ISO Settings

In this lesson, we'll be taking a look at
ISO Settings.

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

ISO Settings

A few points before we start looking at ***ISO.***

All phone cameras have an automatic mode. In order to take *great* photos, you don't *need* to understand, much less adjust, ***ISO*** - it is adjusted automatically. However, if you do get a basic understanding of ISO, you'll be able to take *even better* photos.

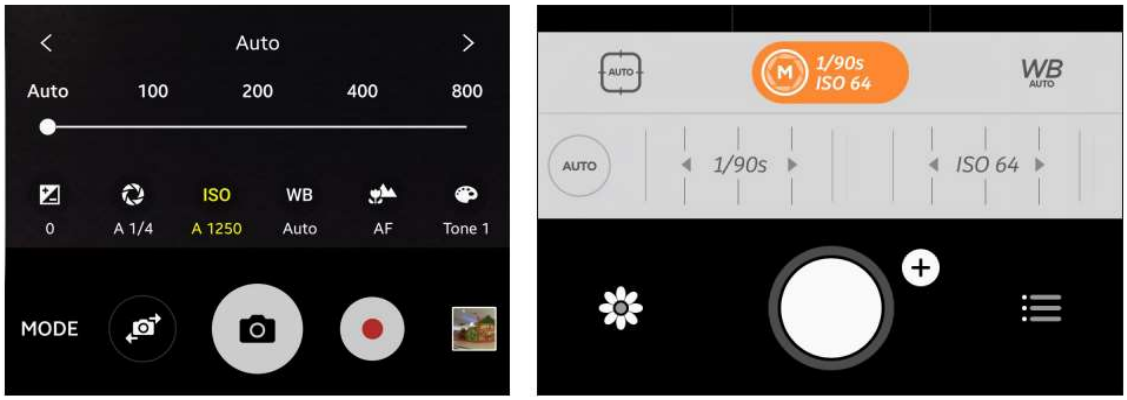
ISO settings can make a lot of difference to your photos.

ISO Settings

The ***ISO*** rating on your camera determines how *sensitive* the camera is to light. The higher the ISO rating, the more sensitive to light the camera is.

By default, the ISO setting will be selected by your phone. But if you enter into Pro mode, you'll be able to make custom selections.

ISO ratings on most phone cameras will range at the low end of 64, up to 1600, or even 2500.



On the left, we are adjusting ISO settings on an Android camera. On the right, we are adjusting ISO settings using the Camera + app on an iPhone.

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Sounds great doesn't it? Why not always use a higher ISO setting?

There is a tradeoff. The higher the ISO setting, the more ***noise*** appears in the image. ***Noise*** in an image translates to random colored dots appearing in the image.

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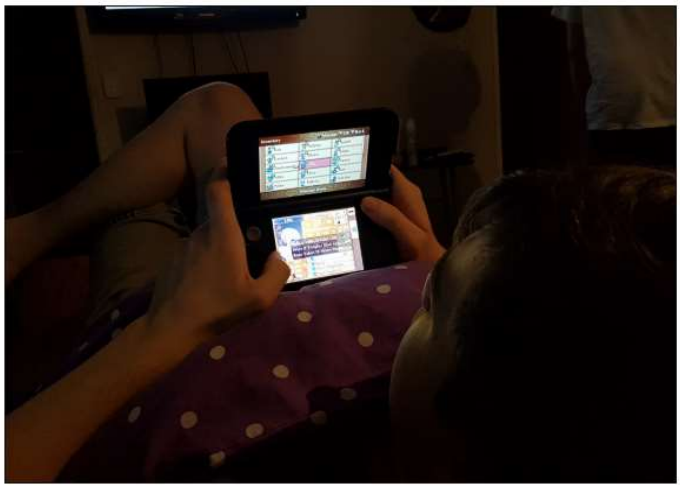
ISO 800, 1/30 of a second. This subject is illuminated only by a computer monitor.

ISO Settings

Each camera will add a different amount of noise to an image at certain ISO settings. On one camera, an ISO setting of 400 may look great - and on another, not so great.

On phone cameras, if you can, try to keep the ISO setting at 400 or less. This is not always possible, especially in low light situations, so more of a general guide.



800 ISO, on a Samsung S7.

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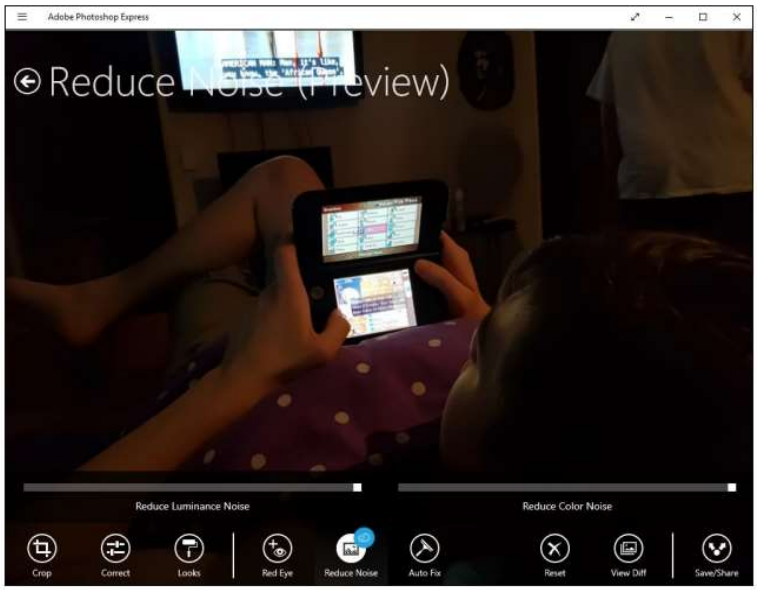
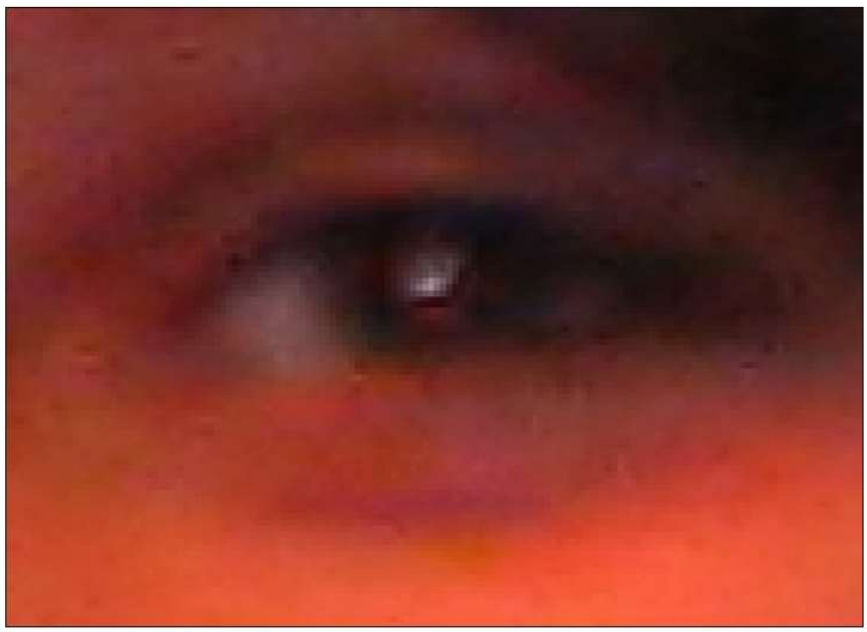
Because high ISO settings can tend to introduce noise to an image, you may want to try out some software that can reduced noise in an image. Below, **PhotoShop Express** (on a PC) is used to reduce noise. But you'll find many programs on your phone that can do the same thing.



ISO Settings

Noise reduction software can really help - but it is not perfect. It will always tend to add a little blur to the image.

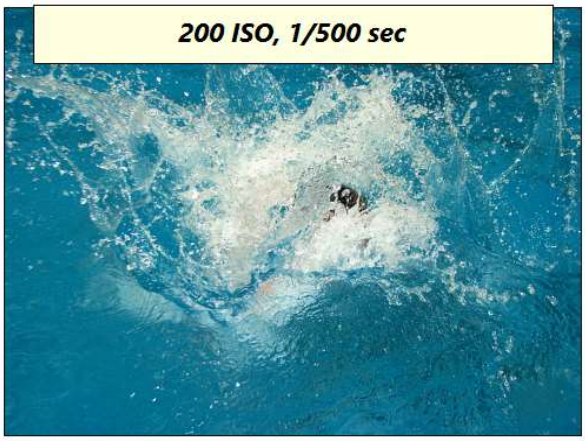


ISO Settings

Higher ISO settings can do more than just allow you to take photos in low light.

If you are taking action shots, you generally want a very fast shutter speed. This will help to 'freeze' the action. Problem is that fast shutter speeds mean not a lot of light is let into the camera. Using a higher ISO setting in this case will help compensate - so you can take better action shots.

200 ISO, 1/500 sec



1600 ISO, 1/1000 sec

If you have a 'sports', or 'action' mode on your camera, there is a good chance it will up the ISO rating automatically to allow for faster action shots at higher shutter speeds.

ISO Settings

Well done. You've now completed this lesson.

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