21 Free Photography Cheat Sheets for 2021 (Download Today!)

My mission is to make photography simple.

And the free cheat sheets below will help you to learn photography fast.

They're great if you want some quick tips for the various topics we cover.

But if you want something more comprehensive...

Our 52 premium "Quick Capture Cheat Sheets" have been designed for fast reference and easy learning.

And they're the perfect visual tool to help you master photography...

Master The Basics of Photography With Our Cheat Sheets:

Quick Capture Cheat Sheets

VIEW CHEAT SHEETS



Free Cheat Sheets: Photography Basics

We start off this list with six photography cheat sheets focused on the basics of photography.

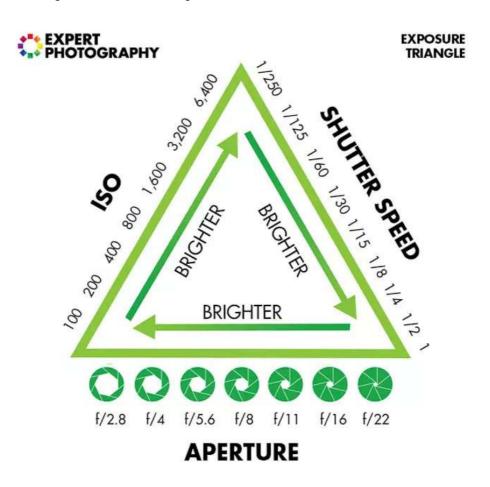
It's important that you understand how to master your camera settings and exposure before you start venturing into more complex topics.

From shutter speed to camera types... this is everything you need to get started.

The Exposure Triangle

For most photographers who are just starting out, understanding the exposure triangle is key to taking great photos.

The three elements of this triangle are <u>aperture</u>, <u>shutter speed</u>, <u>and ISO</u>. All three need to be balanced in order for a photo to be well exposed.

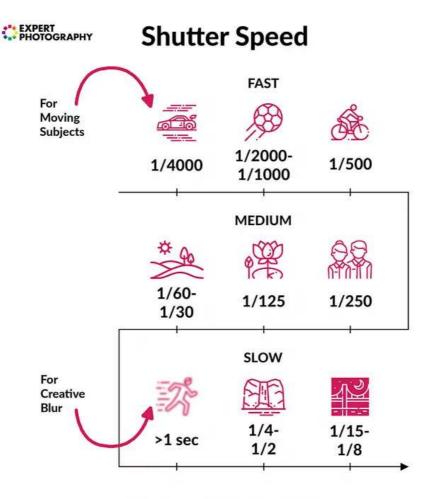


When to Use Each Shutter Speed

In photography, shutter speed is one of the most important factors to consider before pressing the shutter.

It can affect your image in many ways, from how sharp it looks to how much motion blur there is.

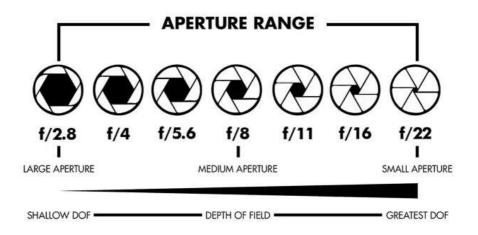
There are a few guidelines in the photography cheat sheet below that will help you decide which shutter speed is appropriate for each situation.



The Aperture Scale (And How it Affects Depth of Field)

To shoot in manual mode, you must be able to control the aperture, but it's not always easy to understand.

In the photography cheat sheet below, we show you the relation between aperture size, exposure, and depth of field. Memorise this! It will make your life easier.



Types of Cameras

There are many different types of cameras.

A digital single-lens reflex (DSLR camera) is a professional quality camera that has interchangeable lenses. It produces high-quality photos but requires a bit more practice to operate than other types.

Point-and-shoot cameras are less expensive and easier for beginners to learn how to use because they don't require manual adjustments or special skills.

And the other kinds? Read the photography cheat sheet below and find out the most important things to know about them...



BASIC CAMERA TYPES



TLR

A twin lens reflex has two lenses; one for focusing and one for capturing.



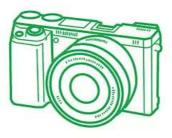
SLR

A single lens reflex focuses and captures through one lens.



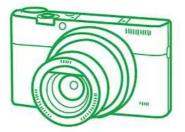
DSLR

A digital single lens reflex is a digital version of the SLR.



MIRRORLESS

A mirrorless system splits the light into focusing and capturing, thus removing the mirror inside.



POINT-AND-SHOOT

A point-and-shoot system often has a smaller, cropped sensor and the lens can't be interchanged.

10 Steps to Focus Stack Correctly

Focus stacking is a great way to get razor-sharp images that you may be missing from your photography.

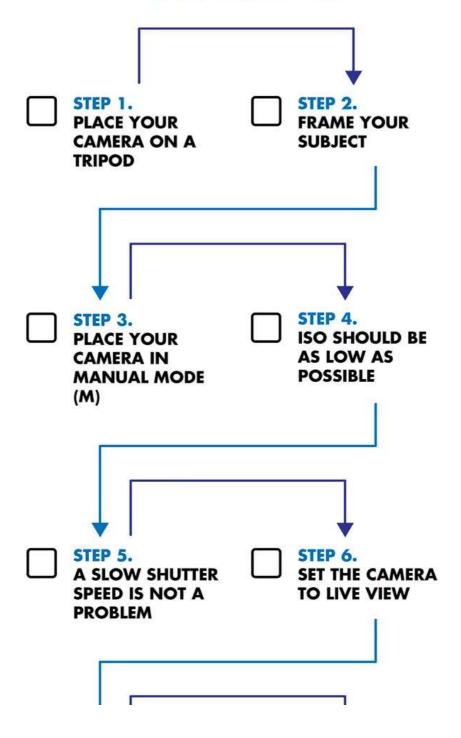
It's also an absolute lifesaver for <u>macro and close-up shots</u> where the depth of field can be very limited. However, it can take some time and patience to learn how to do it correctly. This photography cheat sheet will help you out!

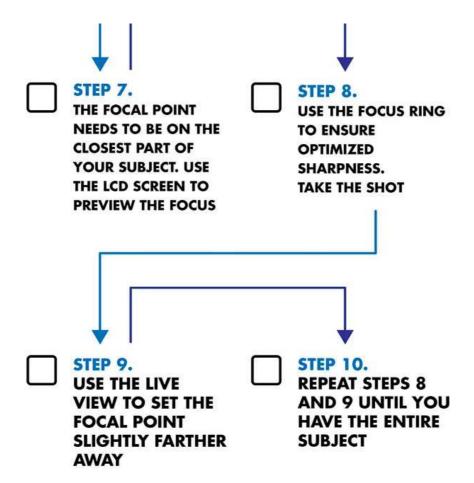




10 STEPS TO FOCUS STACK

CORRECTLY





10 Steps to Taking Good Pictures

The idea of taking a good picture can seem daunting but it doesn't have to be. There are some simple steps you can take that will make your pictures look better and more professional.

In this photography cheat sheet, I'll show you 10 easy things you can do to help improve the quality of your photos right away.



HOW TO

TAKE GOOD PICTURES

10 FOOLPROOF STEPS



PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE!

More photos means better photos.



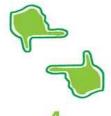
USE THE HISTOGRAM

Look at the tones present in your image.



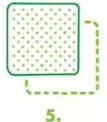
GET YOUR WHITE BALANCE RIGHT!

Use the correct white balance setting.



FRAME YOUR SUBJECT

Composition makes all the difference.



CLEAN UP YOUR BACKGROUND

A busy background is a distraction.



MOVE WITH YOUR FEET AND GET CLOSER

Don't zoom - get closer to your subject.



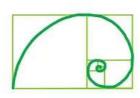




Images are better not at head height.



A pop-up flash flattens the subject.



LEARN BASIC COMPOSITION TECHNIQUES... AND THEN FORGET THEM

Don't overuse obvious composition rules.



LEARN MANUAL MODE

You will learn where you are going wrong.

Photographing People

Now that you understand the basics of photography, the next step is to practice taking photos of people.

There are many different situations you can shoot in, ranging from romantic couples photography to formal family photos.

Our photography cheat sheets below explore them all...

15 Tips on Photographing Families

Every family has their own unique story. And, through photography, you can capture who they are and create a beautiful visual record of their time together.





15 TIPS ON

PHOTOGRAPHING FAMILIES



FIND A GOOD SPOT AND WORK IT

Stay in one spot and take advantages of all perspectives and angles – it will save time.



CHANGE PERSPECTIVES

Don't use the same perspective. Try and mix it up by shooting from down up.



5. KISS THE BABY

Kisses show love and affection, a great pose to make the parents happy.



GIVE THEM A HUG

Hugging the child shows a natural pose where the adult gets down to the child's level.





DETAILS COUNT TOO

Detailed shots are great for showing different features.



LAY

Laying down gives a relaxed family pose – take a blanket for this reason.



KID'S EYE LEVEL

Having the adults come down to the child's level brings a balanced composition.



BABY

Lifting a baby or a child in the air makes for a fun scene and smiling behaviour.







FOLLOW THE LEADER

Letting the child walk in front of the parents shows the little one taking the lead.



TAKING JUNIOR FOR A WALK

Great pose to show the entire family, especially if the child is tired.



Walking with your partner and children provides a very natural pose.

7 Creative Family Photography Ideas

If you're looking for some creative inspiration to spice up your family photography, then this cheat sheet is just what you need.

We've compiled 7 of our favourite ideas that are sure to bring out the creativity in anyone!



7 CREATIVE

FAMILY PORTRAIT IDEAS

YOU CAN MAKE YOUR OWN



1. GROUP YOUR SUBJECTS INTO TRIANGLES

- · A tringle is a powerful shape.
- This shape is great for larger families.

2. EXPERIMENT WITH BACKGROUND AND FOREGROUND

- Use a larger depth to capture more people.
- Allows you to play with the composition and DoF.

3. INCLUDE THE FAMILY PETS

- Makes for a more interesting portrait.
- · Pets are family members too.

4. ENCOURAGE INTERACTION AND PLAY

- More interesting and dynamic family portraits.
- Great way to show the closeness of the family.





5. BE CREATIVE WITH PROPS

- This makes images very specific (time wise).
- · Adds creativity to a portrait.

6. SHOOT DURING GOLDEN HOUR

- Adds a warm, soft light to your subjects.
- Easier to photograph than noon.



AT HOME

- More realistic than staged poses.
- Your home provides many unique backgrounds.

10 Tips to Improve Your Environmental Portraits

Good environmental portraits will tell the story of their subject. Your model's immediate natural surroundings will give the viewer insight not only into their personality but their everyday life.

This cheat sheet will provide 10 tips to improve your environmental portraits.



10 TIPS TO

IMPROVE YOUR

ENVIRONMENTAL PORTRAITS



1. POST-PROCESS TO

ENHANCE

Post-processing software helps enhance the image, placing more importance on the subject.

2. USE PROPS (IF THEY HELP TELL THE STORY)

If your subject uses something traditional or important, include it in the scene.

3. TRY A DEEP DEPTH OF FIELD

Instead of a shallow depth of field, capture more of the scene in focus.



Get closer to your subject and capture as much detail as possible.
Cut out the negative space.





5. HAVE YOUR CAMERA SETTINGS READY

Iways have your camera ready. You never know when you'll find a scene worth capturing.

6. BE FRIENDLY AND RELAXED

Being nervous will make your subject nervous – be calm and relaxed to receive the same.

7. ENGAGE WITH YOUR SUBJECT

Talk to your subject and make them



feel comfortable, ensuring better photographs.

8. PUT YOURSELF IN THEIR WORLD

See the world from their perspective so you can photograph your subjects better.





9. TELL THEIR STORY -ANSWER PEOPLE'S QUESTIONS WITH YOUR PHOTOS

Everyone has a story, especially those in the environmental settings – tell theirs objectively.

10. RESEARCH THE PEOPLE AND LOCATION

Make sure you do your research so you know why and who you are photographing.

How to Capture Romantic Couples Photos

Capturing an intimate moment between two people is not always easy.

Couples can often feel awkward and shy in front of the camera, which can lead to disappointing photographs.

Here are some tips to help you capture romantic couples photos without any stress or embarrassment:









A PHOTOGRAPHER'S GUIDE TO COUPLE POSES

CAPTURE THE ROMANCE



COORDINATE

Ask the couple to wear coordinating outfits - ones they feel comfortable in.



GET THEM TO TALK

Ask the couples to talk to each other about their romantic side of their relationship – it will help them open up.



WALKING POSES

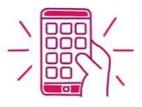
Make your models walk - and photograph them from the side, front and behind.





MAKE ADJUSTMENTS

Adjust your models' clothes and hair throughout the shoot.



4. REFERENCE LIST

Make a reference list of images and keep them on your phone – perfect for those creative blocks.



DANCING POSES

Dancing will give you many happy poses to work with.







GET THEM CLOSE

Getting the couple close shows their love and connection to each other - this makes it easy to capture romantic shots.



GIVE CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS

Couples can be confused on where to look or act - be clear with your visual instructions.



INCLUDE THE ENVIRONMENT

Adapt poses to fit the environment - this makes for a more wholesome image.



TAKE **CANDID PHOTOS**

Try some shots that aren't staged - be the paparazzi hiding in the bushes.



11. PHOTOGRAPH THE **DETAILS**

Show some specific details, such as intertwined hands this shows a closer look at their beautiful relationship.



12. INCLUDE **FUN POSES**

Running and jumping into each other arms provides some fun poses - use these to differentiate from the more serious poses.

Wedding Photography Checklist

You'll be on your toes the entire day of the wedding – but don't worry, we've got you covered.

This checklist will help you make sure that everything is in order for a beautiful celebration and beautiful memories.





THE ONLY

WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY CHECKLIST

YOU'LL EVER NEED

PRE-WEDDING

- ☐ Wedding Dress Portrait
- □ Boudoir Photo Shoot
- ☐ Zipping up/Buttoning Wedding Dress
- ☐ Detail Shots (Shoes, Jewellery, Garter)
- ☐ Fun Photos of Bride and Bridesmaids
- ☐ Bride in Mirror Getting Ready
- ☐ Bride Leaving for Ceremony
- ☐ Groom Getting Ready
- ☐ Pinning of Corsage☐ Groom and Friends Together





- ☐ Outside Shots of Wedding Venue
- ☐ Guests Walking In
- ☐ Grandparents Being Seated
- ☐ Ring Bearer/Flower Girl Down Aisle
- ☐ Groom Waiting for Bride
- ☐ Father and Bride Walking Down Aisle
- ☐ Vows and Altar
- ☐ The Rings
- ☐ The Kiss
- ☐ Leaving the Ceremony

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POST-CEREMONY

- ☐ Bride and Groom
- ☐ Bride and Groom with Both Parents
- ☐ Bride and Parents
- ☐ Groom and Parents
- ☐ Bride and Bridesmaids
- ☐ Groom and Groomsmen
- ☐ Flower Girl and/or Ring Bearer
- ☐ Group Photo





RECEPTION

- ☐ The Venue
- □ Tables and Decorations
- ☐ Bride and Groom Arriving
- ☐ Bouquet Throwing



Creative Photography Cheat Sheets

One of the most difficult aspects of photography is getting creative with your photos.

If you're a beginner photographer, this can be really tough! There are so many options and techniques to use that it becomes overwhelming.

That's why we created these cheat sheets for you! They go over a number of different styles and offer helpful tips for all the photographers who want to get more creative with their images.

4 Steps to Mastering Creative Night Photography

Creative <u>night photography</u> is a new and exciting field for many photographers.

Many of these beginners are looking for ways to improve their craft, but don't know where to start.

This cheat sheet will outline four simple steps that can help you master the art of creative night photography in no time!



4 STEPS TO

MASTERING CREATIVE NIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY

STEP 1. EXPLORE THE UNKNOWN



- Research and explore
- · Get out of your usual area
- Try something new
- Start from scratch

STEP 2. SETTINGS



- Use manual mode
- Wider aperture Shallow depth of field
- Slower shutter speed blurred subjects
- Higher ISO more digital noise

STEP 3. TRIPOD VS. HANDHELD



Tripod

- Weigh down your tripod
- Use shutter release
- Turn off image stabilisation



Handheld

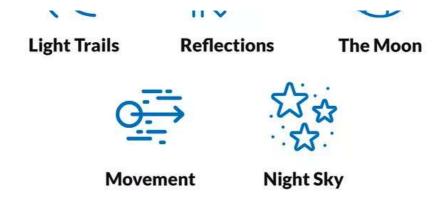
- Stand still
- Use camera strap for stabilisation
- Raise ISO

STEP 4. TIPS & IDEAS







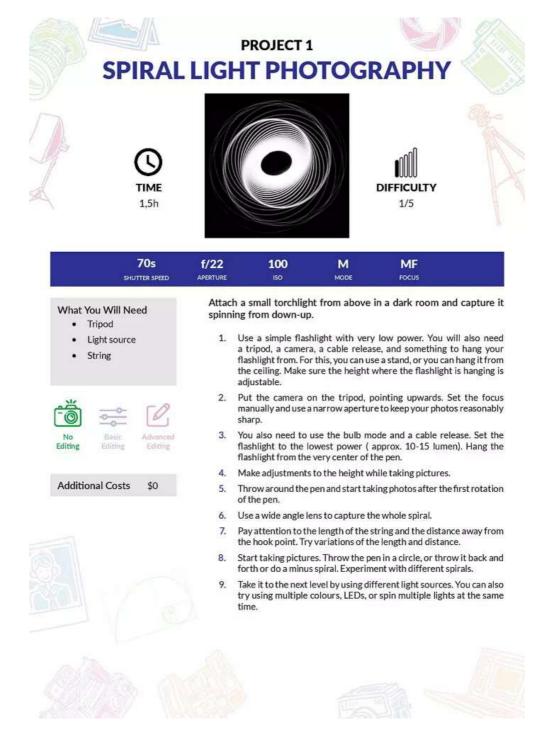


Spiral Light Photography Cheat Sheet

This is one of the simplest forms of <u>creative photography</u>.

All you need is a low powered flashlight and a piece of string (how long is up to you).

With a simple setup and long exposure, you can capture some really cool photos.



Creative Still Life Photography Cheat Sheet

Photographers are always looking for new ways to challenge their creativity.

<u>Creative still life photography</u> is a great way to do this because it forces the photographer to thinkoutside-the-box and create something unique.



They say that the way to a man's heart is through his stomach. To make it more romantic, let me quote Dylan Moran: "Cake is the language of love."

My point is, why stick to flowers and rings on Valentine's Day when there's delicious food to express your love? Think of what your sweetheart loves the most. Or, even better, what do YOU love the most? Is it worth working for? Then, let's create a fun maze to reach this treat!

Ingredients

- Small syringe
- Food item and Sauce*
- · Pencil
- Blot-resistant background
- · Lids and plates of different diameters
- Small paintbrush

Is it difficult?

Preparation time: 30-40 minutes Shooting time: 10-20 minutes Difficulty: ••••

1. Choose your treat and tasty sauce

The Hero Treat is at the heart of the maze so pick your favourite food. Whether sweet or savoury, it must be photogenic when viewed from the top. Pair it with a tasty sauce. Pick additional props if you like.



2. Visualize and practice your maze

Make a sketch out your maze before the final shot. Practice with decorative spirals, swooshes or simple words if you need to steady your hand. Gather circular objects of different diameters to create your maze's concentric circles (if you want a circular maze). Practice pouring sauce over a surface.

3. Compose the shot

Have your maze template ready. Choose a background that isn't easily soiled by food and pencil marks. Fill the contours of the maze with your sauce. Use a syringe for broad strokes and a paintbrush for the finer details. Place your Hero Treat at the heart of the maze. Add your additional props at the end.





4. Set up the lighting

There are two sources of lighting in this flat-lay composition. The key light-source is a diffuser with a speedlight behind it. This is almost at floor level and illuminates the maze from the side. A smaller reflector works as a filler light from the side. There is no top-lighting.

5. Use post-processing for a cleanup

Time to clean up the minor flaws. Erase all the pencil marks. Add texture to the props as you wish. Use the Patch Tool and play with the Blending Modes to make extra edits, Retouch and reposition if you need to. Let your sweetheart solve the





Niches of Photography

Once you have some experience with photography, you can start experimenting with different niches to find where your passion lies.

That's why we've collected a bunch of cheat sheets covering various topics, from pet photography to food photography and more...

12 Tips to Improve Your Nature Photography

Nature photography is a great hobby for people of all ages, but it can be difficult to get the perfect shot.

Here are some tips to help you improve your nature photography!





12 TIPS TO HELP YOU

IMPROVE YOUR NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY SKILLS



BRING YOUR CROP SENSOR CAMERA BODY

If you have a crop sensor camera, bring it as it offers you a closer look at your subject.



USE NATURAL LIGHT TO IMPROVE YOUR PHOTOS

Natural light offers your scene an atmospheric look with golden hues and tones.



LEAVE NOTHING BEHIND

Remember where you are and don't leave anything that



TRY DIFFERENT ANGLES AND PERSPECTIVES

Trying something different allows you to capture the subject in unique ways.



RESPECT THE ANIMALS AND ENVIRONMENT

Respect the subjects you are shooting. This ensures a minimum impact on their environment.



WHAT KIND OF GEAR DO YOU NEED

A camera bag, with batteries and memory cards is a must.

doesn't belong there.



Ensure that everything in your frame fits the subject you are shooting – keep it all natural.

DSLR...



LEARN ABOUT THE SUBJECTS YOU'RE SHOOTING

Knowing about the subjects you are shooting allows you a glimpse into their habits.



HOW TO SEPARATE THE SUBJECT FROM THE BACKGROUND

Add some distance between the foreground and the background to separate them. So is a tripod, gloves and tough shoes.



KEEP EVERYTHING IN THE FRAME

Ensure that everything in your frame fits the subject you are shooting – keep it all natural.



CROP CLOSE ON TEXTURES

Get in closer and fill the frame with subjects that present textures, shapes and form.



WHAT LENSES DO YOU NEED FOR NATURE

A zoom lens, with a long focal length and fairly wide aperture might be a good place to start.

Pet Photography Cheat Sheet

A pet is a member of the family, and capturing their personality on camera can be just as important as photographing your children.

Here's an easy-to-follow pet photography cheat sheet for taking great photos of your pets!



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PET PHOTOGRAPHY

CHEAT SHEET



WHAT YOU NEED IN YOUR BAG



GENERAL ITEMS

- Camera
- Lens
- Additional lens caps
- · Camera cleaning supplies
- Extra batteries/charger
- Extra memory cards
- Squeaky toy and/or treats
- Tape
- Metal clamps
- Scissors
- Towels

- Tripod
- Notebook and pen
- · Cell phone charger
- Credit card reader
- Business cards



OUTDOORS

- ND filters
- Waterproof casing



INDOORS/STUDIO

- · Lighting kit
- V-tap portable battery
- Extra tripods
- Sandbags or weights
- Extension cords





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LIGHT COLOURED PETS *

Underexpose by one to two stops.



DARK COLOURED PETS

Overexpose by one to two stops.



DARK & LIGHT *
PETS

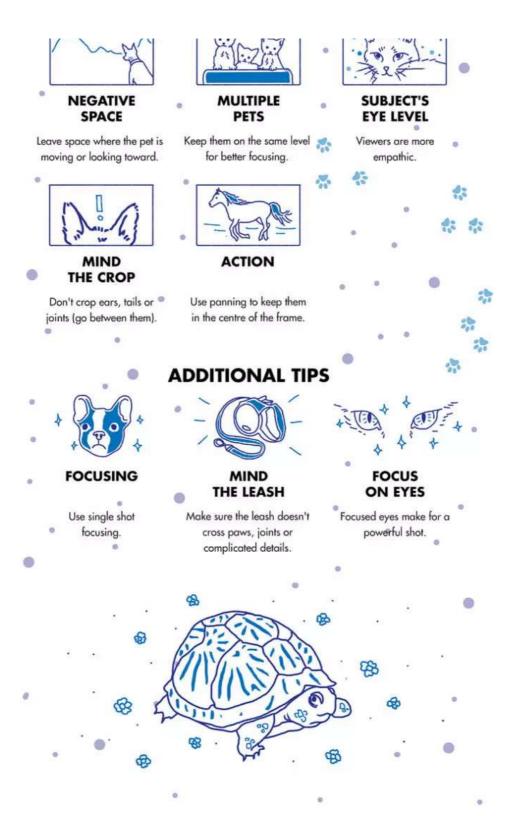
Either over or underexpose

COMPOSITION









iPhone Photography Tips for Better Photos

Everyone has a camera in their pocket, but not everyone knows how to use it.

The iPhone is one of the most popular cameras around the world and can take some really amazing photos.

Here's an iPhone photography cheat sheet with 12 tips to get you started:





IPHONE PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS

FOR BETTER PHOTOS



USE YOUR NATIVE CAMERA

It offers you quick access... So use it in a pinch.



USE A SELFIE STICK

A selfie stick broadens your perspective.



USE SELF-TIMER

A self-timer lets you capture images without touching the camera.



SET THE FOCUS

Set the focus as you wish by clicking on the screen.



TRY DIFFERENT SHOOTING MODES

With different shooting modes, you can capture videos and panoramic images.



CROP IMAGES

Use the crop tool to remove unwanted objects.



Click the image and slide your finger up or down to adjust the exposure.



"View on map" allows you to see where you took the image.



Effectively use available light to expose your subjects in the best way.



Use the flash for dark subjects, or as a fill light.



HDR lightens dark areas and lighting dark areas for a better exposure.



Use the grid feature for capturing well composed images.

10 Tips for Improving Your Food Photography

The goal is to make your food look appetizing and delicious without making it seem too artificial or processed.

And below is 10 tips to make <u>food photography easy for you</u>.



10 INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT TIPS FOR

IMPROVING YOUR

FOOD PHOTOGRAPHY



1. TRY THESE TRICKS TO KEEP FOOD FRESH LONGER

Use ice water or glycerin to crisp up greens, and a blowtorch to brown raw meat. Add food colouring to water instead of using real wine.

2. USE A TRIPOD IN LOW LIGHT CONDITIONS

A tripod allows you to shoot when the lighting situation isn't at its best.

3. INCORPORATE PROPS TO HIGHLIGHT YOUR HERO DISH

Props help to seal the idea surrounding a dish. Raw ingredients and utensils are great to use.



Don't over complicate things - Make sure the food is the centre of focus.





5. EXPERIMENT WITH MORE CREATIVE PLATING

Think about your food and what connotations it brings up – connect the foreground and background.

6. TRY NEW ANGLES FOR OUT OF THE ORDINARY PHOTOS

Try out new and different angles for a variety of different photographs.

7. LOOK FOR COLOUR CONTRAST IN YOUR FOOD PHOTOS

Colours that contrast each other make each food item stand out more.

8. USE COMPOSITION TO SET THE ATMOSPHERE

Although your audience can't taste the food, you can use compositions to set the atmosphere.





9. TRY UP CLOSE FOOD PHOTOS FOR UNIQUE ANGLES

Get close and photograph with a tighter frame for more interesting images.

10. PHOTOGRAPH FOOD WHILE IT'S FRESH

Rising steam really sets the tone of the image and makes it look hot and ready to eat.

Professional Photography & Social Media

Once you're ready to sell your services or share your photos online, these photography cheat sheets are going to be really helpful.

10 Things Your Photography Contract Must Include

I know how difficult it can be to put together all of the necessary information for your <u>photography</u> contract.

This is why we've compiled 10 things that every photography contract should include.





10 THINGS YOUR

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTRACT MUST INCLUDE



FULL NAMES AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Both parties need to give their details in full for contact and legal purposes.



START DATE OF CONTRACT AND SHOOT DATE

This lets both parties know when the work, thus the agreement, begins.



SUMMARY OF WHAT IS TO BE DELIVERED

A written copy of what both sides are responsible for so that the agreement is reached.



CANCELLATION POLICY

Knowing how and when to cancel, and if any fees are incurred in doing so.



PAYMENT SCHEDULE & LATE PAYMENT FEES

This details when and how you will be paid, plus any paid retainers or deposits and fees in case of late payments.



COPYRIGHT OWNERSHIP AND TRANSFER OF USE RIGHTS

Allowing or disallowing either party to use the images, possibly edited, without consent,



This will clearly outline when and where the images can be used, as the public domain requires a release contract.



In case the worst happens, both parties know what is to be done in special circumstances, such as illness or injury.



EDITING IMAGE LIMITATIONS AND

This outlines who has control over the images, and whether either party can edit and use edited images.



10. EXTRA FEES

This shows any extra fees that either party can claim, such as travel fees or penalties for delivering content after the deadline.



How to Write a Photography Model Release Form

A photography model release form is a document that grants permission to the photographer to use images of the subject in their work.

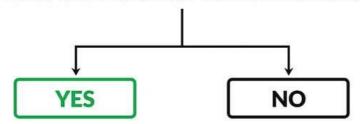
If you're unsure whether you need a release form, this cheat sheet will help walk you through it!



HOW TO

WRITE A PHOTOGRAPHY MODEL RELEASE FORM





You need a model release

You don't need a model release

HOW WILL THE PICTURE BE USED?



Editorial

Free use



Commercial

Not free use

WHAT SHOULD YOUR MODEL RELEASE FORM SAY?



Names of both parties



Address of both parties



Phone number of both parties



Witness signature, name and address

IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER



Street
photography
doesn't need a
release
(depends on a country)



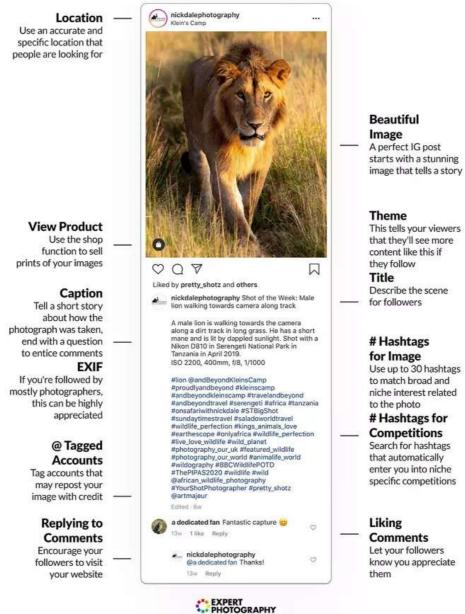
Under 18 year olds need consent

The Anatomy of a Perfect Instagram Post

Is your Instagram feed looking a little lacklustre? Do you want to get more likes on your posts? If the answer is yes, then this cheat sheet is for you.

For more social media help, check out our social media ebook.





Click Below For 52 More Cheat Sheets:

If you like the cheat sheets above, you're going to love these...

These cheat sheets are the perfect visual tool to help you master photography.

They're always there when you need them... on your phone or in your camera bag... and they've been expertly designed so that you can understand everything at a glance.

Never again will you forget a key photography tip!

Master The Basics of Photography With Our Cheat Sheets:

Quick Capture Cheat Sheets

VIEW CHEAT SHEETS

