Photographic Terms

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

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

Photographic Terms

Throughout these lessons, we'll be referring to certain terms related to photography. Some of these are explained in detail in their own lessons, so we won't be covering them here.

Photographic Terms

A related lesson in this course, called **Editing Terms,** covers another series of terms and techniques you may come up against. That lesson, however, covers terms you'll likely come up against when editing photos. In this lesson, we take a more general approach to photographic terms you may come up against.

Photographic Terms

Where a concept is dealt with in more detail in other lessons, like **ISO, Shutter Speed,** or **White Balance,** for example, we've left them out of this lesson.

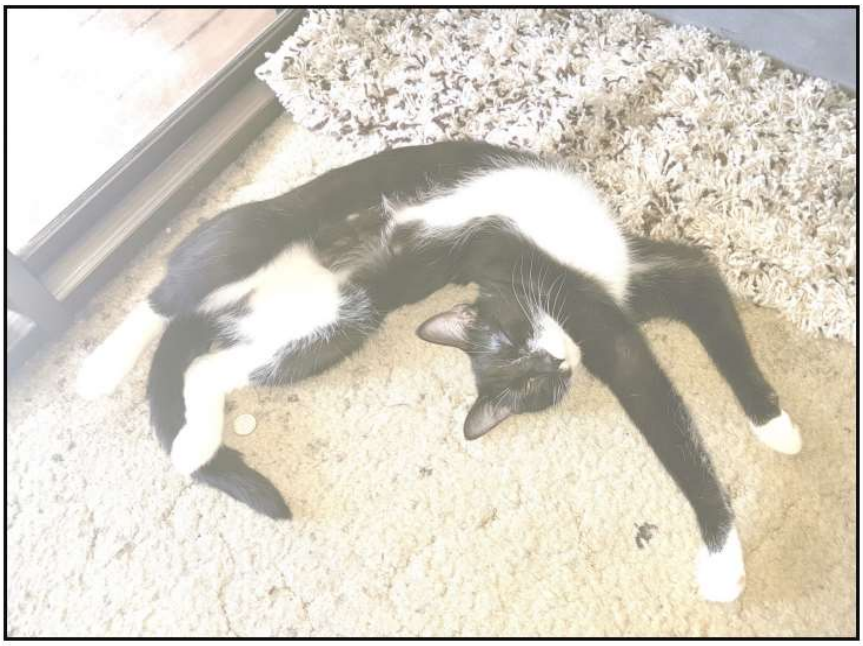
Photographic Terms

Exposure. This term refers to the light in an image. A well exposed image has a good balance of light - nothing too unintentionally dark, and nothing too unintentionally light.

Photographic Terms

Underexposed Photographs. This term refers to photos that are simply too dark. This is normally as a result of simply not enough light being available, or incorrect settings on the camera.

Photographic Terms



Overexposed Photographs. This term refers to photos that are simply too light. This is normally as a result of incorrect settings on the camera.

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Pixels. All images are made up of pixels. Each pixel, in a JPEG image, can be one of 16,777,216 colors.

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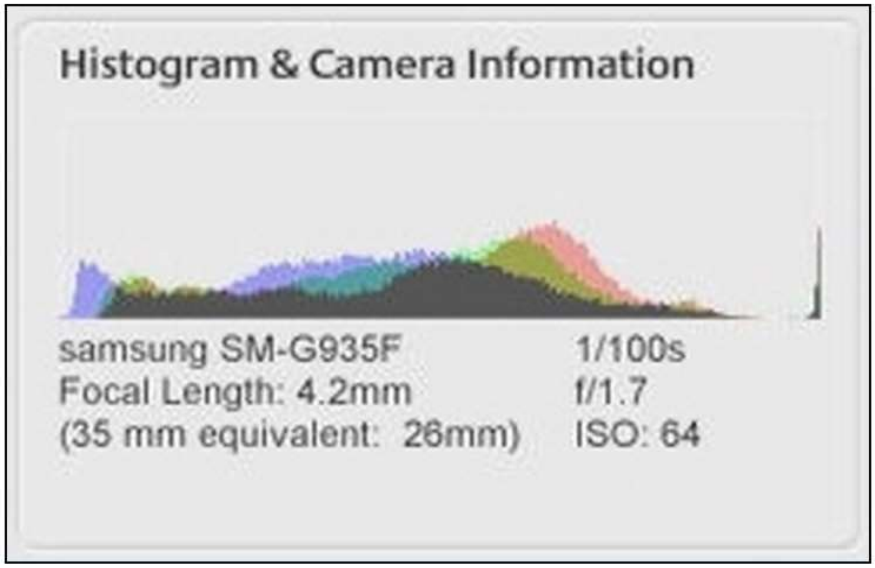

Histogram. Histograms, quite simply, are a graphical representation of the color, or color range, of your photograph. The histogram has an x and a y axis. The x axis represents the spread of colors, from black on the left, through to white on the right. The y axis reflects the strength of the colors in that region.

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Framing. This term refers to where the subject of the photograph sits in the photograph. Above, we would consider this poor framing - most of the subject's face is missing.

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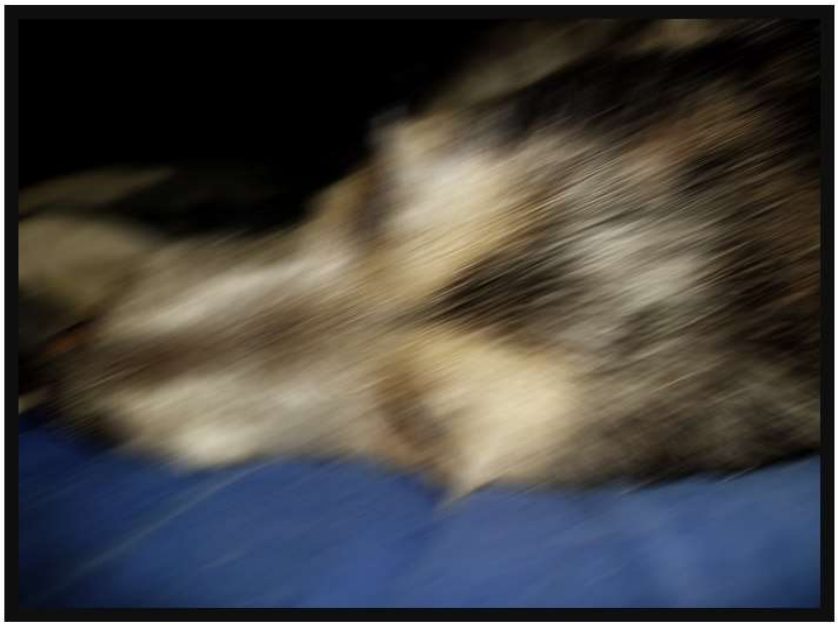

Blurring. Some blurring can be deliberate - in this case, not. Blurring can occur as a result of camera movement while taking a shot, or the wrong settings on the camera.

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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).

Photographic Terms

Landscape and Portrait. Like printed pages, photographs can be taken in landscape and portrait orientation. On the left, is a landscape oriented image, and on the right is a portrait image.

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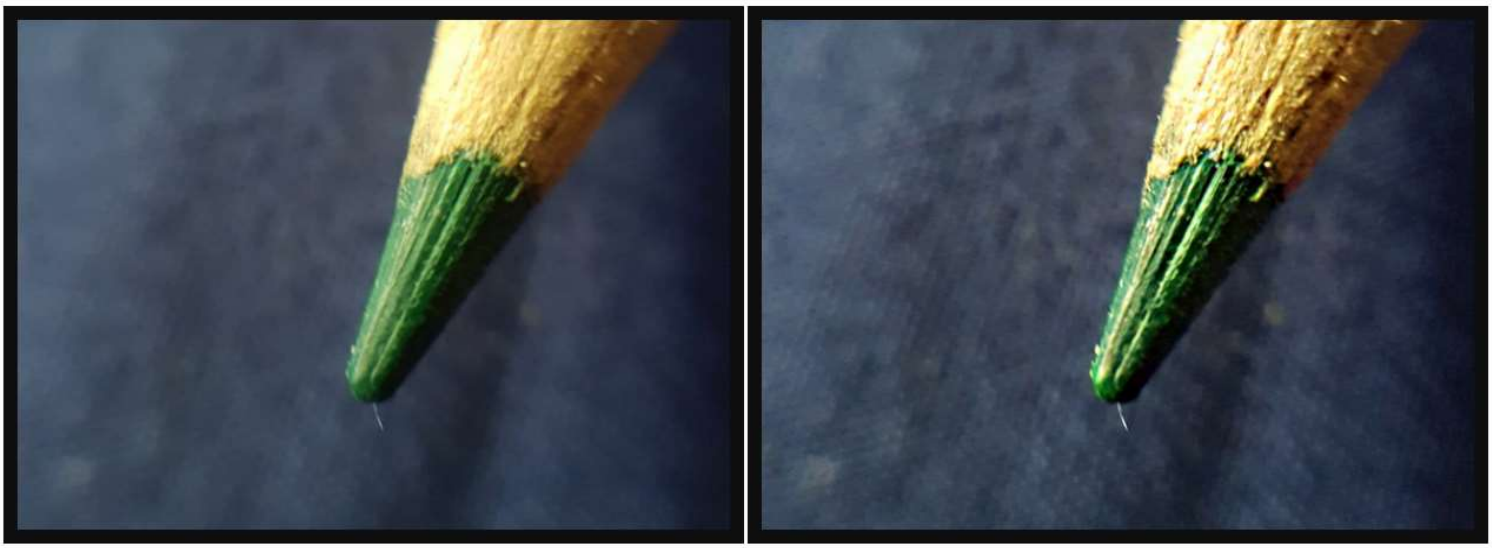
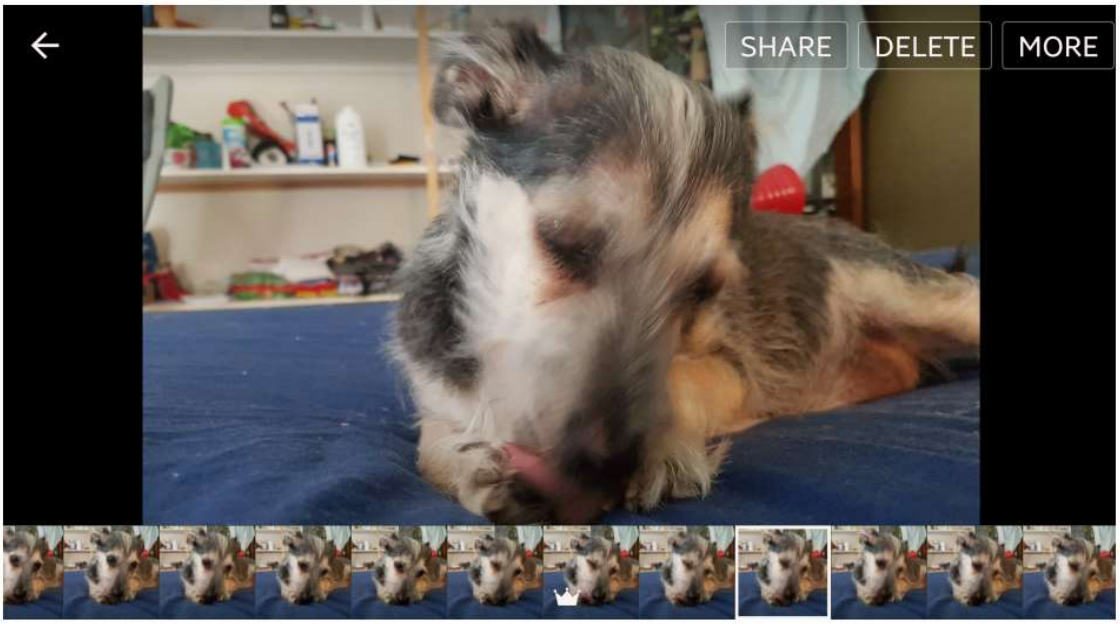


Sharpness. Sharpness, or the processing sharpening, refers to exactly that - how sharp the image appears. It is the opposite to a blurry image.

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

Photographic Terms



Burst Shooting. Burst Shooting refers to the ability of a camera to take a series of photographs over a very quick period - normally while you hold the shutter down, rather than continuously clicking...

Photographic Terms

You've now completed this lesson.

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