

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR CAMERA.



YOU GOT THIS!

Get your camera, a cup of coffee,
and let's do this thing!

We will cover everything you need to navigate around all the crazy buttons you see in front of you and help grow your confidence in getting a great shot.

Let's dig right in! There are 3 concepts to learn in order to start getting your images to really pop. Aperture (f/stop), Shutter Speed, and ISO.

Only when we have a solid grasp on all three of these concepts and how they affect each other, will you see a huge improvement to your work.

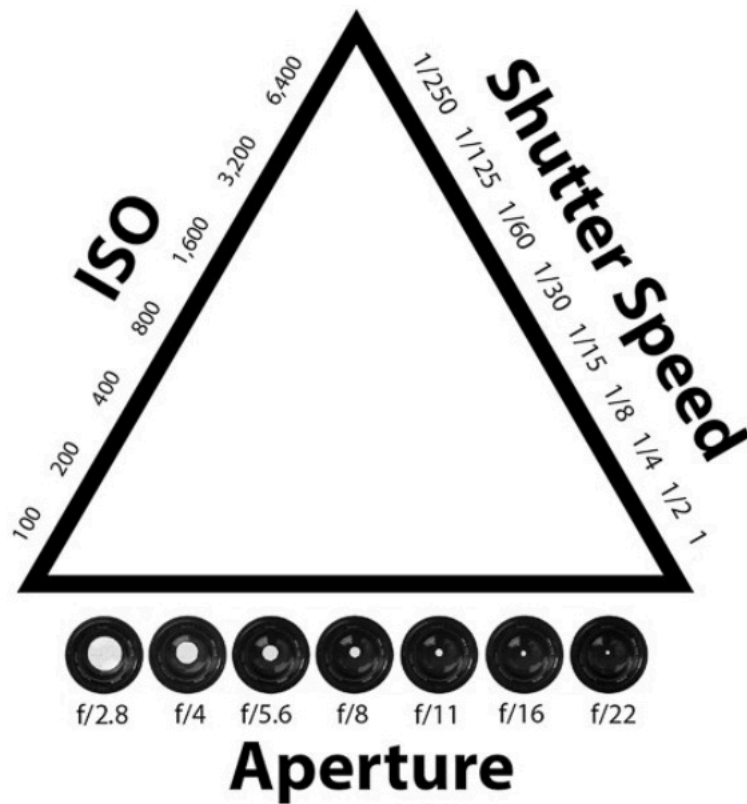
The Exposure Triangle will help us understand how to manipulate each setting so that we can use our manual setting on the camera. This dial ensures that we are in control of the desired image and mood we are trying to create and capture.

Think of exposure as the amount of light that hits the sensor. On the diagram shown you can see that all three sides are equally important when selecting your exposure.

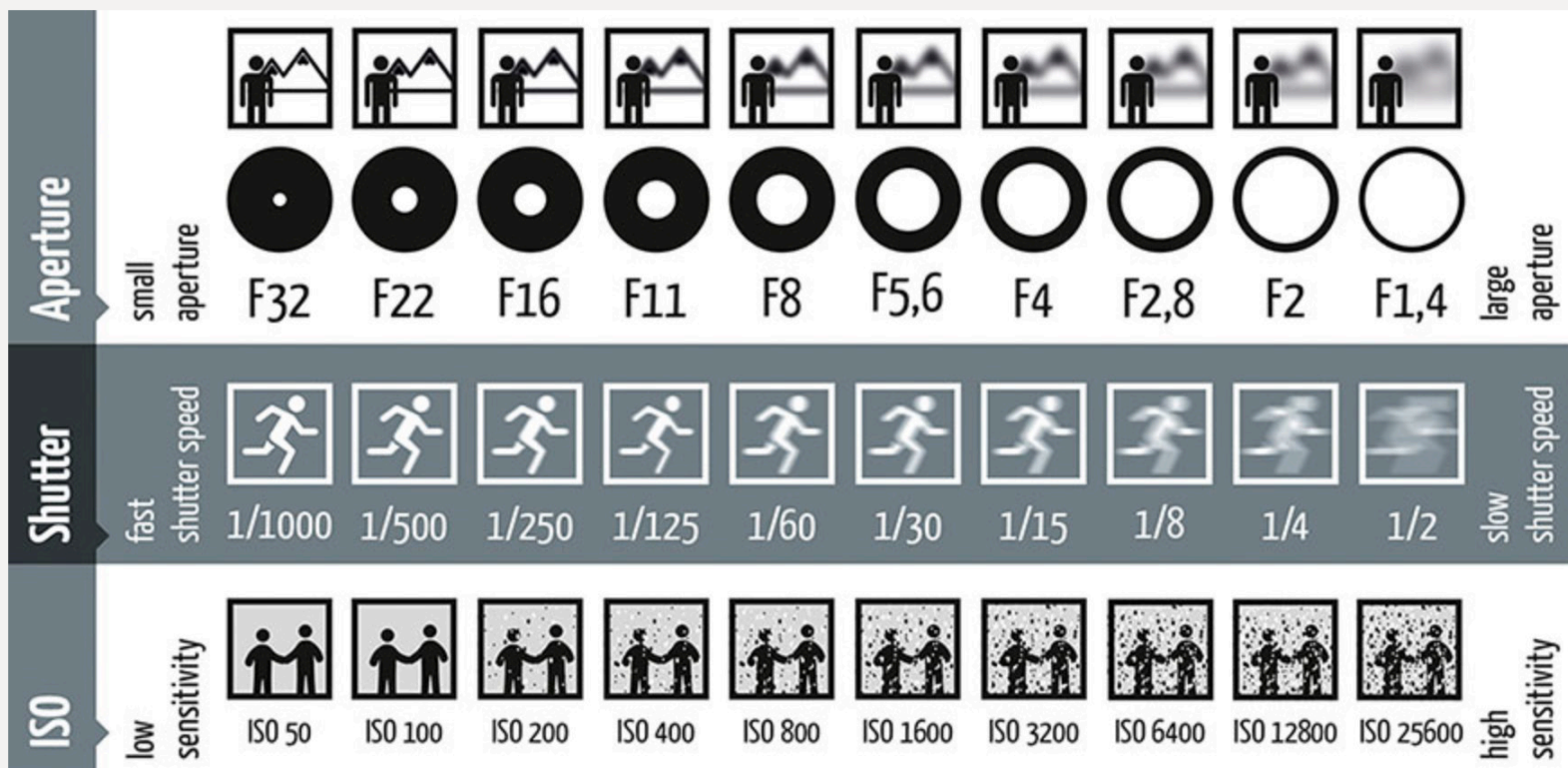
1

The sides of an Exposure Triangle

All three sides of the Exposure Triangle are equally important to understand. By changing one side, you will either positively or negatively change another side of the triangle.



Images from boredpanda.com and photographylife.com



Aperture and f/stops have the ability to transform your photos when used properly. Think of aperture as the iris of the eye. When you walk out into a bright sunny day, your iris will contract around your pupil to limit the amount of light allowed in. By contrast, going into a dark room, your iris will expand your pupil to let in all of available light.

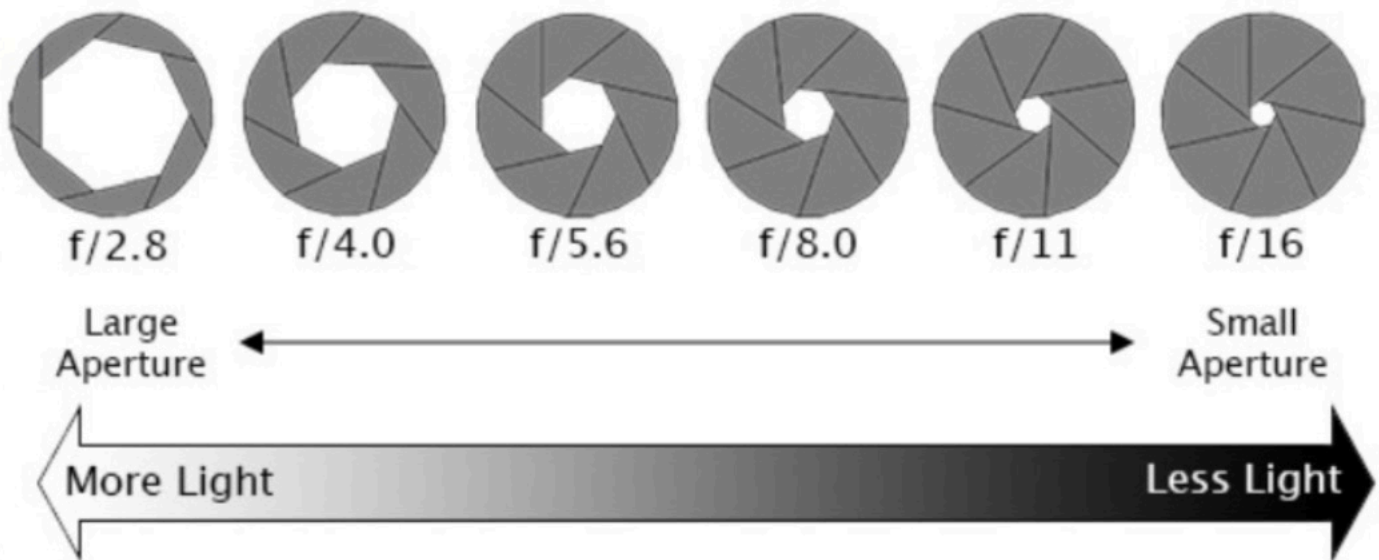
The aperture of a camera works in the same way. When you are outside shooting on a sunny day, you will most likely want to restrict the amount of light hitting your sensor. In the evening or low light, you will want that aperture to be wide open to capture as much light as possible so you don't have a dark image.

Large apertures like $f/1.4$ - $f/5.6$ will create that nice, shallow depth of field with only your focal points in focus. Everything in the foreground and background will start to blur and give you control over what the focus of your image is to be. Small apertures like $f/8.0$ - $f/22$ will give your image a large depth of field where both the foreground and the background will be sharp and in focus.

*f/stops are decided by the camera lens, not the body.

02

Aperture





f/ 7.1 1/125 sec ISO 800



f/1.2 1/400 sec ISO 200

03

Shutter Speed

Shutter Speed is how long the shutter remains open and is a measure of time, not speed. Longer shutter speeds mean more light on your image, but also result in blurred movement. Faster shutter speeds, mean less light will affect your image and also a better chance of freezing your subject in place.

Shutter speed is measured in fractions of a second, so $1/125$ is one two hundred and fiftieth of a second and $1/8$ is one eight of a second. You won't see the actual fraction of the camera, so if you see 500 displayed you know that means you are shooting a speed of $1/500$ of a second. If you shoot 1 second or longer the screen will display a 1" or up to 30".



05

ISO

ISO is the final point on the Exposure Triangle. I personally adjust this setting last because it can negatively affect both sharpness and dynamic range. Dynamic range is the difference between the darkest and lightest tones in an image.

ISO is how we measure the light sensitivity of the sensor. Most cameras have a low ISO around 100 or 200 and they increase to 6400 and beyond depending on make and model. The lower the number, the less sensitive your sensor is to light and less likely you are to affect quality in your photo. Higher ISO means that your sensor is more sensitive to light. This will help you gain light when in a dark or low light situation, but the cost is lower quality and noise.

YOU ROCK.

The best way to see improvement and become comfortable behind the lens is to practice! Expressing yourself during this unprecedented time can be both therapeutic and stress reducing. Take stock of what is important in your life and document as much as you can. Cheers!