

# ***Take Your Photography to the Next Level!***

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- ▶ Good photography takes knowledge, skill and practice: There is a difference between MAKING vs. TAKING photographs.
- ▶ Cell phone vs. a “real” camera? ....it doesn’t matter. They are both cameras.
- ▶ Avoid just “clicking” a picture; use the techniques suggested below and take TIME to compose.

## **10 photography mistakes to avoid**

### ***Photo Problem #1: Background distractions***

- ▶ Check around the background of the frame. Look beyond your subject for things that might confuse a viewer of the picture. Avoid bright lights in the corners, and especially trees or telephone poles appearing to be coming out of people’s heads.

### ***Photo Problem #2: Focus not sharp***

- ▶ Focus is usually essential for the main subject. With people and animals, focus on the eye closest to the camera.

### ***Photo Problem #3: Subject is not obvious***

- ▶ Every picture needs to let the viewers know where to look and what you want them to see.

### ***Photo Problem #4: Horizon not level***

- ▶ Tilting lines will ruin a picture in most cases, unless it is obvious the tilt is for creative effect.

### ***Photo Problem #5: Bad timing***

- ▶ Avoid including anything in the image that confuses your viewer!

### ***Photo Problem #6: Poor Exposure***

- ▶ A poorly exposed picture just doesn't work. Know how to "expose" correctly. Learn how to read a histogram and/or use editing apps, if necessary. Shoot RAW files for more exposure latitude.

### ***Photo Problem #7: "Raccoon" Eyes***

- ▶ Dark eyes are a common error when photographing people in sunlight. Try to find shade under a tree or building. Use the side of a building, the camera/phone flash, or a piece of paper to reflect light.

### ***Photo Problem #8: Cut off body parts***

- ▶ Avoid cutting off a person's or animal's head at the "joints" ....the neck, arms, legs, elbows, knees, or ankles.

### ***Photo Problem #9: Buildings falling over***

- ▶ Beware of buildings appearing to tip over backwards when shooting upwards. In most cases, try to keep building sides straight by stepping back or use editing apps when necessary.

### ***Photo Problem #10: "Burnt out" highlights***

- ▶ Note that our eyes usually go to the bright spots in a photograph first. Avoid distracting highlights, especially around the outer edges of the image. When possible, use "cropping" to edit out the bright spots and/or use post-processing techniques.

## **20 easy photography tips and tricks**

### ***MAKING photos #1: Apply the rule of thirds***

- ▶ Avoid keeping your subject in the centre. Line up your subject on one of the vertical lines, place the horizon line on either one of the horizontal lines, and use any of the FOUR "power" points where the lines intersect.

### ***MAKING photos #2: Fill the frame***

- ▶ Make your subject clear to your viewers by getting up close, or "crop" to fill up the space in your pictures.

### ***MAKING photos #3: "Crop" images***

- ▶ Use "cropping" to edit out distractions and emphasize your subject.

***MAKING photos #4: Vary the point of view***

- ▶ Vary your camera position from standing up at eye level to low angle and high angle shots.

***MAKING photos #5: Create a “3D” effect***

- ▶ Compose the photo with a foreground interest, middle-ground, and background to add depth. This works especially well with buildings and landscape/nature photos.

***MAKING photos #6: Look for leading lines***

- ▶ Use lines to guide the viewer towards your subject. This technique also adds more of a “3D” effect.

***MAKING photos #7: Select focus points***

- ▶ Separate your subject with background blur. This technique is easier with a camera versus a cell phone.

***MAKING photos #8: Shoot “open shade” portraits***

- ▶ Look for “open shade” for outdoor portraits to avoid hard shadows and dappled light.

***MAKING photos #9: Frame within a frame***

- ▶ “Framing” makes your subject stand out and can add creativity. With people pictures, use a doorway or a tree branch to frame your subject.

***MAKING photos #10: Convert to black & white***

- ▶ Mix things up. Show off the tones and contrasts... and create a timeless feel to your images.

***MAKING photos #11: Use the rule of odds***

- ▶ Try to find subjects that have sets of 3, 5, 7, 9, etc. This works with groups of people too.

***MAKING photos #12: Look for symmetry***

- ▶ Search for balance and keep the composition looking “mirrored.” This technique works well with architecture and with reflections in water.

***MAKING photos #13: Seek simplicity***

- ▶ Leave lots of “negative” or blank space around a single subject. Often less is more.

***MAKING photos #14: Place contrasts together***

- ▶ Search for contrasts in light and dark, or high and low, or of opposite concepts, such as new and old or tall and short.

***MAKING photos #15: Find shapes and patterns***

- ▶ Look for shapes and repeating patterns for creative images.

***MAKING photos #16: Leave space for movement***

- ▶ Give your subject “room” to move towards the outer edge the frame.

***MAKING photos #17: Shoot in the “golden” hours***

- ▶ Be aware the lighting for outdoor photos is usually best within an hour after sunrise or within an hour before sunset.

***MAKING photos #18: Look for colour combos***

- ▶ Use complimentary colours (like blue and yellow), or the same colour (repeating reds, for example). Consult the “colour wheel.”

***MAKING photos #19: Break the rules***

- ▶ Have fun breaking the rules! Move your camera while taking the shot, tilt the horizon on purpose, shoot super closeup, etc. You own the image; you are the creator.

***MAKING photos #20: Start a photo project***

- ▶ Explore a topic or idea and have a purpose or intent to guide your picture taking to make a collection. Share your images as a group on social media, in a photobook, or develop a website.