

CAMERA SETTINGS



*The basics of going
from auto to manual*

BY PARKER & ABBEY

WELCOME



Hey there! Thanks for checking out this freebie! We're excited to give you a basic understanding of your camera settings. Going from auto to manual can feel overwhelming and daunting. Rest assured, it's simpler than it seems! Once you have a basic understanding of how your camera works, you'll never want to shoot in auto again! Read ahead to learn more! And be sure to check the last page for even more information!

— PARKER & ABBEY



01

ISO

ISO, in a nutshell, is your camera's sensitivity to light. The lower your ISO is the less sensitive to light it is. The higher your ISO is the more sensitive to light it is.

So, if you're outside with plenty of light, your ISO could remain low. If you're indoors with natural window light, it would need to be a little higher. If you're shooting in a dimly lit reception with no flash, the ISO would need to be high.

The lower the ISO the higher quality the photo. Shooting with a higher ISO can cause grain in your photos as well as color distortion. This is why it's important to shoot with good light that's not too bright or too dark - you don't want to lose detail or color.

SECTION TWO

UNDERSTANDING APERTURE

Aperture is the amount of light your lens lets into the sensor. It is calibrated in f/stops and is written as numbers like 1.8, 2.2, 2.5, 4, etc. Most lenses list the widest aperture they offer on the lens.

The lower (wider) your aperture, the more light comes in. Because a wider aperture lets in more light, you can have a faster shutter speed.

Aperture also affects the depth of field (or background blurriness) of a photo. The lower your aperture, the blurrier the background.

If you want a lot of the photo in focus, use a higher aperture. If you want just one subject in focus, use a lower aperture. To choose what aperture you should be at, decide how much of the photo you want in focus.



03 SECTION THREE

SHUTTER SPEED

Shutter speed is how fast the shutter closes. When you have a short shutter speed, the shutter closes quickly and lets in little light. When you have a long shutter speed, the shutter closes slowly and lets in lots of light.

A shutter speed of $1/6400$ is pretty fast while a shutter speed of $1/25$ is slow. Shooting the night sky would require a very, very slow shutter speed to capture enough light into the sensor. Capturing an individual during golden hour could be accomplished with a quick shutter speed.

The slower your shutter speed, the more likely it is to be out of focus. If you need to use a slow shutter speed, hold very still or use a tripod. Fast shutter speed is good for catching moments of action or movement.

SECTION FOUR: FOCAL LENGTH

Focal length tells you the angle of view (how much of the scene will be captured) and the magnification (how large the elements in the photo will be).

Your lens will have a focal length listed, such as 50mm 1.4 or 75-200mm 2.8, etc. The first number (mm) is the focal length and the second number is the widest aperture that lens allows.

A prime lens has one focal length, like 50mm. A zoom lens has a range of focal lengths, like 75-200mm. This means you can change the focal length by zooming with your lens.

If you want the background to appear larger, you should use a longer focal length (like 85mm) because it minimizes the distance between the background and the subject. Similarly, if you need to shoot inside a small bedroom, you'll want to use a shorter focal length (like 28mm) so more of the scene is captured.

