

# Photogenics



Fast, Slow and Long

## Shutter Speeds

It is about collecting moments, not things



# Shutter Speed



Shutter speed is the length of time the camera shutter is open, exposing light onto the camera sensor. Essentially, it's how long your camera spends taking a photo. This has a few important effects on how your images will appear. When you use a long shutter speed (also known as a "slow" shutter speed), you end up exposing your sensor for a significant period of time. The first big effect of it is motion blur. If your shutter speed is long, moving subjects in your photo will appear blurred along the direction of motion. This effect is used quite often in advertisements of cars and motorbikes, where a sense of speed and motion is communicated to the viewer by intentionally blurring the moving wheels whereas in a sense giving their clients

On the other hand, shutter speed can also be used to do just the opposite – freeze motion. If you use an especially fast shutter speed, you can eliminate motion even from fast-moving objects, like birds in flight, or cars driving past. If you use a fast shutter speed while taking pictures of water, each droplet will hang in the air completely sharp, which might not even be visible to our own eyes.

## Slow,

For photographers who want to capture dynamic, visually striking photos and broaden their creative repertoire, learning the usage of slow shutter speeds is crucial. A strong instrument for artistic expression in photography is the careful adjustment of shutter speed, whether it be for stopping motion or embracing the fluidity of motion.

Using a slow shutter helps create amazing images which still capture the moments. This can be applied in various ways such as using the Panning method which requires the photographer to hold the camera still and then follow the subject in a steady movement which creates a blurred background while the subject remains sharp or visible to identify. However, a higher shutter speed allows less light to enter the lens since it keeps the lens open for a shorter period of time. This highlights the need of having a well-lit environment and on the contrary, it makes working in low light difficult. If we were to consider 1/500 as our shutter speed, this would demonstrate clearly how it works best for wildlife, sports, and action photography. Although, if 1/250 is given to use then this would apply best for slower-moving animals or walking people. Same applies to 1/125 which we use to take a photograph of a moving subject (e.g. a vehicle). Therefore with these value(s) of shutter speed, you have some leeway in choosing the shutter speed.



In the case of bird photography, that may be as rapid as 1/2000th of a second. Nonetheless, you may be able to capture images at 1/200th second, 1/100th second, or even longer without creating motion blur if you are taking general photography of slower-moving subjects. Long shutter speeds are usually greater than one second; to obtain sharp photos at this time, a tripod is required. Long shutter speeds are useful for several forms of nighttime and low light photography, as well as for purposefully capturing movement. When using long shutter speeds, anything moving in your scene will look extremely blurry. Shutter rates in the range of 1/100th to 1 second are still regarded as being somewhat slow. They can be too difficult for you to manage without adding camera shake from the hands in the case of no use of a tripod.

Panning of a subject is one of the best methods photographers use to blur the subject's movement. This method/technique requires that the subject be followed steadily, in every inch of a second. This technique works well with subjects that are moving across a horizontal plane, such as a bird in flight or a runner on a racetrack. Combining the two methods, panning with motion blur involves the photographer moving with the subject while using a slow shutter speed. This skillfully blends the two approaches to create a picture in which the subject is partially crisp and the background is streaky and blurry, giving the impression of movement. This (Streaking) usually occurs in the case of a user-induced camera shake or an object that is moving within the frame. There is more noticeable motion blur in the case of a longer shutter speed.

Shutter speed also has a significant impact on exposure, which is related to an image's brightness. A long shutter speed allows your camera sensor to capture a lot of light, which will result in a brilliant picture. Your camera sensor is only partially exposed to light when you choose a fast shutter speed, which produces a darker image. Shutter speed is not the only factor, though, that influences an image's brightness. Aperture, ISO, and the real brightness of the scene in front of you are all included.

## Long Shutter Speed

When you use a long shutter speed (also known as a "slow" shutter speed), you end up exposing your sensor for a significant period of time. The first big effect of it is motion blur. If your shutter speed is long, moving subjects in your photo will appear blurred along the direction of motion. This effect is used quite often in advertisements of cars and motorbikes, where a sense of speed and motion is communicated to the viewer by intentionally blurring the moving wheels. Landscape photographers may intentionally use long shutter speeds to create a sense of motion on rivers and waterfalls while keeping everything else completely sharp or in focus rather.



"Through Photography, My Heart Sings What I Feel."

-Burk Uzzle

