

# Unit 2

## PHOTOGRAPHY

In this unit you will

- ▶ learn and practice new words to talk about cameras, photography and photo sharing
- ▶ practice making recommendations about cameras
- ▶ practice communicating about different photographs and effects



## Part 1: Types of photography

### 1a Class Discussion

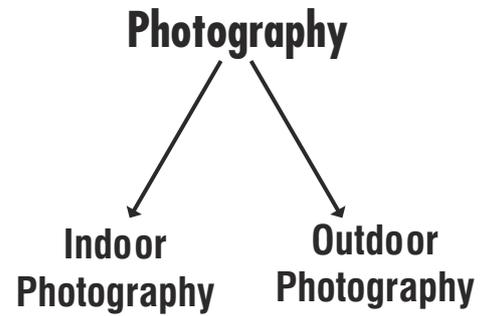
What kinds of photographs do you like taking?

### 1b Categorize

As you read the following paragraph try to map the categories. Some subcategories can go under both indoor and outdoor photography.

Photographic work can be divided and subdivided into dozens of different categories. The two main categories are indoor and outdoor photography, and there are many different types of photographs that are taken indoors and outdoors. Some of the subcategories are as follows:

documentary      landscape      nature      fashion  
 wildlife      food      portraiture      aerial  
 forensic      wedding      creative      sports      studio



### 1c Match

Write the category names under the photos. Some photos belong to more than one category.



1



2



3



4



5



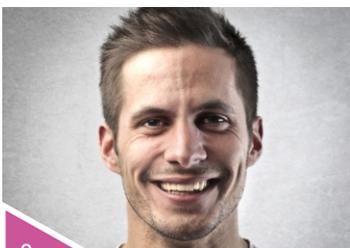
6



7



8



9



10



11



12

## Part 2: Learning the Basics

### 2a Class Discussion

- ▶ Can you name different parts of a camera?
- ▶ What are their functions?



### Lesson 1 - The Basics

"Good morning everyone. I am Mike. Welcome to your first class. Today we'll start with the basics. First I'll talk about the main parts of a DSLR camera.

Let's start with the top part of your camera. The *power switch* is on the right. Turn the dial to switch the camera on and off. In the middle of the power switch is the *shutter release button*. Press this for taking pictures. This round thing is the *mode dial*. You'll use it for different photo settings. Today we'll use only the Auto setting nicely marked in green. This part on the very top of your camera is the *accessory shoe*. It is also called the hotshoe. Your camera has an inbuilt flash but if you want to use another type of flash, you mount it on the accessory shoe.

Now let's look at the back panel. You compose your picture by using the *LCD screen* or the *viewfinder eyepiece*. What you see on the LCD screen is exactly what you will have in your photo. Use the *live view switch* to turn on the LCD screen. You can also use the LCD screen after you take a photo to see how it has turned out. If you don't like a photo, press the *delete* button. Finally, the red button in the middle of the live view switch is the *movie record button*."

### 2b Listen and label

Lisa has started her first lesson with her new DSLR camera. Today she has learned some of the basics. The teacher explained some of the parts and buttons on the camera.

As you listen to this lesson draw lines to the parts of the camera and write down the names of the parts explained. One example is given.



delete button



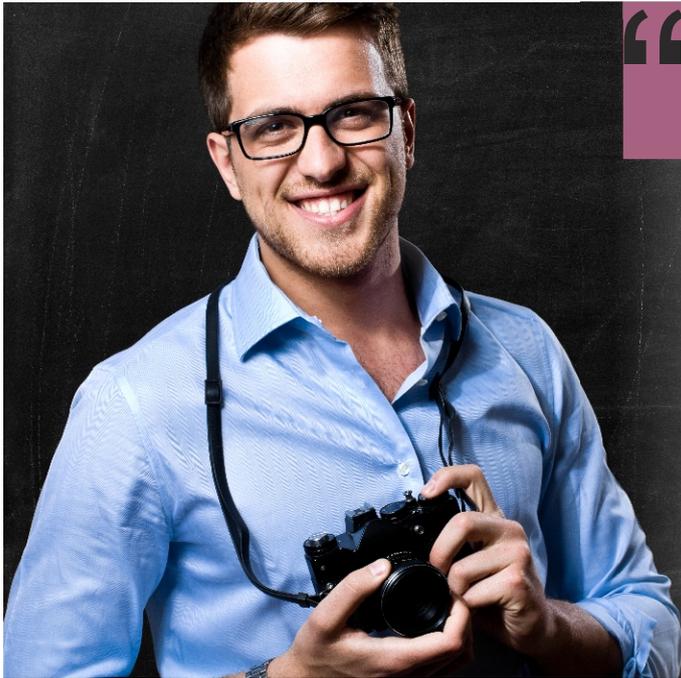
### 2c Match

Match the following sentences with different parts of the camera.

1. This slot is where you mount your flash.
2. You can use this screen to see what you are shooting.
3. Press this to take a picture.
4. Use this but ton to get rid of the pictures you don't like.
5. Press this to start video recording.
6. Use this switch to start the LCD monitor.
7. Turn this to the kind of photo you are taking.
8. Turn this to switch off your camera.
9. Put your eye on this piece to see what you are shooting.

- power switch
- shutter release button
- mode dial
- accessory shoe / hotshoe
- LCD screen
- viewfinder eyepiece
- live view switch
- movie record button
- delete button

## Part 3: Mode Dial and Shooting Modes



“ Now let's have a close look at the mode dial and then go outside to take some pictures. How many modes are there on this dial? How about your camera? ”



### 3a Match

Try to match the symbols (not the letters) on the mode dial with the following shooting mode names:

close-up   sports   night portrait   portrait   same as auto but with no flash   landscape   child

### 3b Find the meaning

Check the meanings of the **highlighted** words in Lesson 2. Then listen to the Lesson while looking at the camera pictures on the previous page.

## Lesson 2 - Shooting on Auto mode



"The first step is to put your camera into basic 'Auto' mode. My mode dial has 13 different photo **settings**. To begin with stay in **AUTO**. When you switch to **AUTO** mode your camera makes all the decisions. All you have to do is point and shoot.

In **AUTO** mode, the flash **pops up** automatically in **poor lighting**. As we're shooting outside in daylight this won't happen. If you want to stay in automatic mode without the flash, turn the dial to the next setting.

If you've used a basic digital camera before then the chances are that you've been using your LCD screen view to compose your pictures. Most small cameras either have bad viewfinders or don't have any at all. DSLRs have great viewfinders. You can get a **clearer**, **sharper** and better **focused** view of the image. Try using your viewfinder and you'll get used to it quickly. Then you can use the LCD screen on the back to check how your photo has turned out.

Now choose your **subject**s and take a few pictures. I'll see you back in class in fifteen minutes"

### 3c Check your understanding

1. What happens in auto mode?
2. When does the flash pop up in auto mode?
3. What should you do if you want to use auto mode but do not want the flash to pop up?
4. Why are DSLR view finders great?
5. How can you see the photo you have just taken?

### 3d Find the meaning

Back in class students are looking at the photos they have taken. Mike is giving them feedback using the following words. Check the meanings of the words.

clear, sharp

blurry / blurred

in focus (focused)

out of focus (not focused)

over exposed (too much light)

under exposed (too little light)

foreground

background

### 3e: Class Discussion

- ▶ Which photo do you like the most? Why?
- ▶ Which photo do you like the least? Why?



1. In this one the trees are completely out of focus. The picture is overexposed and blurry. If there was a focused object in the foreground then this could be a good background.

2. The image is very clear. It is easy for the camera to focus on a single object like this.

3. When you have many things in in your composition, sometimes you want to focus on just one part of it. For example, you have a bunch of roses in this picture but the camera clearly focused on one of them, leaving the rest of the picture out of focus. This creates a good effect.

4. This is just the opposite. There are many flowers but all of them are out of focus and the picture is blurry.

5. This is similar... Again many flowers... The focus is kind of somewhere in the middle but the picture is underexposed.

6. This one is so overexposed you cannot tell what the object is. Is it a flower or grass?



### 3f Match

Match the following comments with the photos.

## Part 4: Focusing

### 4a Communicate

Discuss the following image and the questions with your partner. Don't worry if you don't know the answers.

1. How do you get this image in the viewfinder?
2. What does the red spot tell you?
3. If you are happy with this image what should you do to shoot it?
4. If you shoot this picture how will the background show up?



### 4b Listen and check your understanding

Now listen to **Lesson 3** and check your answers.

### Lesson 3 - Focusing

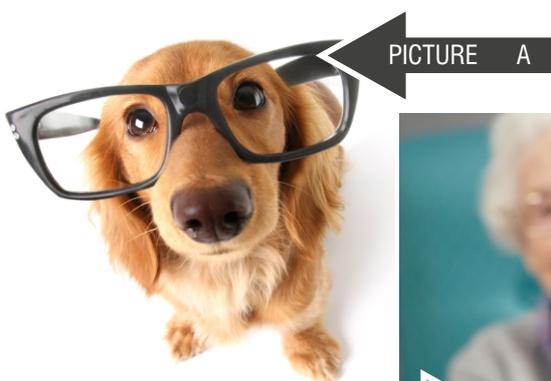
"Some of the photos you took are blurry and out-of-focus. This is because you pressed the shutter button without focusing on your object.

Now let's try this. Point your camera to your subject and press the shutter button half way. This makes the camera focus, and the red spot in the viewfinder shows where the focus is. Now press the shutter all the way to take the picture."



### 4c: Class discussion

Where is the focus in the following photos?



## Part 5: Photo Composition

### 5a: Class discussion

- ▶ what is photo composition?
- ▶ what tips do you have for a good composition?

### 5b Guess

Mike gave his students the following useful tips for photograph composition. Look at each heading and guess what the tip is.

### 5c Find the meaning

Next check the **highlighted** words in your glossary.



## Some tips for photo composition

#### Tip 1: Choose your subject

When you look at a **scene** with your **naked eye**, your brain quickly picks out subjects of interest but the camera doesn't do that. The camera takes everything in front of it. This can lead to a picture with no clear focal point. What you need to do is choose your subject.

#### Tip 2: Avoid the middle

When you first start photography, it's **tempting** to put your subject in the centre of the **frame**. However, this produces **static**, boring pictures. Move your subject away from the centre try to balance it with everything else in the scene.

#### Tip 3: Leading lines

Lines create effects. Use lines to control the way people's eyes move around the picture. Lines are everywhere, in the form of walls, fences, roads, buildings and electricity wires. **Horizontal** and **vertical** lines give a static and calm feel to a picture. To introduce a feeling of drama, action or surprise, look for diagonal lines. If there are no **diagonal** lines in the scene you can create them with a wide-angle lens or by **tilting** the camera as you take the shot.

#### Tip 5: Space to move

When shooting moving subjects give them space to move inside the frame.

#### Tip 6: Backgrounds

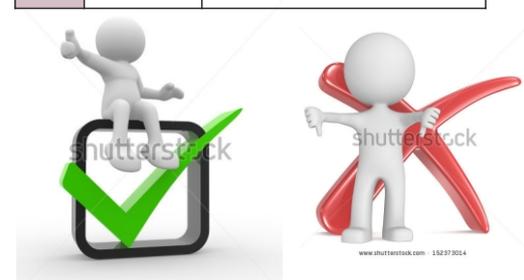
Don't just concentrate on your subject – look at what's happening in the background, too. Is the background part of the story you're trying to tell with the photo? If it is not, then control it. For example, throw it out of focus.

adapted from <http://www.digitalcameraworld.com/2012/04/12/10-rules-of-photo-composition-and-why-they-work/>

### 5d Discuss and decide

Lisa took this photo as her homework. As you read each tip with your partner, decide if Lisa followed the tip. Explain your decision.

	✓ ✗	explanation
Tip1		
Tip2		
Tip3		
Tip4		
Tip5		
Tip6		



## Part 6: Creating Effects

### 6a Class discussion

- ▶ 1. Photo **1a** and **1b**, and Photo **2a** and **2b** show the same scenes and same subjects. So what are the differences between these photos?
- ▶ 2. Which photo do you like better in each pair? Why?
- ▶ 3. How do you think photos **1b**, **2b**, and **3** were shot?



Photo attribution: Fir0002/Flagstaffotos

Photo attribution: Wikimedia Commons

### 6b Check your understanding

*Read the text to understand how the above photographs were taken. Check your understanding while reading the text.*

1. Which photograph was taken with a small aperture ? What is the effect?
2. Which photograph was taken with a large aperture ? What is the effect?
3. Which photograph shows motion freeze? How was this photo taken?
4. Which photo was taken with a slower shutter speed- Photo 2a or 2b? What effect did this create?
5. Why do you think the man in Photo 4 is using a tripod?
6. Which photo do you think was taken on a tripod? Why?

### Using your camera's aperture and shutter speed to create effects in photographs



#### APERTURE

This is the size of the opening in the lens when a picture is taken. The aperture size affects the depth of field in a picture. **Depth of field** is how much of your photo is in focus. The smaller the aperture (opening) of your camera's lens, the greater/larger the depth of field. With a **large depth of field** most of the foreground and background of your photo will be in focus. With a **shallow depth of field**, only the foreground of your image will be in focus.

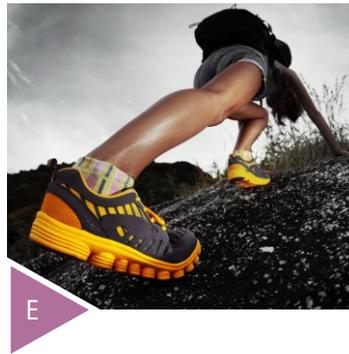
When controlling speed is more important than depth of field, set your mode dial to **S** (shutter speed). If depth of field is more important then set it to **A** (aperture). If you want to control both, set the dial to **M** (manual) and adjust all the settings yourself.

#### SHUTTER SPEED

This is the length of time the shutter is open. The shutter speed changes the way movement appears in photographs. You can use very fast shutter speeds to freeze fast-moving subjects, for example at sporting events. This is called **motion freeze**. Or you can use very slow shutter speeds to blur a moving subject for an artistic effect. This is called **motion blur**. If you use very slow shutter speeds you are likely to shake the camera, so you'll need a tripod.

### 6c Class discussion

- ▶ what do the following photos make you think?
- ▶ how do you feel about each photo?
- ▶ is the subject moving in Photo D? what creates the feeling of movement?



### 6d Discuss and fill in the table

Work with your partner and fill in the following table for each photo. Then join the rest of the class for a discussion.

Photo	Shutter speed (fast or slow)	Aperture (small or large)	Effect (motion freeze, motion blur, large depth of field, shallow depth of field)
A			
B			
C			
D			
E			
F			

## Part 7: Camera Lenses and Effects

### 7 Match

Read the definitions for different types of lenses and match the photos with the lenses. For some photos and lenses there is more than one answer. Be ready to explain your answers.

A



Wide-angle zoom lens

A wide-angle digital camera lens typically covers a focal range of around 12-24mm or 16-35mm, and allows you to fit landscape scenes, architecture or anything else where you need a wide angle of view.

B



Superzoom lens

Superzoom digital camera lenses have a wide focal range, from wide angle right through to telephoto. Typically this will begin at around 28mm and go up to 270 or 300mm. They are ideal for travel photography as they offer both flexibility and portability.



Standard lens

The standard digital camera lens offers a focal length of around 50mm. A 50mm camera lens is perfect for portraiture. These lenses often offer wide maximum apertures to create shallow depth of field

C



Telephoto zoom lens

A telephoto digital camera lens gets you closer to the action, and so is ideal for sports and wildlife where you may need to keep your distance. These usually cover a focal range of between 100mm to 400mm. For any kind of action photography, where you need to maintain fast shutter speeds, there's no real alternative.

E



Macro lens

Macro lenses can focus closer to your subject so you to capture lots of details. Commonly used in nature photography, but well suited for portraiture too, macro lenses typically offer wide maximum apertures for shallow depth of field.

D



Fish-eye lenses

Fisheye lenses offer an exceptionally wide angle of view to create the 'fisheye' effect. Although they are commonly used for landscape photography, they can be fun to use within other genres, such as in portraiture and architecture.

F



## Part 8: Talking about photography

### 8a: Class discussion

Use the vocabulary you have learned in this unit to talk about these photographs.



## 8b Group project

*You have a group project. You are going to create a photo catalogue for an exhibition. Write a description for each photo in terms of a) type of photography, b) subject, scene, and composition c) type of lens used, d) effect and technique used (aperture, shutter speed, etc.)*



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8

## Part 9: Who needs a camcorder?

### 9a Class discussion

- ▶ Who has a camcorder (video camera)?
- ▶ How is a camcorder different from a digital camera?
- ▶ Which one is better for taking videos?
- ▶ Which of the following photos was taken with a super wide angle lens and which one with a long telephoto lens?



### 9b Find the meaning

The following article discusses the benefits and limitations (advantages and disadvantages) of a DSLR camera when compared with a camcorder. Check the meanings of the highlighted words during the first reading.

#### BENEFITS AND LIMITATIONS OF DSLRS VS. CAMCORDERS

By Tony Gomez

With more and more DSLRs that can shoot **HD** video, you might wonder what is the future of standalone **HD camcorders**. Is the new **generation** of DSLRs better than **traditional** HD camcorders? And what are their limitations when compared to HD camcorders?



**Benefits.** The greatest benefit of DSLRs is that of interchangeable lenses, and with that, the control they can bring to the look of the video you are shooting. And by control, I don't mean just in the **variety** of focal lengths from super wide angle, to long telephoto to **achieve** different film looks. I also mean subject **isolation**. Look at movies and notice how in many scenes the subjects are visually isolated from their background. The subject is sharply in focus, while the background is blurred out.

This isolation is achieved through shallow depth of field with the use of faster wide aperture fixed focal length lenses, not zoom lenses. A traditional HD camcorder might have a good zoom lens but it cannot achieve a shallow depth of field.

**Limitations.** There are three on my list: record time, zoom control, and audio recording control. Starting with record time, depending on the DSLR manufacturer, you can get up to about 29 minutes at the highest 1080 resolution. Traditional HD camcorders don't have this limitation, with record times of about 2 hours. Secondly, camcorders have automatic zooming which makes shooting easier. Unfortunately, when shooting with a DSLR, only manual zoom control is generally available. It takes a lot of practice to get comfortable with manual zooming. Finally, manual audio control is a must-have feature for traditional videographers. However on many DSLRs that **feature** is either not **available**, or it's got **clumsy** controls.

Adapted from <<http://www.videomaker.com/videonews/2012/07/benefits-and-limitations-of-dslrs-vs-camcorders>>

### 9c Discuss and decide

Read the article again with your partner and make notes in the following table. Decide which one is better in terms of the following features.



features	camcorder	DSLR
interchangeable lenses		
achieving different film looks		
record time		
auto zoom control		
manual audio control		

### Class Verdict

If you have a good DSLR camera and different lenses do you really need a camcorder?

## Homework

Read the following extract from <http://lightsfilmschool.com/blog/5-successful-dslr-feature-films/2205/>  
Check the Internet for other films made with DSLR cameras and come back to class to discuss your impressions.



### Hell and Back Again

Hell and back again is a feature length documentary that won the Grand Jury Prize as well as the prize for Cinematography at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival. The film was directed by Danfung Dennis who, as a photojournalist, worked beside the US Marines Echo Company in Afghanistan. The documentary was shot on the Canon 5D Mark II.



## Documentary Synopsis

What does it mean to lead men in war? What does it mean to come home? Hell and Back Again is a cinematically revolutionary film that asks and answers these questions with a power and intimacy no previous film about the conflict in Afghanistan has been able to achieve. It is a masterpiece in the cinema of war.

## Part 10: Sharing your photos

### 10a Class discussion

- ▶ What is social media?
- ▶ Who do you share your photos with? How do you share them?
- ▶ What is the fastest way of sharing photos with others?
- ▶ How can you share videos?

### 10b Find the phrase

Scan the following passage to find a two-word phrase which means that you can do something very fast.

Instagram is a free online photo sharing and social network platform that was acquired by Facebook in 2012.

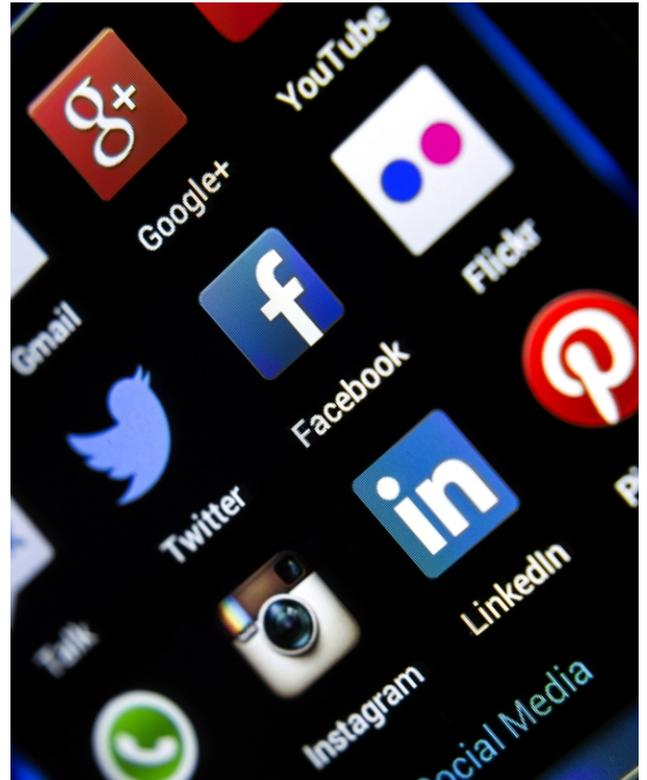
Instagram allows members users to upload, edit and share photos with other members through the Instagram website, email, and social media sites such as Twitter, Facebook, Tumblr, Foursquare and Flickr.

Instagram's editing features include various digital filters, one-click rotation and optional borders. Photos can be shared on one or several social media sites at once with a single click.



The Instagram app is available for Apple's iPhone and iPod Touch through the iTunes App Store, and for Android devices running 2.2 or higher through Google Play. The "Explore" tab of the Instagram app allows members to search for user accounts to follow or find user photos by following hashtags. From the "Home" tab, Instagram users can view photos from accounts they follow in a format similar to that of Facebook's

Adapted from <<http://www.videomaker.com/videonews/2012/07/benefits-and-limitations-of-dslrs-vs-camcorders>>



### 10c Check your understanding

Work with your partner and mark the following statements as True (T) or False (F) as you read the passage. Be prepared to explain your answer.

1. Facebook owns Instagram.
2. You must pay to use Instagram.
3. The only way to reach Instagram is through its own website.
4. You can edit your photos after you upload them on Instagram.
5. When you upload your photographs on Instagram you cannot share them on other social media sites.
6. If you have an iPhone you can get the Instagram application from Google Play.
7. On Instagram website you can see and comment on others' photos.

