Editing Terms

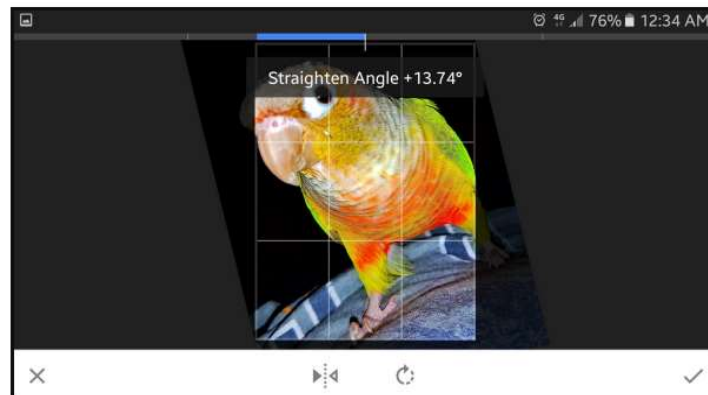In this lesson, we'll be taking a look at
Editing Terms.

If you see a magnifying glass at the bottom right corner
of a photo, click on that photo to make it full screen.

Editing Terms

Many photos you take will benefit from editing directly on your phone, or on a computer after being taken. It is almost par for the course for the best results.

In this lesson, we'll take a look at some of the terms and techniques most commonly used to improve a photo on your phone or computer - simple techniques that are common to almost all photo editing programs.

*Here we are going to look at the some of the terms and techniques used
when fixing or improving images.*

Editing Terms

Your graphics editing software will let you do a lot more than we show you in this lesson.

Here we'll be looking at the basics - the things that most commonly need to be performed to tweak your photographs.

Editing Terms

Red-eye. Red-eye occurs when a flash from a camera reflects of the eye - giving the familiar red-eye seen in so many photos. This can be reduced using red-eye reduction flash - where the flash fires once or more before the shot is taken - but it may still sneak through.

Red-eye occurs normally when the flash is used in near darkness, when the human iris is fully dilated. Increasing ambient light can reduce red-eye.

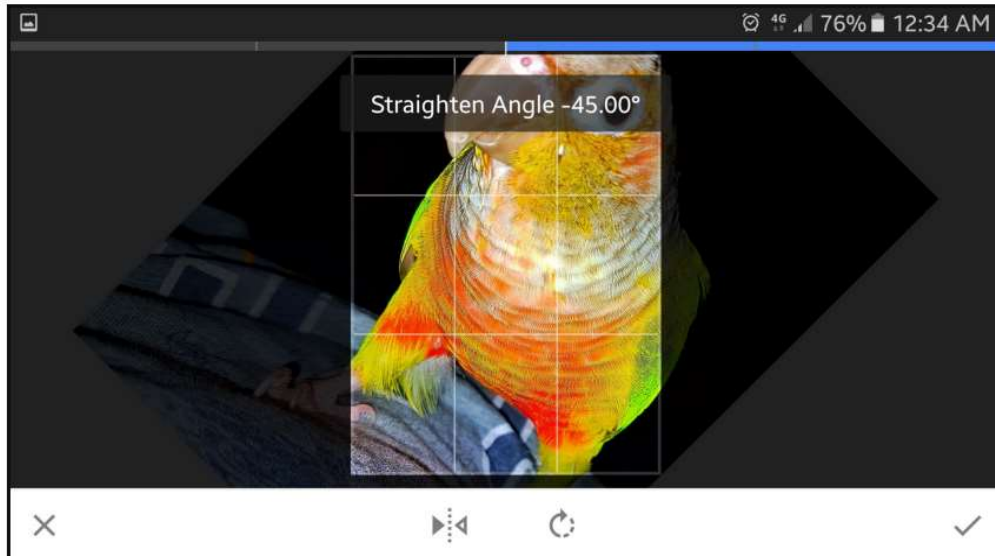It is easy to fix in almost all graphics editing software.

On the right, red eye has been corrected.

Editing Terms

Straightening. Sometimes when taking a shot, you are so fixed on the foreground - or take the photo so quickly, that you only realize later that the camera was tilted, or the horizon offset.

Straightening an image is a simple process used to correct this error.

Editing Terms

Brightness / Contrast. If the light in your photo did not come out quite right, you can easily adjust this in a graphics editing program. This is sometimes referred to as **exposure.**

There is a limit to what can be fixed, but if the brightness is not out too far, it should be fairly easy. Note that brightening an image may increase noise - which we cover later in this lesson.

On the right, the image has had been brightened a little.

Editing Terms

Shadows/Highlights. You can even get more specific these days when changing image brightness, with the ability to target shadows or highlights in an image.

Above, we've lightened the shadows in this image - allowing us to see more of the background and leave the main area alone.

Editing Terms

Saturation. Quite often, in fact, most often, an image from a phone camera will benefit from some sort of exposure adjustment.

Phone cameras, because they almost always have a fixed aperture, can lack a little bit of color 'punch'. Adjusting saturation can fix this.

Generally, this means increase the color saturation a little, as well as perhaps adjusting the brightness or contrast. All graphics editing software allows you to do this.
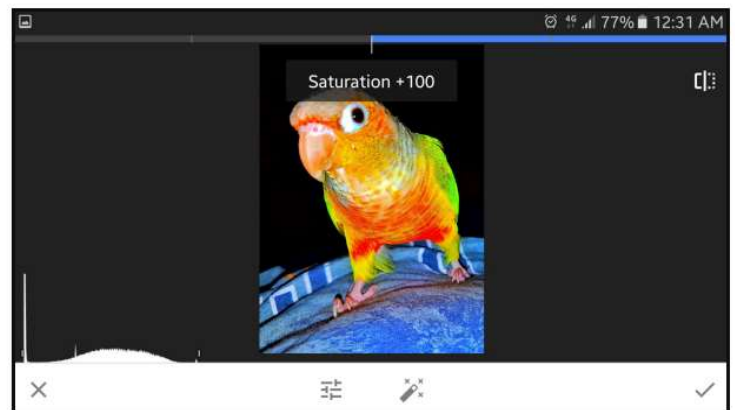
Editing Terms

Saturation. Saturation is a term that refers to the intensity of colors in a photograph. A photograph with poor **saturation** will appear as a black and white image. Poor saturation can occur in poor light, or based on certain camera settings.

On the left is a photograph with poor color **saturation.** On the right, we've used simple photograph editing tools to enhance the **saturation** of the same shot.

Editing Terms

Sharpening. Despite all your best efforts, some shots just come a little blurry. As long as they are not too blurry, you can use graphics editing software to sharpen the image. Some (compact) cameras will give results that are just not perfectly sharp no matter how well you focus.

Note that sharpening also has its limits. Too much sharpening can increase the noise in an image (covered shortly), as well as giving the image a really harsh appearance.
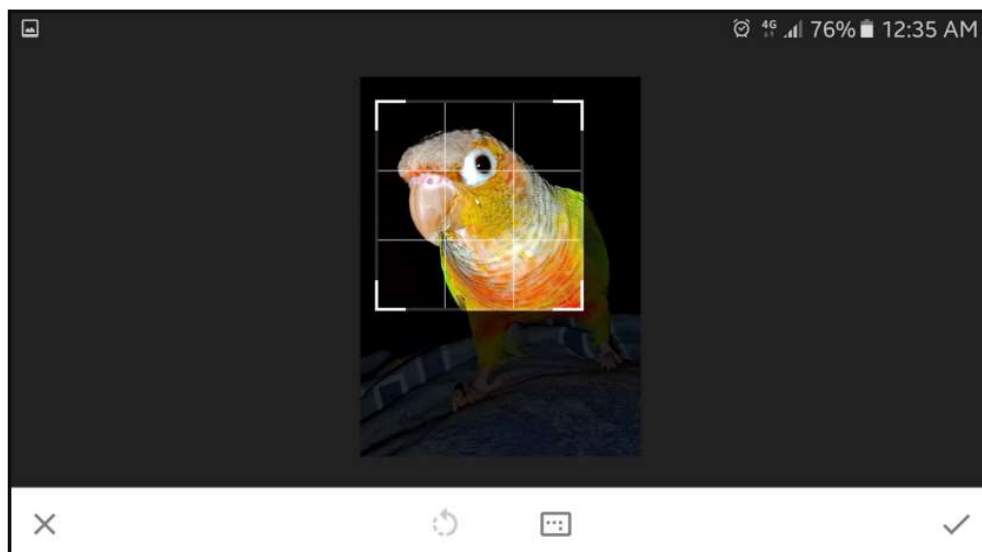
Editing Terms

Sharpness. Sharpness, or the processing sharpening, refers to exactly that - how sharp the image appears. It is the opposite to a blurry image.

The image on the right has been sharpened more than the image on the left.

Editing Terms

Cropping. In order to achieve good framing, or to remove unwanted regions, or simply as a means to 'zoom' in on your subject, you can crop images.

All graphics editing software will allow you to crop images.

Editing Terms

Cropping is the term for removing areas of the image, normally unwanted areas. It allows you, in effect, to reframe your images after taking them.

This is another reason why having more megapixels than you think you need can come in handy.

Editing Terms

Noise Reduction. (Also called **Structure.**) Depending on how much light is available when you took your photo, plus the ISO used to capture the photo , plus the quality of the camera, your image may have extra **noise** - giving the image a dotty appearance. Sometimes noise is introduced when you brighten, or sharpen photographs.

Noise reduction can improve images where this is an issue.
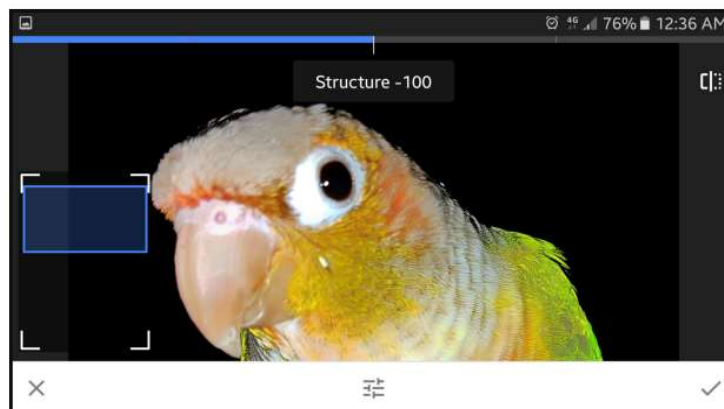
Don't expect miracles with noise reduction, but you can certainly improve some images dramatically. Note that noise reduction will result in some loss of detail.
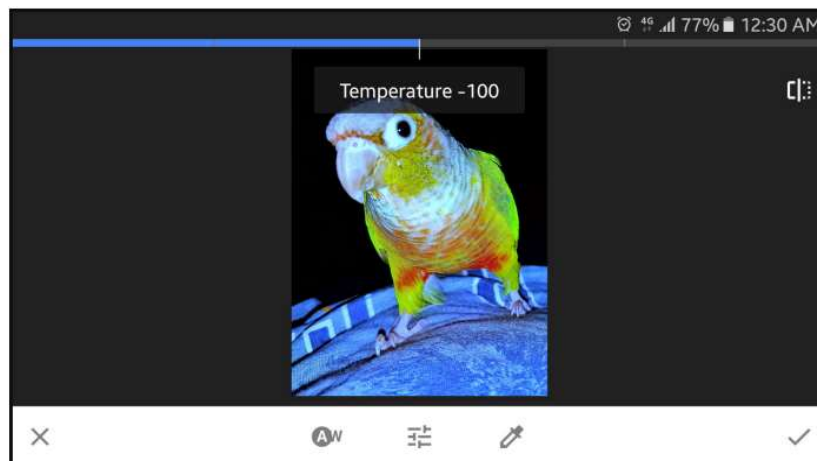
Editing Terms

Noise. Noise can be seen in the image on the left. It normally appears as though there are a lot of colored dots over the image. Noise occurs on cheaper cameras, and can be based on how the photograph is taken. One way, covered in another lesson, is where the ISO setting is too high. Excessive noise can be reduced after a photograph is taken, using simple photo processing tools, but nothing beats a noise free image from the start (on the right).

Editing Terms

White Balance (also called temperature). In an up and coming lesson, we discuss white balance in more detail. Essentially, white balance refers to the *temperature* of light available when a photo is taken. It may make this easier to understand as the type of light - sunlight, candlelight, flashlight, etc.

All cameras will set white balance automatically (most also allow manual adjustments), but don't always get it right. Where the color is 'wrong' it can generally be fixed using graphics editing software.
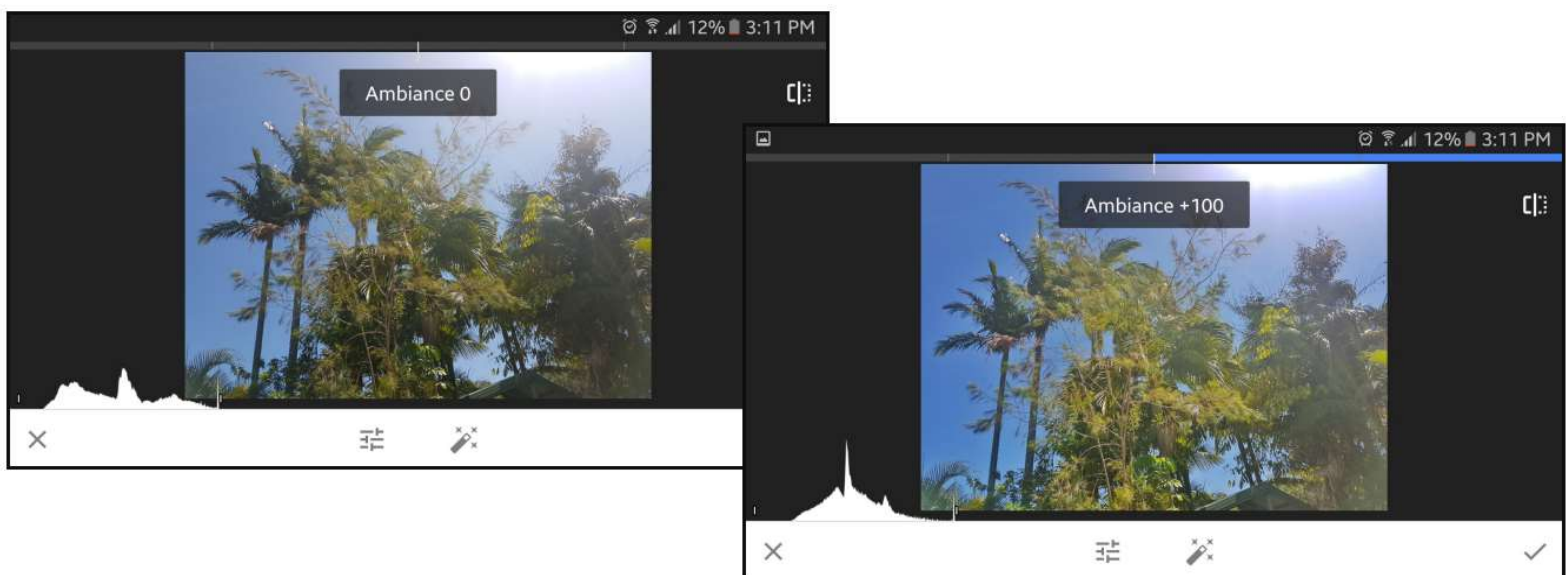
Editing Terms

White Balance. White Balance refers to how the camera adjusts to different lighting conditions. Sunlight, florescent light, tungsten light, diffused light all need to be adjusted by the camera. White balance is important, but most cameras do a great job of setting this manually.
Above, you can see a series of different white balance settings, and how they can affect a photograph.

Editing Terms

Ambience. Some editing programs have an effect called Ambience. It seems like it increases color, while also increasing the brightness of darker areas. It can give a slightly unrealistic event, but certainly a very colorful one.

Editing Terms

Hue. Hue is a effect where the colors in an image are rotated across the color spectrum. This can result in some interesting effects.
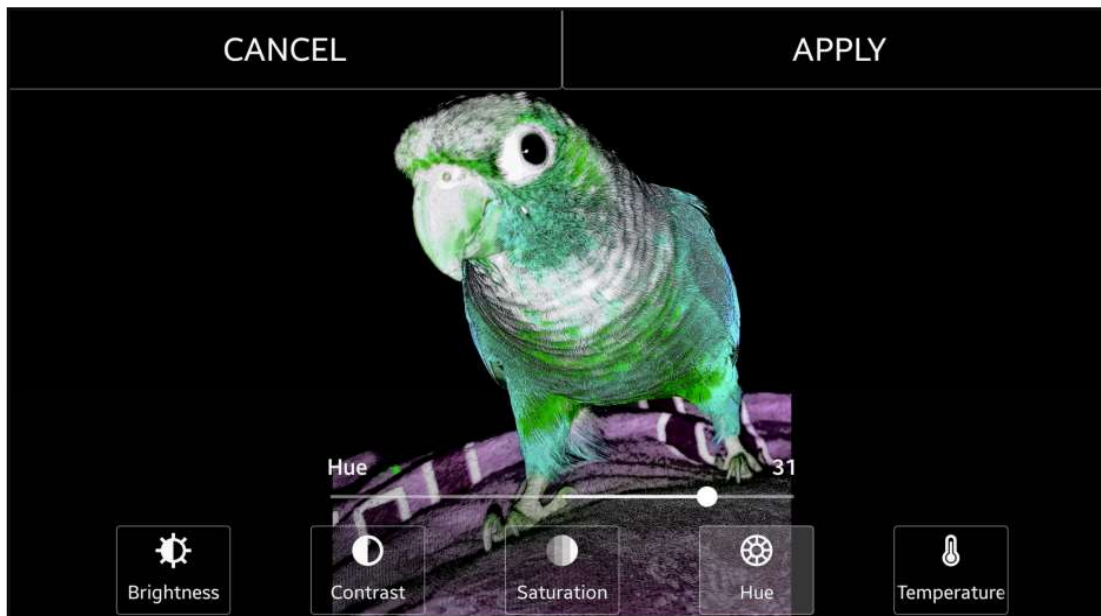
Editing Terms

Filters. Almost all graphics editing programs these days allow the application of filters to an image. These are designed to give the image a new look - retro, old, film, faded - any one of hundreds are available.

Editing Terms

More Advanced Filters. A number of apps will provide you with a much wider range of effects - just a small fraction can be seen below.

Editing Terms

You've now completed this lesson.

In this lesson, we took a look at **Editing Terms.**