

## Getting in Close

In this lesson, we'll be taking a look at  
**Getting in Close.**

*Estimated Completion Time: 16 minutes.*

## Getting in Close

There is one technique you should keep in mind - particularly if photographing children and/or animals - and it is very simple.

**Get in close.** Take a look at the photo below. This seems to be representative of most 'happy snaps' people will take of the kids. But what about getting closer?



*Your typical happy snap.*

## Getting in Close

When you've taken your shot, take a few steps closer and take another. Below, you can see how the photo has been improved by moving a little closer.



*That's better. The subject fills the frame much better. But could we go closer?*

## Getting in Close

Here is the part of the rule to remember. When you've stepped closer, and taken your shot - and think you are close enough, take a few steps more, and take another one.



*There's nothing to stop you going even closer still...*

## Getting in Close

Here's another important tip - unless after a special effect (we see some in other lessons), always try and get closer, rather than zooming in. By getting closer, you give yourself a wider focal range - and therefore a better chance of perfect focus.



## Getting in Close

You've got a digital camera remember - you can take as many shots as you want. So, even if you're not sure - just take some close-ups as well.

You'll capture expressions and detail like never before.



## Getting in Close

We know you'll take lots of shots of the baby - but get in close. Take the fingers, the hands, the feet. Here we've given the little foot some size context.



## Getting in Close

With animals, the same is true. Get in close for some great shots.



## Getting in Close



*On the left is the shot most people will take...*



*But getting in close can give you that much better shot.*

## Getting in Close

In order to get the shot on the top, we got so close we interested these subjects a little too much.



## Getting in Close

When getting in close to animals - and humans as well - remember to focus on the eye. Humans have a relatively flat face, so focus on any part of the face tends to keep the whole face in focus. This is not the case for dogs, cats, and other animals - or if you are very close.



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## Getting in Close

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Getting in close on any subject will give you interesting results. It does not matter whether your camera has macro (real close up) capability - you will probably be able to get closer to anything than you normally do.



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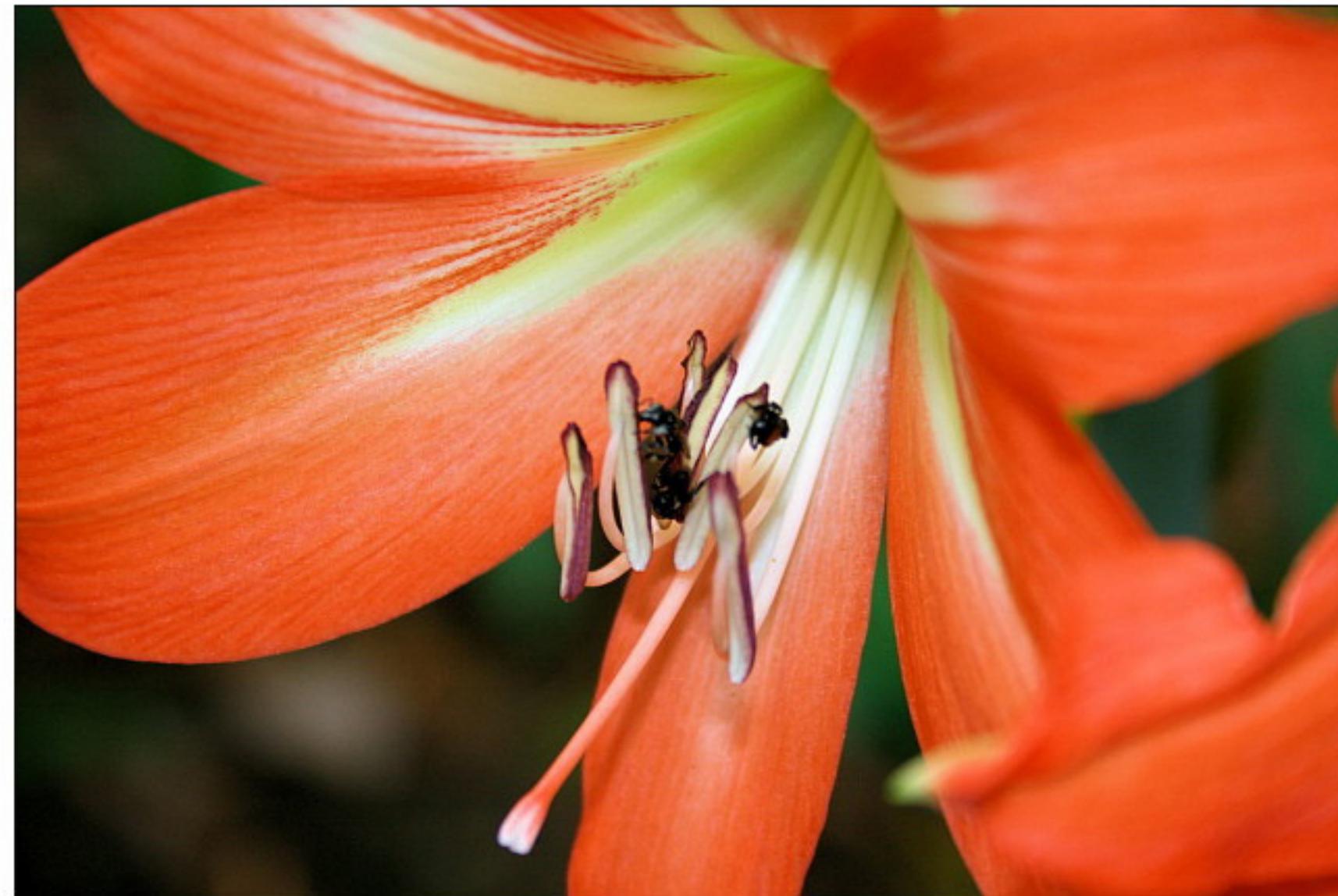
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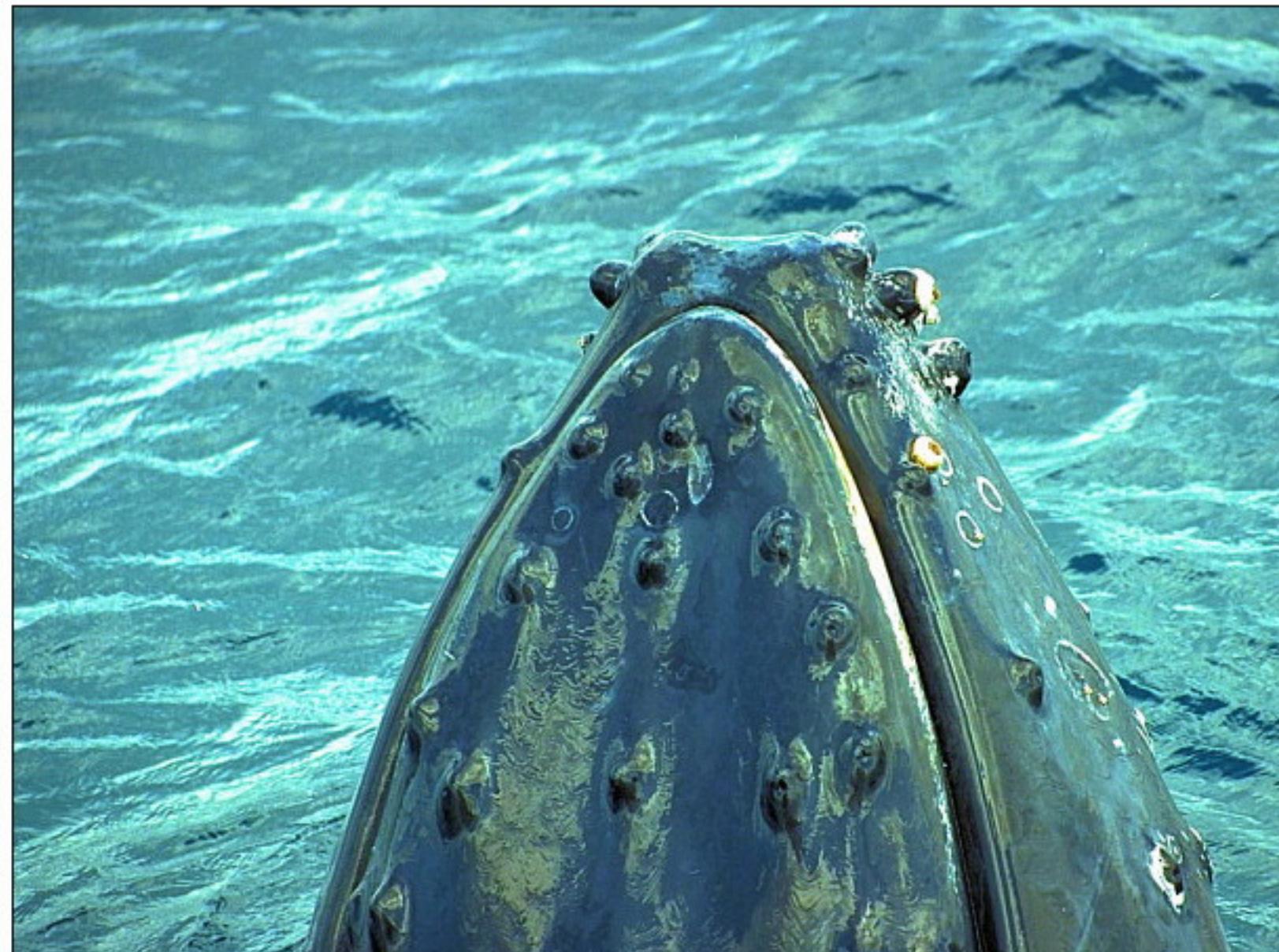
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## Getting in Close

Sometimes you've just got to be lucky. This hump-backed whale came in nice and close to allow us to get nice and close.



## Getting in Close

When you can't get in close, or for special effects, you can of course use a zoom lenses.  
Zoom lenses allow you to get close when you can't.



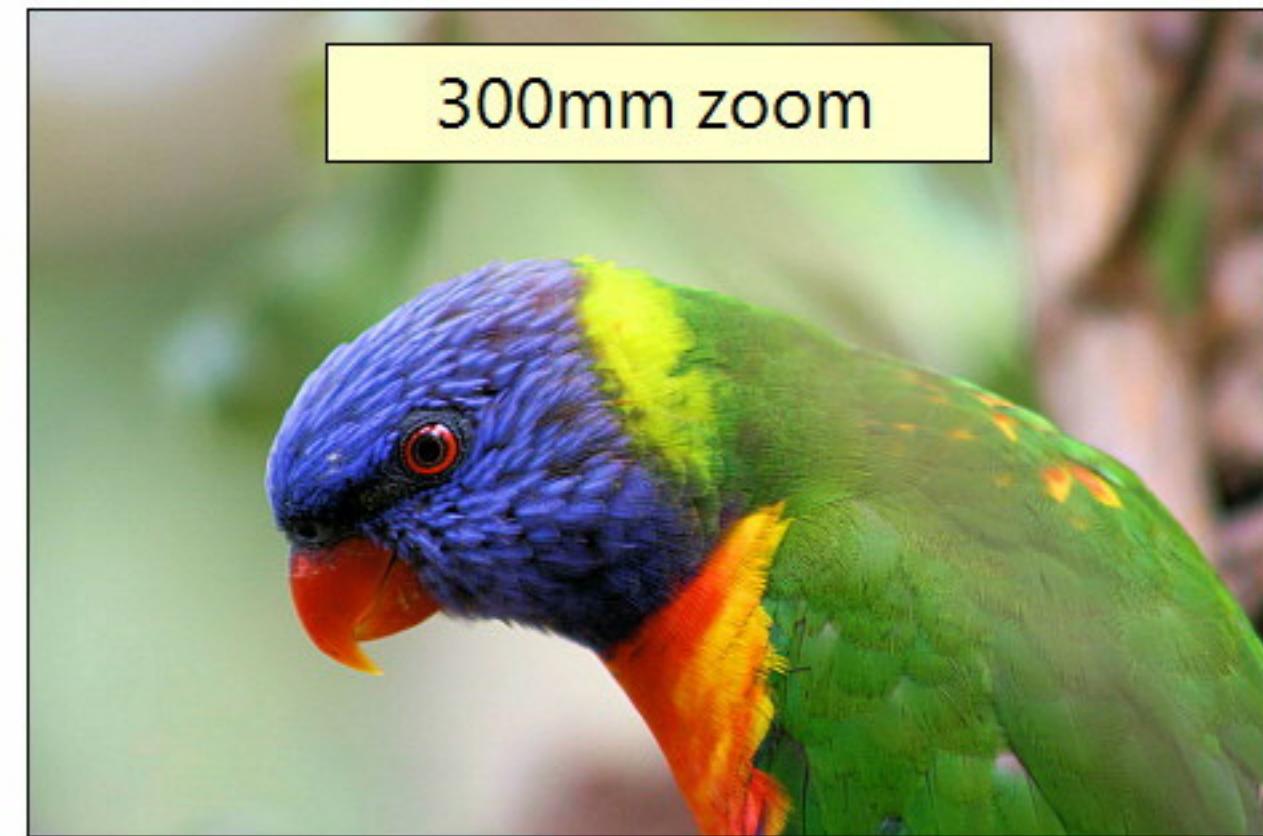
*This eagle's nest was situated a long way up in a tree - a zoom lens allowed us to get much closer.*

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## Getting in Close



**Telephoto/Zoom.** These terms are these days interchangeable. It refers to the ability of a camera to zoom in from a distance. Traditionally, it is measured in mm - a lens, for example, may have the specifications of 28mm to 300mm. The wider the range, the more useful the lens/camera can be.

In compact cameras, zoom ability is generally referred to as 2x or 3x, or 10x, or 20x. This does not relate directly to the old mm settings, but still gives you a good idea of how far you'll be able to zoom in.

Traditionally, a telephoto lens is one that was fixed at one focal depth. It could not be altered. A zoom lens, on the other hand, could zoom in and out.

## Getting in Close

If you have a choice between zooming in and moving in close - well, moving in close will give you a sharper photo. However, you may want to zoom in for several reasons:

- You want a *Depth of Field* effect (we have a lesson on this).
- You want a more candid shot (you don't want the person to know you are taking the photo).
- You simply can't get in close.



*Zooming in can give a great depth of field effect, as seen here. And it is hard to get close to a bird without scaring it off. But realize that you are unlikely to get an image as 'sharp' with a zoom lens as when you do move in close.*

## Getting in Close

The closer you zoom into a subject, the more camera shake there is likely to be. For this reason, either use a tripod, or set the camera to a fast shutter speed.

This is another reason why it is best to get in close, if you can, rather than zoom. Quite often it is impossible to zoom in for a great photo - especially if there is not enough light available. You may not be able to set the shutter speed fast enough to compensate for probable camera shake.



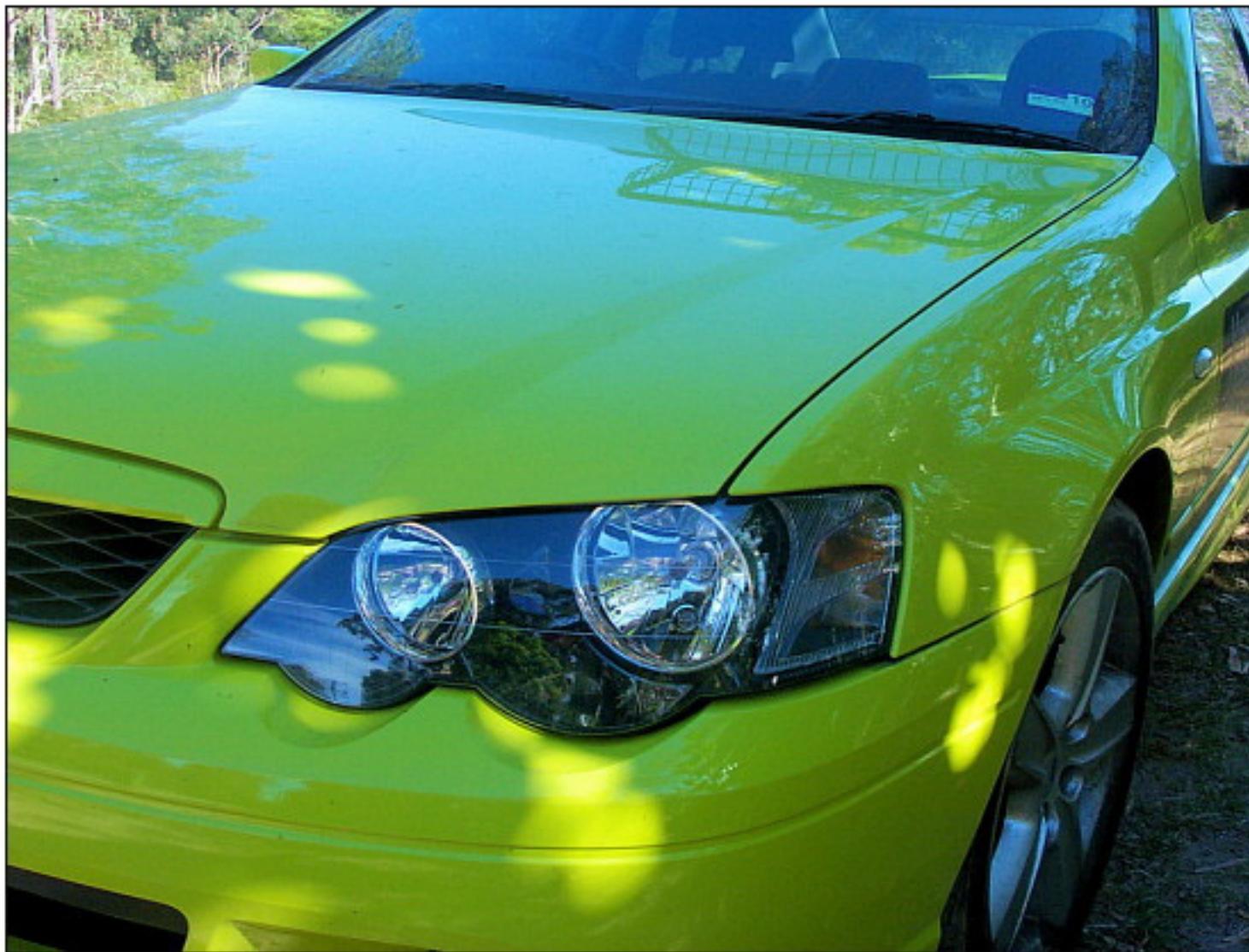
*Because this bird was in the shade, in a tree, even with a 300mm zoom lens, and a 1/400 of a second shutter speed, the slightest camera movement has made the bird a little blurry.*

## Getting in Close

Using a telephoto or zoom lens can also tend to compress an image - it seems to remove the space between distant objects, and make them appear closer together.



## Getting in Close



**Wide Angle.** Getting in close with a wide angle lens allows you to get a photo like nothing you'll get on a normal lens. Compare the two images above - on the left, taken with a normal lens (28mm). On the right, from the exact same spot, we used a wide angle lens.

A wide angle lens will always distort the image somewhat to get the wide angle effect.

## Getting in Close

You've now completed this lesson.

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**Getting in Close.**