what it does. I suggest you do the same as soon as you get a camera of any brand. To the side there is a diagram that shows the parts of a Canon camera.
- 5.) Rule of thirds – Any picture can be divided into three parts horizontally and three parts vertically. These lines, pictured to the side help photographers place the focus point of the picture in the correct place. For example a picture of a boat placed in the middle of frame is a basic plain picture, but place the boat on either one of the lines or at the intersection points of the lines, then the picture instantly becomes more interesting.
- 6.) Take the Shot
- 7.) Look at picture to ensure you got what you wanted- As mentioned before a view button should be somewhere on the body of your camera. Click that button and check to insure the picture turned out the way you wanted.
- 8.) Save and Edit – When I take pictures I usually save them to a folder on my desktop, and then edit them. After that I will save it to my portable hard drive and upload to the cloud. I try very hard to keep my pictures safe and secure to ensure they don't get lost or stolen.
- 9.) Share – Post pictures on social media or even on a photography blog. I sometimes send pictures to the people in the pictures to assure they see it. I also send printed pictures to elderly relatives and they always love seeing what's going on in my life through photography.
- 10.) Try something new- Whether it's trying to shoot in different modes or reapplying a filter, always try something new and different. The best thing about digital photography is you can always try again.