

How to Take a Good Picture

http://www.kodak.com/eknec/PageQuerier.jhtml?pq-path=332&pq-locale=en_US

Composition - the act of composing the image in the viewfinder, is a visual process of organizing the elements and individual details of a scene into a balanced and pleasing arrangement. (<http://photographytips.com/page.cfm/6>)

Good Photo Tips:

1. Choose Vertical or Horizontal



- Hold the camera vertically to take pictures of tall buildings, waterfalls, or a person; hold the camera horizontally for groups of people and cars.
- Try taking both horizontal and vertical pictures of the same subject to see the different effects. A subject that you might usually think of as horizontal can make a stunning vertical picture.

2. Choose a Main Point of Interest



- Eliminate all unimportant elements by moving closer, zooming in, or choosing a different shooting angle.

3. Adjusting Your Angle of View



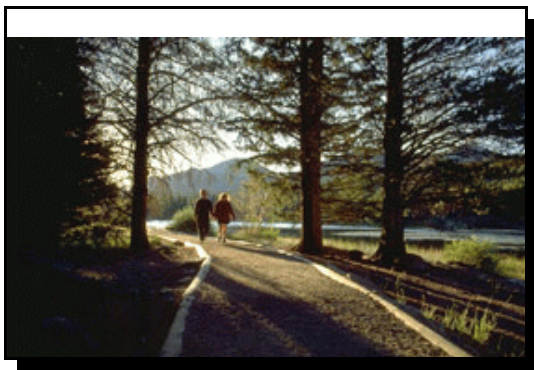
- For the most complimentary portrait, shoot at your subject's eye level. However, if you want to have some creative fun, change your angle of view.
- Change your position to emphasize or exaggerate how big or small your subject is. Crouch down and shoot up at someone and that person towers over you. Shoot down on your pet and it seems so comically small. You can also move your camera right or left only a few feet to change the composition dramatically.

4. Placing the Object Off-Centre



- Even if your subject fills the frame, the most important part of the subject (for example, the eyes in a portrait) should not be dead center.
- Follow the rule of thirds. An easy way to compose off-center pictures is to imagine a tick-tack-toe board over your viewfinder. Avoid placing your subject in that center square, and you have followed the rule of thirds. Try to place your subject along one of the imaginary lines that divides your frame.
- Watch the horizon. Just as an off-center subject is usually best, so is an off-center—and straight—horizon line. Avoid cutting your picture in half by placing the horizon in the middle of the picture. To accent spaciousness, keep the horizon low in the picture. To suggest closeness, position the horizon high in your picture.

5. Using Leading Lines



- Select a camera angle where the natural lines of the scene lead the viewers' eyes into the picture and toward your main center of interest. You can find such a line in a road, a fence, even a shadow. Diagonal lines are dynamic; curved lines are flowing and graceful. You can often find the right line by moving around and choosing an appropriate angle.

6. Avoid Distracting Backgrounds

- Select an uncomplicated background that does not compete with your subject. Bright colors and text (for example, store signs) create the biggest problems. Be especially aware of what is behind your subject in a portrait so that branches don't accidentally become antlers.
- Move your subject or change your camera angle to find a simple, uncluttered background. Taking this extra step before you press the shutter button makes a big difference in the end result.



7. Including Objects in the Foreground

- When taking pictures of landscapes, include an object, such as a tree or boulder, in the foreground. Elements in the foreground add a sense of depth to the picture. A person in the foreground helps establish a sense of scale.
- Sometimes you can use the foreground elements to "frame" your subject. Overhanging tree branches, a doorway, or an arch can give a picture the depth it needs to make it more than just another snapshot.