

# Color Temperature And White Balance



Out of the camera at 3200K  
(yellow hue)



Adjusted to 2300K  
(natural)

# What is Color Temperature?

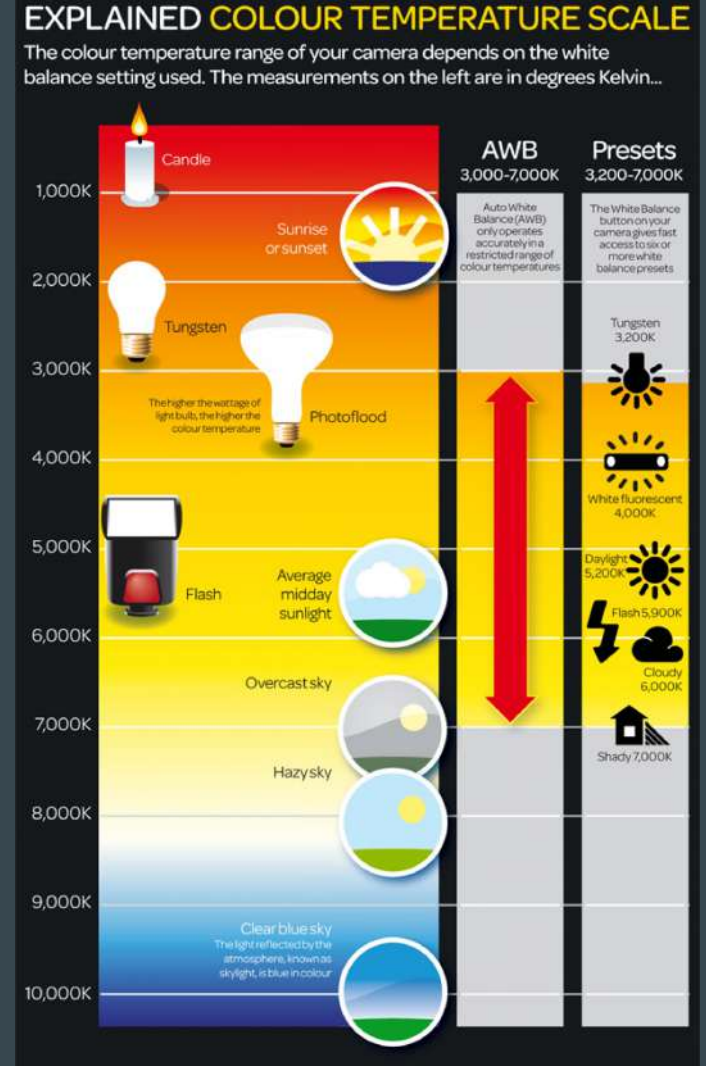
The temperature of light is measured in Kelvins

The lower the number, the warmer the light.

The higher the number, the cooler/bluer the light.

Daylight is 5200k.

Cameras are calibrated to daylight, and if you are in other conditions, you must change the preset (see right) on your camera to compensate. It may be in your menu or a button on the back of the camera.





# Setting White Balance on a Camera And on a phone using Lightroom



# WHITE BALANCE PRESETS

Your guide to what they do and when to use them



**AUTO**

## AUTO

A simple failsafe mode for snapshots, but the White Balance may vary from one shot to the next, and you may not get the colours you expect.



## Incandescent

This is the closest match for regular domestic lighting, and will correct the colour much more effectively than auto White Balance.



## Fluorescent

This comes in many different types and current D-SLRs offer no fewer than seven alternatives, so some trial and error may be needed.



## Direct Sunlight

Calibrated to give neutral colours under midday sun – and you can use it as a fixed standard for recording

sunlight, and using this preset can prevent skin tones turning 'cold'.



## Cloudy

Light has a cooler tone under a cloudy sky, and this preset will warm up the colours. It's good for portraits but can be too much for landscapes.



## Shade

This is designed for open shade under a blue sky. This preset will give you more natural-looking skin tones.



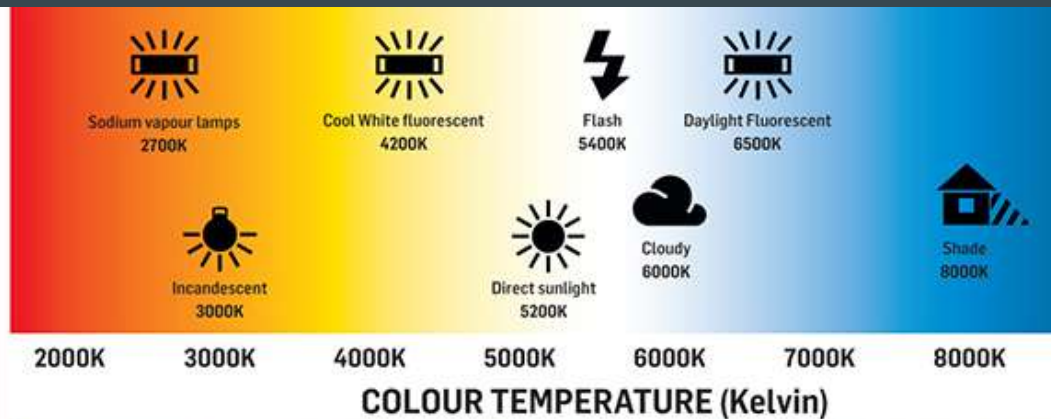
## K

More advanced D-SLRs let you set the White Balance colour temperature manually – useful with some studio lighting.



## PRE

Sometimes it's impossible to predict the colour of the lighting and the





## White balance

AUTO Auto



Incandescent



Fluorescent



Direct sunlight



Flash



Cloudy



Shade

Adjust

Nikon

Nikon BM-11





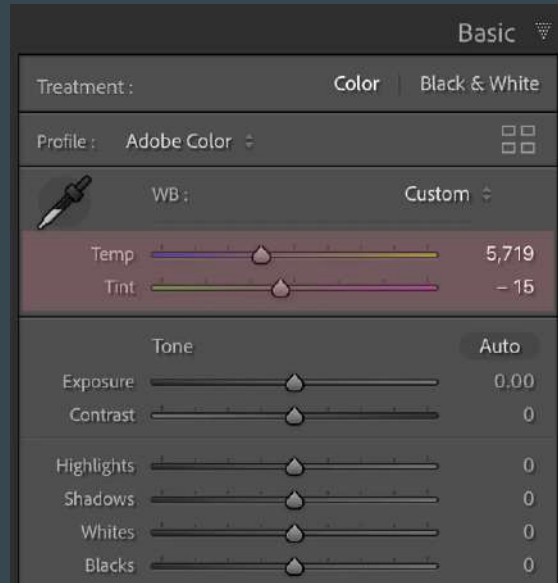


## Alternatives to changing the white balance in the camera:

- 1) Shoot in RAW and then use Adobe Camera Raw to make a custom white balance. Shooting in RAW is what many professionals do and gives you the greatest control over the white balance.
- 2) Make color adjustments in Photoshop to correct the white balance. This doesn't always work that well.
- 3) Use the color adjustment tools in Lightroom

# Editing Software

Lightroom



Photoshop

