



Overview

Mastering the Exposure Triangle is essential for photographers who want to control the brightness, detail, and mood of their images. By understanding how aperture, shutter speed, and ISO interact, you can create well-exposed photographs that effectively tell your story.

Learning Objectives

- Understand the relationship between aperture, shutter speed, and ISO.
- Learn to use metering modes and histograms for better exposure control.
- Develop the ability to adjust settings creatively for different lighting conditions.

Related Reading

Before you start, read these related blog posts to deepen your understanding:

What Is Exposure In Photography	What Is Iso In Photography	What Is Shutter Speed
What Is Depth Of Field	What Is Manual Exposure In Photography	What Is Dynamic Range In Photography

Before You Shoot

- Ensure your camera is fully charged and has sufficient memory space.
- Familiarize yourself with your camera's manual settings and modes.
- Select an appropriate metering mode (e.g., spot, center-weighted, evaluative).
- Prepare your shooting environment and consider the available light.
- Set your camera to manual or priority mode to control exposure settings.

Assignment Tasks

1. Photograph a landscape at sunrise using f/8, 1/125s, ISO 100 in manual mode to capture the vibrant colors and details.
2. Capture a portrait in natural light at f/2.8, 1/200s, ISO 200 in aperture priority mode to achieve a soft background blur.
3. Shoot a fast-moving subject, like a cyclist, at f/5.6, 1/1000s, ISO 400 in shutter priority mode to freeze the action.
4. Take a close-up shot of a flower at f/4, 1/60s, ISO 100 in manual mode to highlight the details and textures.
5. Experiment with night photography using f/1.8, 1/30s, ISO 1600 in manual mode to capture city lights and star trails.
6. Create a dramatic effect by shooting a waterfall at f/11, 1/4s, ISO 100 in manual mode to achieve a smooth water flow.

Stretch Tasks

- Create a time-lapse sequence of a sunset using f/8, 1/30s, ISO 200, adjusting settings as the light changes to maintain exposure.
- Photograph a bustling street scene at night using f/2.8, 1/60s, ISO 3200 to capture the energy while managing noise.



DO / DON'T

DO

- ✓ Do experiment with different apertures to see how depth of field affects your images.
- ✓ Do regularly check your histogram to ensure proper exposure.
- ✓ Do practice shooting in various lighting conditions to develop adaptability.
- ✓ Do utilize a tripod for long exposures to prevent camera shake.
- ✓ Do review and analyze your images to understand exposure mistakes.

DON'T

- ✗ Don't rely solely on automatic settings; learn to use manual controls for better results.
- ✗ Don't ignore your camera's metering modes; they can significantly affect exposure.
- ✗ Don't be afraid to adjust ISO for better exposure in low light; high ISO can be beneficial.
- ✗ Don't shoot in bright sunlight without considering exposure compensation; it can lead to overexposed images.
- ✗ Don't forget to clean your lens and sensor before important shoots to avoid unwanted artifacts.

Reflection Questions

- How does understanding the Exposure Triangle enhance your creative choices?
- What challenges do you face when adjusting aperture, shutter speed, and ISO together?
- In what situations do you find yourself relying on automatic settings instead of manual controls?
- How can you apply the concepts of exposure to improve your storytelling through photography?

Technical & Creative Focus

Technical:

- Use aperture settings to control depth of field; for example, shoot at f/4, 1/250s, ISO 200 in manual mode for a balanced exposure.
- Adjust shutter speed to freeze motion; try using 1/1000s, f/5.6, ISO 400 in shutter priority mode for fast-moving subjects.
- Set a low ISO (e.g., ISO 100) to reduce noise in bright conditions, paired with f/8 and 1/125s to capture landscapes in manual mode.
- Experiment with exposure compensation to brighten or darken images; set to +1 EV with f/2.8, 1/60s, ISO 800 in aperture priority mode.
- Utilize histograms to assess exposure; aim for a balanced histogram that avoids clipping on either side.

Creative:

- Incorporate low light photography by using a wide aperture (f/1.8) and slower shutter speed (1/30s) to create a moody atmosphere.
- Use high ISO settings (e.g., ISO 1600) in low-light environments to maintain shutter speed (1/125s) and aperture (f/4) for handheld shooting.
- Create motion blur by shooting at a slower shutter speed (e.g., 1/15s) with a wider aperture (f/5.6) and ISO 100 to convey movement.



- Capture high dynamic range scenes by bracketing exposures; shoot at f/8, 1/60s, ISO 200 for the base exposure, then adjust settings for lighter and darker shots.
- Experiment with backlighting by shooting at f/2.8, 1/500s, ISO 400 to create silhouettes against a bright background.