

Outdoor Photography



Learn manual and creative settings that will have you taking perfect pictures in no time!

Introduction

Let's Get Started

Welcome to Outdoor Photography Basics! This course will cover manual and creative settings that allow you to adjust the exposure of your photographs. You'll be taking perfect pictures in no time at all.

Exposure: how light or dark an image will appear when it's captured by a camera

Elements—

- Aperture
- Shutter speed
- ISO

The default settings for a camera automatically expose the photograph, which results in a “scientifically correct” exposure. However, often this results in a photograph that appears to be unnaturally bright. See below:

Taken with automatic exposure setting on camera



Taken with manual camera modes



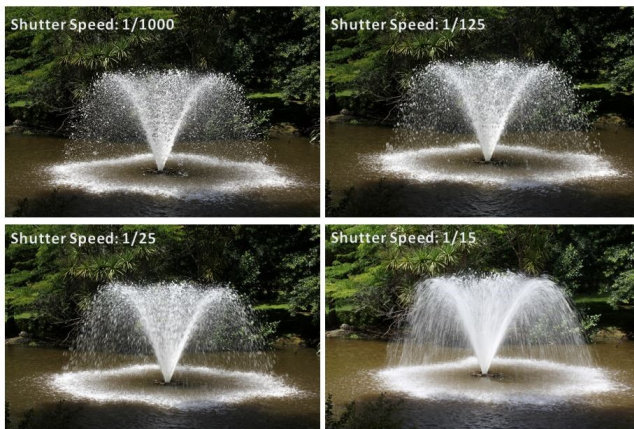
The photo on the left is an exposure created with the automatic setting of the camera. It properly exposes the foreground, but the sunset is a little blown out. The one on the right, however, is a nicer looking photo with richer color. Some of the detail in the foreground is sacrificed for a clearer image of the sunset. That photo is technically underexposed, resulting in a darker picture, but is the more appealing image. Without the manual modes of the camera, this photograph would not be possible.

Elements of Exposure

Aperture-a hole within the lens of a camera which allows light to travel into the camera body. To adjust the aperture means making the hole larger or smaller. A larger opening will let more light in. If you take a photo using manual settings and the image is too dark, opening up the aperture will lighten things up.



- Aperture is measured in f-numbers or “f-stops”
 - ◊ *The larger the f-stop, the smaller the hole.* For example, f/22 is a very small hole, while f/1.8 is a wide hole.
- Aperture is the primary tool for over-exposing or under-exposing a photograph

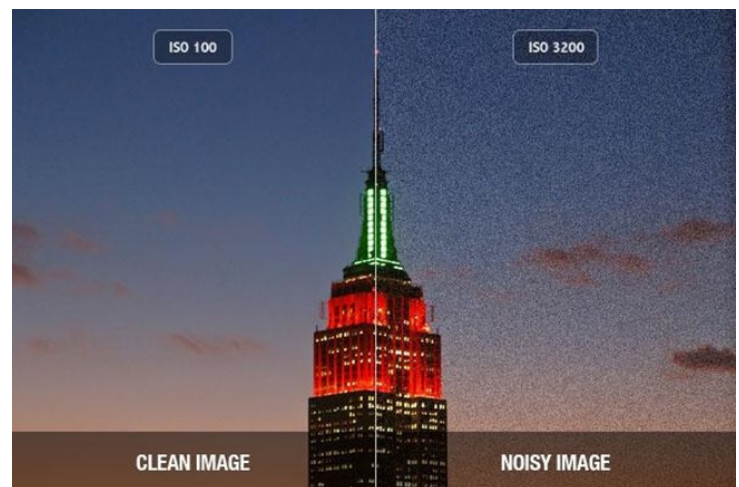


Shutter Speed-controls how long light is allowed into the camera. Shutter speed is measured in fractions of a second.

- A fast shutter speed would be 1/1000, the light would only enter the camera for one thousandth of a second.
 - ◊ Fast shutter speed typically used to freeze action

ISO-controls the exposure of a photo by using software in the camera to make it sensitive to light. A high ISO rating will create a brighter image, whereas a low ISO will only need minimal adjustments to the camera’s exposure software.

- When you use a high ISO it can result in a grainier image



Creative Camera Modes


Create Camera Modes:


On most cameras that allow manual exposure settings, there is a dial that allows users to control the following individually or all at once.

A mode: Allows the user to control the aperture setting. Automatically adjusts the aperture setting accordingly

S (or Tv) mode: Allows the user to control the shutter speed. Automatically adjusts the shutter speed accordingly.

M Mode: Allows the user to manually adjust aperture, shutter speed, and ISO

 Sports mode, attempts to freeze the action by increasing shutter speed.

 Macro mode, allows users to focus on subjects close to the camera



There may be other modes on your camera, indicated by different pictorial icons. Other than sports mode and macro mode, you may find night mode, landscape mode, and others. All of these automatically adjust shutter speed, aperture, and ISO to compensate for these scenarios. These automatic settings take the control away from you, making the image you produce a matter of chance rather than craft.