**Different Types of Photography**

For many of us, snapping a photograph has become second nature. With great cameras now built in to smart phones, making an image has become less about artistry and more about utility. We take pictures of things we want to remember—this could be anything from a wedding or vacation to what we ate for breakfast. This doesn’t mean, however, that creative photography is going the way of the dinosaur—on the contrary. Technology has expanded its visual possibilities, with different apparatuses and lenses making it possible for us to capture different types of photography in ways we wouldn’t have dreamed before.

From eye-opening documentary images to awe-inspiring fairy tale scenes, one thing is clear: the world of photography is incredibly nuanced. There are countless ways to compose and edit a picture, but often, image-makers concentrate their portfolio on one or two types of photography. That way, they can perfect their techniques and refine their visual language to make their pictures even stronger.

## **Aerial Photography**

Ever since photography was invented in 1839, people have been trying to capture the Earth from above. Aerial photography has a long and rich history, which started in 1858 when photographer Gaspard-Félix Tournachon tethered a camera to a balloon. Since then, it’s only gotten better thanks to the advent of drones. Photographer Andy Yeung [tells us](http://mymodernmet.com/aerial-photography/), “What I like most about working with drones is that we can see things we normally don’t have access to. Plus, drones add a layer between traditional aerial pictures and ground pictures, making the creative process more interesting.” If you’d like to get started with aerial photography, learn how 10 amazing photographers capture the world from above.

## **Black and White Photography**

Modern black and white pictures keep photography’s oldest tradition alive. Now, shooting with this limited palette is a stylistic choice rather than a necessity, and image makers use it as a way to add timeless drama to their compositions. When shooting a photograph in black and white, it’s most important to remember contrast; the shadows will look more defined, and your extreme tones will appear crisp and clean. As a result, your image will pop. For more insight on capturing bold and beautiful shadows.

## **Food Photography**

One of the biggest trends in social media—still—is taking pictures of your food. Professional chefs and amateurs alike can make our mouths water with one appetizing image. To ensure that the dish will look delicious, there are a few tips to remember: make sure your food is well lit (try photographing in natural light); pay attention to your props; and shoot quickly—food doesn’t last forever before it melts or collapses!

## **Macro Photography**

Macro photography makes things that are small appear larger than life. It’s got a broad range of applications, but one of our favorites is in photographing tiny bugs and plants. Exotic insects have their amazing colors and characteristics magnified, and as a result, we see all of the details that we would normally miss. You can take your own macro photos as long as you have a special lens. [Tamron makes some of the top lenses](http://amzn.to/2reEH4o) for Nikon and Canon. But, if you don’t want to outfit your DSLR, there are plenty of [inexpensive macro attachments](http://amzn.to/2rjijlm) for your smartphone, too.

## **Natural Landscape Photography**

When photography was first invented, some of the earliest images were of the outdoors. So, it’s no surprise that natural landscapes remain a popular type of photography—there’s so much beauty out there! One subject that image makers are continually drawn to are mountains...

**Wildlife Photography**

Wildlife photography is a genre of [photography](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Photography) concerned with documenting various forms of [wildlife](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wildlife) in their natural habitat.

As well as requiring photography skills, wildlife photographers may need [field craft skills](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Field_craft). For example, some animals are difficult to approach and thus a knowledge of the [animal's behavior](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethology) is needed in order to be able to predict its actions. Photographing some species may require [stalking](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Game_stalker) skills or the use of a [hide/blind](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bird_hide) for concealment.

While wildlife photographs can be taken using basic equipment, successful photography of some types of wildlife requires specialist equipment, such as macro lenses for insects, long focal length lenses for birds and underwater cameras for marine life. However, a great wildlife photograph can also be the result of being in the right place at the right time[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wildlife_photography" \l "cite_note-1) and often involves a good understanding of animal behavior in order to anticipate interesting situations to capture in photography.

**Beginners Photography Equipment**

Buying photography equipment for the first time is a daunting task. [Useful guides](https://photographylife.com/which-nikon-dslr-to-buy-first) exist to help beginners choose a good camera, but few newcomers realize that the camera itself is only the first of many pieces of equipment necessary to create a full setup for photography. In this guide, I will suggest a complete kit — everything from lens cloths to computer monitors — that will provide a beginner with high quality images (and room to grow) for a price of around 2000 US dollars

Note that this guide is not a comprehensive list of equipment that will work for every type of photographer. As your photography becomes more specialized — portraiture, landscapes, wildlife, or anything else — you will gravitate towards more specialized equipment as well. The recommendations below can be considered an all-purpose starter kit rather than a list tuned to one specific type of photographer.

### **The Camera**

The core of photography is a camera, or at least the sensor of a camera. At the moment, one of the biggest debates in the photography world is between two different types of cameras: mirrorless and DSLR cameras. Both have [their merits](https://photographylife.com/mirrorless-vs-dslr), but a beginning photographer on a tight budget should be looking more closely at DSLRs. With entry-level models, new mirrorless cameras cost about the same as new DSLRs, and sometimes less. However, you can still buy older, high-quality DSLR equipment (including lenses) for a lower price than similar mirrorless gear. Mirrorless cameras are filling this gap quickly, but the best camera for a beginner on a budget is almost certainly a DSLR.

Of all the possible DSLR cameras, my strong recommendation is to buy the Nikon D7000, used, from the camera store [Adorama](http://www.adorama.com/?kbid=65109). Some people find too much risk in buying a used camera from eBay and Adorama is one of the most respected names in the camera business — when they rate a used camera at E-, its condition will be as good as most “mint” cameras sold through eBay.

The D7000 is better than an entry-level DSLR because it gives you room to grow. Although it has the same sensor as some cheaper cameras, it gives you so many more features (including extra dials that make it easier to change settings once you learn about your camera) that make it indispensable.

Total: $400 for the D7000

### **Lenses**

Whereas a camera sensor will record the light that it receives, a lens’s job is arguably even more important: help the light get to the sensor in the first place.

Lenses range from the “free” — those which come in a kit with the camera — to the [unbelievably expensive](https://photographylife.com/reviews/nikon-800mm-f5-6-vr). As a beginner, it can be tough to determine which lenses are worth their asking price, especially if you have no prior knowledge of which lenses even exist in the first place (although our [lens database](https://photographylife.com/lenses) can help).

If you want a high-quality beginning lens for the lowest possible price, you should look at prime lenses (those which do not zoom) or third-party lenses. I do not recommend starting with the kit lens that comes with some cameras (usually an 18-55mm zoom), since you will soon realize that you want something better.

My first recommendation, if you use a Nikon camera like the D7000, is to buy the wonderful Nikon 35mm f/1.8 DX lens. This tiny gem is sharp — check out our [sample photos](https://photographylife.com/lenses/nikon-af-s-dx-nikkor-35mm-f1-8g) — and it costs just under $200. Here is a link to the [35mm f/1.8 DX at Adorama](http://www.adorama.com/NK3518U.html?kbid=65109).

To add to the 35mm f/1.8, you will probably want a wide-to-telephoto zoom, and a good choice is the Sigma 17-50mm f/2.8 OS lens. This is a particularly useful lens because it not only has a wide [aperture](https://photographylife.com/what-is-aperture-in-photography) of f/2.8 (which lets it work well in dark scenes), but it also has image stabilization to help make your handheld images sharper. Here is a link to the [Sigma 17-50mm f/2.8 OS](http://www.adorama.com/sg1750nk.html?kbid=65109), which costs $520 at Adorama.

Or, if you would rather stick to a single lens, the revolutionary Sigma 18-35mm f/1.8 is $800, and it would replace both the lenses above. It is a heavy lens, but it is amazingly high-quality — just check out [our review](https://photographylife.com/reviews/sigma-18-35mm-f1-8). Here is a link to the [Sigma 18-35mm f/1.8 lens at Adorama](http://www.adorama.com/SG1835DCNK.html?kbid=65109).

Lenses are an individual decision, and these three are nothing more than my own recommendations. If you practice a more specific type of photography (such as wildlife), you could prefer completely different lenses. However, for a typical beginner, these lenses are a great way to find out what type of photography you like the most. Plus, they are good enough to keep even as you grow more specialized.

Total: $720 or $800, depending upon the lenses you choose

### **The Tripod**

Often overlooked and undervalued, a tripod doesn’t seem nearly as important as it really is. After all, three aluminum sticks glued together are no more complex than three sticks glued together. Right? Unfortunately, that logic is why many photographers choose to buy the least expensive tripod they can find, then leave it at home all the time because it’s cheaply-made and hard to use. A tripod *should* be as popular as its buddies Camera and Lens, but somewhere along the way it got the short end of the stick.

You will realize over time whether or not you need a tripod for your photography (and if you do, you will want a more expensive model at some point in the future), but it is important for a beginner to have a solid model as well. With that in mind, my recommendation is to get the Manfrotto MT190X3 tripod. It is not a perfect tripod, but I can say (having used the older version of this tripod extensively) that it should be more than enough for most beginners. Plus, at $150, it is pretty inexpensive (as far as good tripods go). Here is a link to the [MT190X3 at Adorama](http://www.adorama.com/bgmt190x3.html?kbid=65109).

However, a tripod is not enough — you still need a ballhead so that you can adjust the position of the camera. I have tried a handful of ballheads in the $100 range, and I can say that the best (by far) that I have used is the Oben BE-126 ballhead. Even with my heaviest camera and longest telephoto lens, this ballhead has never slipped out of position, and it always locks tightly. This head isn’t quite as good as the most expensive ballheads from companies like Really Right Stuff or Arca Swiss, but it is fantastic for the price. Here is a link to the [BE-126 at B&H](http://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/887593-REG/oben_be_126_ball_head.html/BI/5562/KBID/6400), another highly-reputable camera store.

Total: $260

### **Software**

There is a lot of competition for software that processes images, with the two most popular options being Capture One Pro and Adobe Lightroom. These two programs are similar — they both allow you to organize and edit your photos — but Lightroom is far less expensive. Some argue that Capture One Pro is better (whereas some argue the opposite), but Lightroom will is ideal for those on a budget, since it costs half the price. For what it’s worth, I only ever use Lightroom, and I find it to be wonderful.

To purchase Adobe Lightroom 6 for $145, visit [this link to Adorama](http://www.adorama.com/ab65237578.html?kbid=65109). Note, though, that some products (including the lenses that I listed earlier on this page) can be bundled with Lightroom and save you an additional $40. If you want, you can also download trial versions, both for [Capture One Pro](https://www.phaseone.com/) and for [Adobe Lightroom](https://www.adobe.com/products/photoshop-lightroom.html).

Also, don’t give into the temptation to buy Photoshop just because it is so popular — most photographers will not actually need its features, since it is more of a graphics-oriented specialist program than something like Lightroom. Plus, it is far more expensive (and the newest version is only offered through a frustrating subscription program).

Total: $140, but $100 when you bundle Lightroom with a lens.

### **Monitors**

If you are a just starting photography, your current monitor probably is not good enough for serious editing work. Specifically, the colors on your screen will almost certainly be wrong — you will not be editing anything how you think you are.

Check out our [monitor purchase guide](https://photographylife.com/best-monitor-for-photography) for more information, although note that several new monitors have come onto the market since it was published. One of the best new models is the AOC 12367FH 23” screen. Don’t be fooled by the bizarre name — at $160, this is one of the least expensive IPS monitors on the market, and you absolutely need and IPS monitor if you want to do serious color work on your computer. Yes, better options exist (often for significantly more money), but this monitor is a great start for a beginner. Here is a link to the [AOC monitor from B&H](http://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/897886-REG/Aoc_I2367FH_23_LED_IPS_Monitor.html/BI/5562/KBID/6400).

Unfortunately, getting a good monitor is only half the battle — step two is color calibration. My strong recommendation is to buy a piece of hardware to calibrate your monitor, such as the $60 Spyder4Express. It does not have all the same features as its $190 older brother, Spyder5Pro, but it gets the job done for a much lower price (assuming you only use one monitor). I edited my photos for almost a year without any calibration, and I never realized how wrong my colors really were. I had to re-edit everything! Save yourself some time and buy a real calibration unit. Here is a link to the [Spyder4Express from B&H](http://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/838843-REG/Datacolor_S4X100_Spyder4Express.html/BI/5562/KBID/6400).

Total: $220

### **Lighting**

Nikon brand flashes cost hundreds of dollars, assuming that you want a flash that can function off-camera in an automatic (TTL) mode. However, third-party flashes with those features can be fairly cheap — check out the Yongnuo YN-568EX, an extremely well-specified flash for the price of $105. Depending upon the genre of photography you practice most, this may be the only flash you need. (Or you may need dozens more — ask any portrait photographer!) Here is a link to the [Yongnuo flash at B&H](http://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1108675-REG/yongnuo_yn_568exn_ttl_speedlite_flash_for.html/BI/5562/KBID/6400).

You may also want some light modifiers (such as reflectors), but I don’t recommend getting anything more until you are sure that you want to do portrait photography. There is no end to the world of light modifiers, and a beginner should learn the basics before deciding which complex lighting setups to buy.

Total: $105

### **Filters**

Filters are another essential element of a photographer’s toolbox. With digital cameras, only a few filters are even necessary in the first place (the old color-correction filters for film can be replicated using software like Adobe Lightroom) — but some filters cannot be replicated in post-processing. The single most useful filter for digital photography is a [polarizer](https://photographylife.com/landscapes/how-to-use-a-polarizer). Just like polarized sunglasses, these filters cut glare from shiny surfaces (other than metal), they darken skies, and they reduce haze. Plus, they make images look more vibrant and saturated.

If you are not a landscape photographer, you will want a polarizer because of these benefits — and if you are a landscape photographer, you will probably never remove the polarizer from your lens! Depending upon the lens or lenses that you use, you will need to get a polarizer of a specific size. Polarizing filters (and filters in general) are sized in millimeters — just like the front rings on a lens. For a lens with a 72mm ring (like the Sigma 18-35mm f/1.8 that I suggested above), you would need a 72mm filter.

If you are on a budget, buy a polarizer that is the same size as the filter ring of your largest lens. For example, you may choose to go with my suggestion to buy both the Nikon 35mm f/1.8 DX and the Sigma 17-55mm f/2.8 OS. If you do, these lenses have different filter ring sizes — the Nikon is 52mm, whereas the Sigma is 77mm. To use the same filter on both lenses, get a 77mm filter a plus a 52mm-to-77mm step-up ring. This is a lot less expensive than buying two filters!

Filters can be expensive, and with good reason — a bad filter will harm the image quality of every image you take. So, don’t skimp on a filter! One brand known for a good balance of price and quality is Hoya, which is my first recommendation for a beginning photographer.

Here is a link to the [Hoya 77mm polarizer at B&H](http://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/900312-REG/Hoya_anxt77crpl_77mm_NXT_Circular_Pol.html/BI/5562/KBID/6400). You would use this size if you choose the Sigma 17-50mm f/2.8 OS lens, which has a 77mm filter ring. This filter costs just under $90.

Here is a link to the [Hoya 72mm polarizer at B&H](http://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/900311-REG/Hoya_anxt72crpl_72mm_NXT_Circular_Pol.html/BI/5562/KBID/6400). You would use this size if you choose the Sigma 18-35mm f/1.8 lens, which has a 72mm filter ring. This filter costs $60.

Here is a link to B&H for the [52mm to 77mm step-up ring](http://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/809618-REG/Sensei_sur5277_52_77mm_Step_Up_Ring.html/BI/5562/KBID/6400) that you would use on the Nikon 35mm f/1.8 lens, if you also bought the 17-50mm f/2.8 lens (which has a 77mm filter thread). This ring costs less than $4.

If you decide that landscape photography is your favorite type, you will probably need two additional filters: a graduated neutral density filter to darken skies (get a rectangular graduated filter, not a circular one) and a regular neutral density filter to blur moving water. However, both of these are specialist filters, and I recommend waiting until you know what you want before buying either. For now, a high-quality polarizing filter should be more than enough.

Total: $60 if you bought the Sigma 18-35mm f/1.8, a bit over $90 if you bought the Nikon 35mm f/1.8 and Sigma 17-50mm f/2.8 OS.

### **Extras**

You will definitely need a bag for your camera, but I recommend against buying one new from a store. Generally, you’ll be able to repurpose an old backpack or messenger bag to carry a camera — if not, try finding one at a garage sale. Instead of paying $50 or more for a bag, you can get one for $5 or less if you buy secondhand and local. I would recommend a remote release for your camera. For the D7000, try the $15 ML-L3 (here is a link for the [ML-L3 at B&H](http://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/207373-USA/Nikon_4730.html/BI/5562/KBID/6400)). I have owned two of these — they are easy to lose, so be careful — and both have worked quite well.

Make sure to get cleaning equipment for your lens. I recommend that you get two or three lens cloths (this $4 [microfiber cloth from B&H](http://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1100352-REG/zeiss_2127538_jumbo_microfiber_lens_cloth.html/BI/5562/KBID/6400) is great), as well as a cleaning spray (here is a link to a [two ounce spray at B&H](http://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1097470-REG/zeiss_2127990_lens_care_kit_2oz.html/BI/5562/KBID/6400) for $3). In total, this will be about $10.

In addition to a lens cleaner, you need a way to get rid of dust that lands on your camera’s sensor. The best way to do so, and the safest, is to use the [Sensor Gel Stick](https://photographylife.com/product/sensor-gel-stick), which we sell here at Photography Life. It costs $55, and you may want to buy some extra [sticky paper](https://photographylife.com/product/sticky-paper) for another $13. Between the two products, your sensor-cleaning equipment will cost no more than $70.

I also recommend an extra battery. That way, you can be shooting while one of your batteries is charging. I strongly recommend getting a Nikon-brand battery — cheaper batteries from third parties can be tempting, but this is one part that you *really* don’t want to malfunction. Here is a link to the [Nikon EN-EL15 battery at B&H](http://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/735929-REG/Nikon_27011_EN_EL15_Lithium_Ion_Battery_1000mAh.html/BI/5562/KBID/6400), which is the battery that works for the Nikon D7000.

Lastly, you will need memory cards. The D7000 can take two SD cards at a time, and its images take up a relatively large amount of space. I recommend getting two 32GB cards so that you don’t run out of space — the 32GB card from PNY Technologies is a wonderful value at $20. I can vouch for this card completely, since I use the 64GB version in my Nikon D800e camera! Here is a link to the [32GB PNY card from B&H](http://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1016075-REG/pny_technologies_p_sdh32u1h_ge_32gb_elite_sdhc_uhs_1_card.html/BI/5562/KBID/6400) — remember to get two.

Total: $190 or less

### **Summary**

If you’re keeping track, that’s a lot of equipment you’ll need — far more than just a single camera and a kit lens. However, no matter how many reviews and comparisons you read, you will be hard-pressed to find better items than these. I have personally used most of the items on this list, and I know other photographers who have used the rest. It can be daunting to start a DSLR system from scratch, but you will have truly everything that you need if you buy the items listed in this article.

When I bought my first DSLR, I soon realized that I had spent all my money on the camera and I had left nothing for a tripod, filters, or a good monitor. I had to wait months before I had a complete and working kit! To make this process easier, I compiled all the information above into an easy list.

Here is a final compilation of the items above — a complete and high-quality photographic kit for under $2000 US dollars:

1. A camera — [Nikon D7000](http://www.adorama.com/INKD7000.html?kbid=65109) — **$400**
2. A lens or lenses — [Sigma 18-35mm f/1.8](http://www.adorama.com/SG1835DCNK.html?kbid=65109), or both the [Nikon 35mm f/1.8 DX](http://www.adorama.com/NK3518U.html?kbid=65109) and the Sigma [17-50mm f/2.8 OS](http://www.adorama.com/sg1750nk.html?kbid=65109)  — **$800** **or $720 respectively**
3. A tripod and ballhead — [Manfrotto MT190X3](http://www.adorama.com/bgmt190x3.html?kbid=65109) tripod and [Oben BE-126](http://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/887593-REG/oben_be_126_ball_head.html/BI/5562/KBID/6400) ballhead — **$260**
4. Editing Software — [Adobe Lightroom 6](http://www.adorama.com/ab65237578.html?kbid=65109) — **$100** if you bundle it with one of your lenses, $140 on its own
5. A calibrated monitor — [AOC 12367FH 23” monitor](http://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/897886-REG/Aoc_I2367FH_23_LED_IPS_Monitor.html/BI/5562/KBID/6400) and [Spyder4Express](http://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/838843-REG/Datacolor_S4X100_Spyder4Express.html/BI/5562/KBID/6400) calibration unit — **$220**
6. A flash — [Yongnuo YN-568EX](http://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1108675-REG/yongnuo_yn_568exn_ttl_speedlite_flash_for.html/BI/5562/KBID/6400) — **$105**
7. A polarizing filter — The [Hoya 72mm polarizer](http://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/900311-REG/Hoya_anxt72crpl_72mm_NXT_Circular_Pol.html/BI/5562/KBID/6400) (for the Sigma 18-35) or the [77mm polarizer](http://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/900312-REG/Hoya_anxt77crpl_77mm_NXT_Circular_Pol.html/BI/5562/KBID/6400) with a [52mm to 77mm step-up ring](http://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/809618-REG/Sensei_sur5277_52_77mm_Step_Up_Ring.html/BI/5562/KBID/6400) (for the Sigma 17-50mm and the Nikon 35mm) — **$60 or** **$90 respectively**
8. Smaller extra items — A [remote release](http://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/207373-USA/Nikon_4730.html/BI/5562/KBID/6400), a [microfiber cloth](http://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1100352-REG/zeiss_2127538_jumbo_microfiber_lens_cloth.html/BI/5562/KBID/6400), a [cleaning spray](http://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1097470-REG/zeiss_2127990_lens_care_kit_2oz.html/BI/5562/KBID/6400) for your lens, a [Sensor Gel Stick](https://photographylife.com/product/sensor-gel-stick) to clean your camera sensor, additional [sticky paper](https://photographylife.com/product/sticky-paper) for your Sensor Gel Stick, an [extra battery](http://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/735929-REG/Nikon_27011_EN_EL15_Lithium_Ion_Battery_1000mAh.html/BI/5562/KBID/6400), and two [32GB memory cards](http://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1016075-REG/pny_technologies_p_sdh32u1h_ge_32gb_elite_sdhc_uhs_1_card.html/BI/5562/KBID/6400)  — **$190**

**Grand Total: $2135 for the one-lens setup, $2085 for the two-lens combo.**

https://photographylife.com/beginning-photography-equipment

FAQ’s

## **1. What does manual mode mean and do I have to learn it?**

Manual mode puts the photographer in complete control of how the photo will turn out. You have to manually set both the aperture, ISO, and the shutter speed. You can take this a few steps further and control the white balance, too. The camera will not make any automatic changes to the exposure. Your camera will still guide you to the best exposure with its built-in meter.

For example, the following two images were taken at the same time. These are merely snapshots taken to demonstrate the power of manual mode. The first was taken in full auto mode and the second was taken in full manual mode. As you can see, the manual mode is better exposed and more pleasing to the eye. The image taken in auto is out of focus because the camera chose a slow shutter speed in attempt to expose it properly. Both of these images are straight out of camera.

## **2. How do you achieve sharp focus?**

Focus can be one of the most frustrating elements of photography when you are first starting out. Nailing focus could be an entire article in and of itself, but I wanted to touch on this very common beginner question.

There are many factors that go into getting a sharp image, but there are two focusing methods that help you to stay in control of focus rather than relying on the cameras autofocus function. Chances are most professional photographers are using one of these methods and that is why their images are sharp.

The two methods I am referring to are toggling your focal points or using back button focus. To toggle focus, you manually choose where you want to focus within the frame. The focal points available for your camera depend on the make and model

## **3. Do you really have to edit all your photos?**

In a word, yes. While it is best to nail an image in camera, editing is how it all comes together to become a finished image. Some photographers are more artistic with their editing and some are cleaner. This is really just a personal preference and will come with time.

The first image below is straight out of camera, the second is with clean edits. As you can see, the first is dull and in need of some adjustments, the second is polished and much more impactful.

## **4. What gear do I need to achieve great photos?**

The gear you have in your bag is a personal preference and really depends on what type of photography you are interested in. It is recommended to start your journey with the “nifty 50,” AKA a 50mm prime lens.

All major manufacturers have great 50mm options and this really is a fantastic starter lens. After you have explored with the 50mm lens, you can try your hand at wider angle and telephoto focal lengths. If zoom is appealing to you, there are plenty of zoom lenses out there, however you will hear many professional photographers who swear by prime lenses (lenses that do not zoom).

## **5. Do I have to be in business to be called a pro?**

No!! There are many, and I mean MANY photographers who are not in business and they are incredible! You absolutely do not need to be in business to be respected or taken seriously.

## **6. What is white balance?**

Again, a whole article could be written on this question alone so I will try and keep this answer brief. Do you ever wonder why sometimes your subject looks bright yellow or orange, or why sometimes they look grey or blue? This is because your white balance is off.

To define this very simply, in reference to digital photography, white balance means that the colors in your image are true to life. White balance is measured by numbers, lower being cooler and higher being warmer. Here is a great diagram that explains white balance.

White balance is a lot more than an exact science of numbers as it can also be a matter of preference. There are many ways to control white balance. You can set a custom white balance, trust your camera and put your camera on auto white balance, or directly set your Kelvin temperature.

White balance is often one of the first things photographers adjust when processing their images. Here are two images from the same shoot. The first was processed cool with a temperature of 5000 to accentuate the color of the water and the sky. The second image was processed warm with a temperature of 7200 to accentuate the warmth of the sun and the embrace between mother and child.

## **7. What is the difference between JPG and RAW?**

JPG is the most common file format for digital photographs. Your camera can be set to shoot and store the images you make in varying sizes of JPG. The thing with JPG is that a lot of detail is lost when the image is shot this way.

When a JPG image is taken, the camera does some automatic processing which varies with make and model of camera. When you go to edit an image shot in JPG you do not have as much data to work with, and it can be hard to recover improperly exposed parts of photos. It also gives you less control in post processing in the way of color.

RAW files are uncompressed and unprocessed shots of all of the detail available to the camera sensor. RAW files are completely unedited and need to be post processed.

## **8. How do I know when it is okay to go into business?**

Take your time! But I know it can be very exciting and hard to wait. If you are thinking about going into business ask yourself these questions:

1. Are my images consistently properly exposed, properly focused, and well composed?
2. Am I ready for hard deadlines and to act like a professional?

Make sure the answer is yes to these questions before even thinking about going into business. Being a photographer may be the best job in the world, but it is a JOB. To succeed in this business, you must be professional and ready to take on all that it entails.

If you are thinking about getting a business started, talk to an accountant and a lawyer. You must have a proper business license and you should have insurance before you ever take a paying client. Above all, be legal.

Do not charge pennies for your time, as that is the most valuable resource you possess. You are an artist and you should receive a good wage for your work.

## **9. How do I learn how to pose people?**

[Posing and directing](http://www.clickinmoms.com/cmu/going-beyond-the-pose/) is an art form, and it takes lots of practice and confidence. I recommend shooting as many people as you can as often as you can.

I also recommend thinking long and hard about your vision. What do you want your images to say? Plan ahead, and then you can guide and direct in such a way to execute your vision. Do you want your images more posed or do you want them to appear more candid? You have to know what you want to achieve before you begin posing and directing.

## **10. How do you find balance with life and photography?**

Whether you are in business or a hobbyist, photography has a way of running our lives. This is because we feel so passionate about it.

Making a schedule and sticking to it is very important. If you have shoots to edit (personal or commissioned), pick a time each day to dedicate to editing and stick to it. If you like to blog, pick a day of the week that you will carve out time to blog. I am a big fan of the old-fashioned paper planners and I chart out my entire week there.

Quotes in Photography

* “Photography is the story I fail to put into words.”  
  — [**Destin Sparks**](https://www.destinsparks.com/)
* “In photography there is a reality so subtle that it becomes more real than reality.”  
  — **Alfred Stieglitz**
* “There is one thing the photograph must contain, the humanity of the moment.”  
  — **Robert Frank**
* “Taking an image, freezing a moment, reveals how rich reality truly is.”  
  — **Anonymous**
* “Photography for me is not looking, it’s feeling. If you can’t feel what you’re looking at, then you’re never going to get others to feel anything when they look at your pictures.”  
  — **Don McCullin**
* “A portrait is not made in the camera but on either side of it.”  
  — **Edward Steichen**
* “The best thing about a picture is that it never changes, even when the people in it do.”  
  — **Andy Warhol**
* “Photography opens doors into the past, but they also allow a look into the future.”

— **Sally Man**

* “The picture that you took with your camera is the imagination you want to create with reality.”  
  — **Scott Lorenzo**
* “The camera is an instrument that teaches people how to see without a camera.”  
  — **Dorothea Lange**
* “Essentially what photography is life lit up.”  
  — **Sam Abell**
* “Photograph: a picture painted by the sun without instruction in art.”  
  — **Ambrose Bierce**
* “There are always two people in every picture: the photographer and the viewer.”  
  — **Ansel Adams**
* “A photograph is a secret about a secret. The more it tells you the less you know.”  
  — **Diane Arbus**
* “The whole point of taking pictures is so that you don’t have to explain things with words.”  
  — **Elliott Erwitt**
* “Look and think before opening the shutter. The heart and mind are the true lens of the camera.”  
  — **Yousuf Karsh**
* “Which of my photographs is my favorite? The one I’m going to take tomorrow.”  
  — **Imogen Cunningham**
* “In photography there are no shadows that cannot be illuminated.”  
  — **August Sander**

https://petapixel.com/2014/05/29/70-inspirational-quotes-photographers/