

## Shifting the Focus

In this lesson, we'll be taking a look at  
**Shifting the Focus.**

*Estimated Completion Time: **9 minutes.***

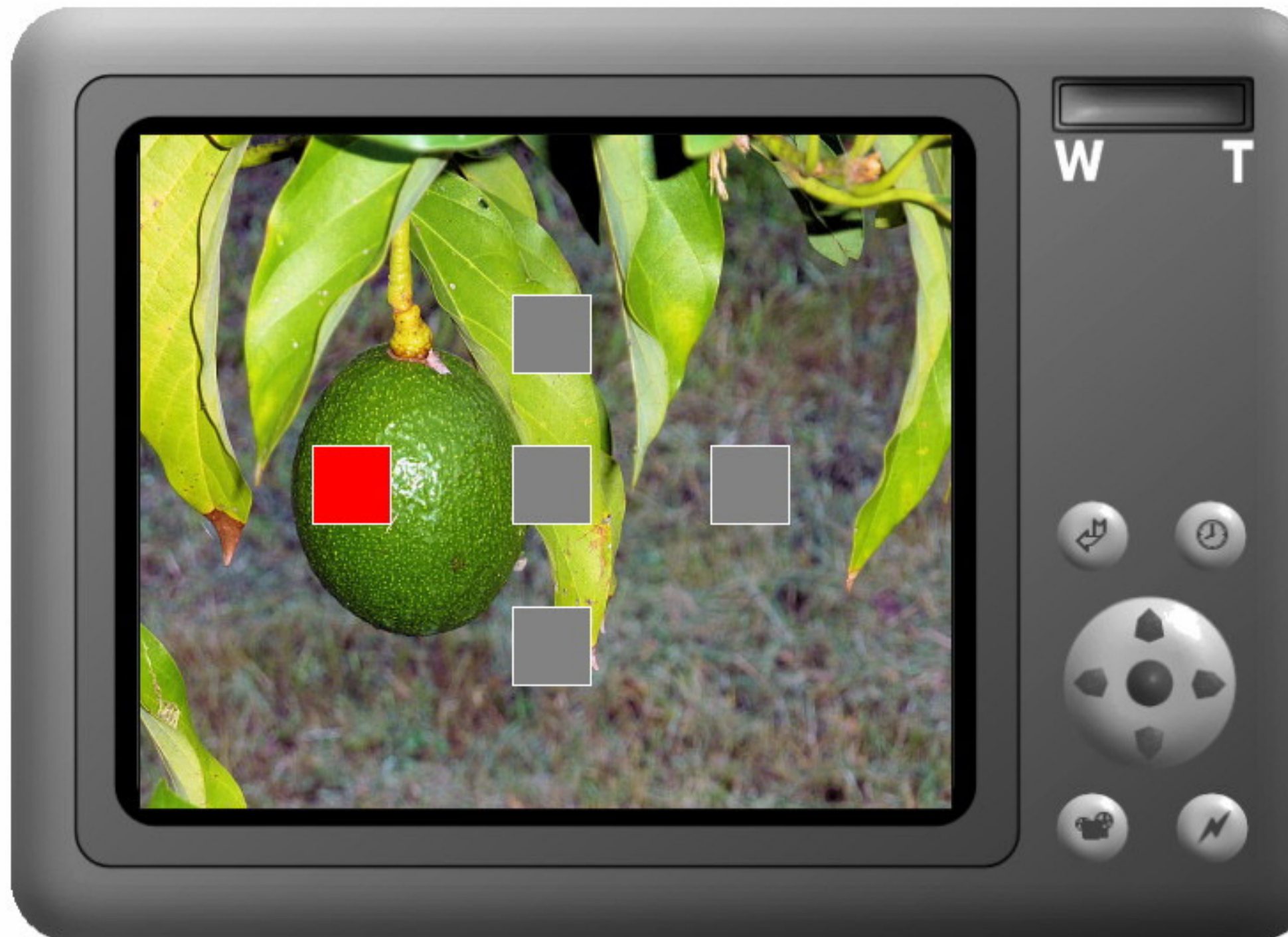
## Shifting the Focus

By **Shifting the Focus**, we refer to setting the camera focus to a different point than you might normally select. Or a different point that the camera will automatically select the focus on.



*When a camera finds the area it thinks is best to focus on, you'll normally get an indication in the viewfinder. This is different on all cameras - it may be a green rectangle, a series of rectangles, a dot, or a circle. It can also change depending on the focus mode your camera has or is set on.*

## Shifting the Focus



*Different cameras will denote what area is being focused on in different ways.*



## Shifting the Focus

Your camera may not always focus where you want it to. See the example below.



*In this case, the camera has determined that the best place to focus on is the background elements, rather than the foreground element, which we want to be the focus of this shot.*



## Shifting the Focus



*In this example, we are trying to get the shot on the left, where the foreground 'Banksia' is in focus. But the camera, in this case, is automatically focusing on what is in the center of the screen, which is the background (right), leaving the Banksia blurry.*



## Shifting the Focus

To get around this, first reframe the shot (as we have done on the right), and half press the shutter. This tells the camera to get ready to take a shot.



*On the bottom, we've moved the Banksia into the center of the shot. This gives the camera a clearer idea of what you want to focus on. We then half press the shutter, the camera resets where it wants to focus, and the green rectangle in this case appears in the correct position.*

*Sometimes, you may have to reframe the photograph a few different times until the camera focuses where you want it to focus.*

## Shifting the Focus

Once you have the correct focus, keep the shutter button pressed half way down. This, in effect, *locks* the focus. You can then move the camera so that it appears the way you originally wanted to take it - as we have done below.

We can then press the shutter fully down to take the shot, secure in the knowledge that the Banksia, and not the background, will remain in focus.





## Shifting the Focus



*We then get the photo we want.*



## Shifting the Focus



*Using this technique, you can also get some interesting variations on standard photographs.*



## Shifting the Focus

Many cameras will have settings that will focus automatically on any detected faces. Great - but a problem when it is not the face you want to focus on.

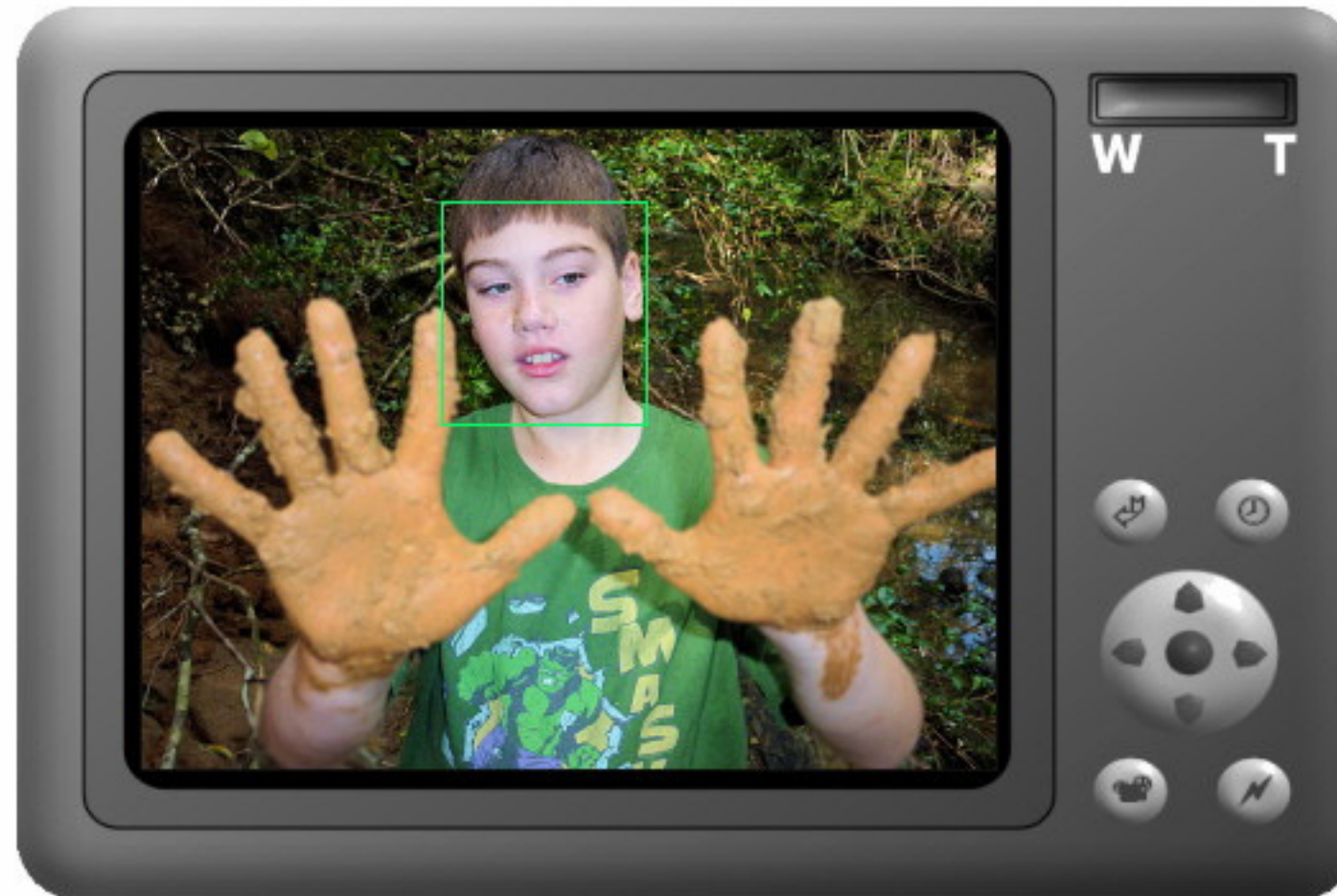


*In this photo, we want the focus to be on the hands, not on the face.*



## Shifting the Focus

With face detection on (if your camera has this feature), you might see this through the viewfinder (see below). There is only one way around this (apart from completely manual focus) - locate and turn off the face detection focus system on your camera, at least temporarily.



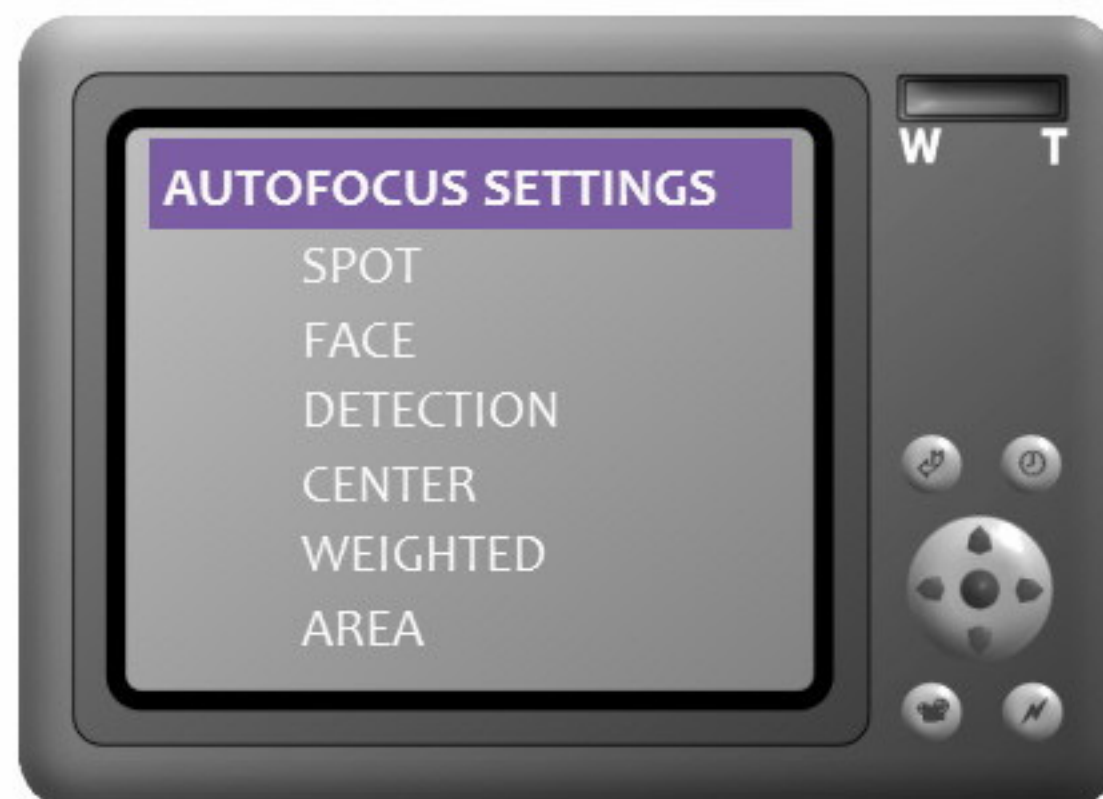
*Here, automatic face detection has determined that the face should get the focus. While this would normally be correct, in this case, we don't want this.*



## Shifting the Focus

Apart from face detection, your camera may have a variety of methods to determine best focus. Some common ones are called *spot* (generally the center of the frame), *center weighted* (weighted around the center of the frame), *area* (camera determines best place to focus), among others.

On different cameras, I've preferred different settings. You may want to experiment with some of these settings to get the one that best suits you.





## Shifting the Focus

Here we've turned off face detection - and the result is that it is far easier to focus on what we want to focus on. It still may require the technique we discussed earlier in this lesson - reframing the photo, holding down the shutter halfway, and then reframing again with the locked focus to get the shot.



*Without face detection, it is easier in this case to get the focus we are after.*



## Shifting the Focus



*On the left, the first result. On the right, the new result.*



## Shifting the Focus

You've now completed this lesson.

In this lesson, we took a look at **Shifting the Focus**.