

HOW TO TAKE BETTER PICTURES



WHY SHOULD YOU LEARN THIS?

You've seen photos that make you go 'wow' or reveal something in a new light, and wondered 'how can I do that?' You've also grabbed a shot that should've been 'wow' but was just 'meh' when you looked. This is how to get from 'meh' to 'wow' reliably, and to always be getting more out of taking photos.

WHAT?

Here's the techniques, tricks and hacks pro and skilled photographers use to get people interested in their pics.

IT'S OKAY TO...

- > not know what you want to do
- > get knocked into the pit
- > move faster or go slower
- > fail (as long as you tried)

WHAT YOU NEED

- > A camera, you, and a subject.
The camera doesn't matter, as long as it works. We'll assume you're using a phone-cam, but it could be a pro DSLR, or even a retro film camera, the skills are the same.
- > Time to play around a bit.
- > Other photos by great photographers to see how they do it. They might be famous photographers, or people you like on Instagram, or even a mate's photos who's really good at pictures.

WHAT TO DO

- 01** **You have a subject you want to capture.** Take a 'before' shot. Now, think:
 - > What's the key moment? (Be ready early, click when it happens – machine gunning may work, but picking the moment is what pros do.)
- 02** **What's the ANGLE?**
 - > Will it look better if I move left, or right? Will it be better if I crouch, or get up on the bench?
 - > Will it look better if I tilt the camera? Do I want the WIDTH or the HEIGHT? (Landscape or portrait format.)
- 03** **What do I want IN (my picture)?**
 - > Look at the FRAME, not the CENTRE, and 'wrap' that around what you want.
- 04** **What do I want OUT (of my picture)?**
 - > Look at the edges again, and see how you can crop out that person in the background in the orange jacket, just by moving a little left or right.

WHAT TO DO CONT:

05

What's going to be in **FOCUS** and **EXPOSED** correctly?

- With a camera phone tap on the subject, and it'll average that for you. With more sophisticated camera, you can learn how focus and exposure (how light or dark it is) and start getting really tricky.

06

Where's the **LIGHT**? Is it where I want it? (Move around to put the sun where you want. Use a 'bounce' large white card to reflect light where you want. Move lamps and lights, turn them off or on to get the lighting you want.)

(Tip: if you're getting glare from backlight, use your hand to shield the lens. There's usually an area which stops the flare but leaves your hand out of the photo.)

Take a few different shots, using the tips above, then compare the different versions. Which ones do you prefer and why? What 'works' for you? Next time, plan ahead, be ready to have it set up before you click. Then you can start to use in-camera filters and tweaks.

Lastly, be brave. Share the best shot, not the five 'nearly' good ones, and people will soon see you're always showing the good stuff.

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GOT IT?

- Remember to please yourself first, but do ask for (and listen to) constructive criticism, read up online, and **THINK** about every shot. The really great photographers know how their shots could be better if... Practice seeing how your shots could be better if... and you'll continue to improve.



TRY THIS

If you feel like you've nailed it but you want to level up, try this:

- If you've got a computer, download a photo processing program (such as Graphic Converter, with free options, or Photoshop if you want to get serious) and start playing around with your photos in it.
- Don't worry about equipment, but do try and learn how the technology works around the basics. Then when you have a chance to use the equipment, you'll understand **WHY** you do things.
- Read up online – there's loads of great online material and tutorials
- See if you can borrow a DSLR (Digital Single Lens Reflex) camera and exchangeable lenses and see if you like it. The owner will probably want to help, let them, and learn.

SO WHAT?

- You won't be disappointed that the photo of 'that moment' didn't turn out.
- You'll be ready to grab **THE** shot and you'll get it.
- You can find it a whole new inexpensive hobby that makes friends around the world and will be with you for a lifetime.

WHAT ACTION WILL YOU TAKE?

- Start looking to take better pictures, always thinking like a photographer!
- Enjoy taking photos, get better results, instead of grabbing shots.



IF YOU LIKED THIS ONE YOU MIGHT WANT TO TRY...

- > How to Develop a Logo
- > How to Present Your Ideas Graphically
- > How to Make a Disco Ball