

# Exposure

Master the art of exposure and get pictures with punch by balancing aperture, shutter speed and ISO

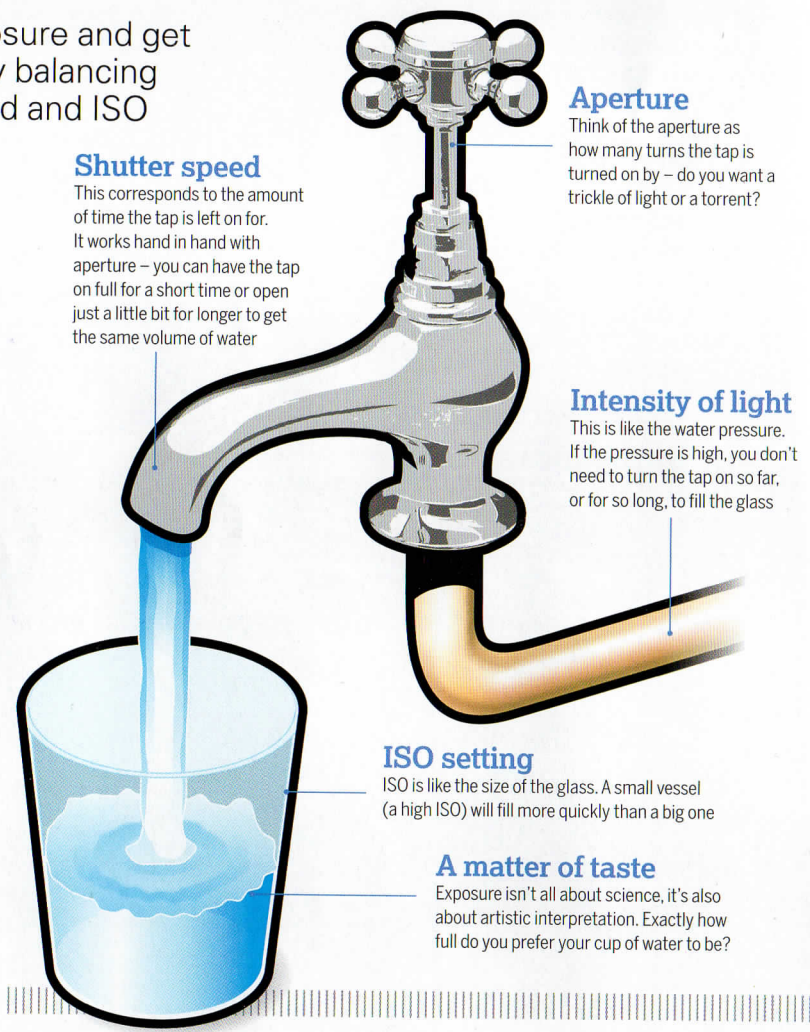
**Understanding how exposure works is probably the most fundamental photographic skill you need to master. Learn how to control your camera's aperture, shutter speed and ISO and you'll be able to take control of how your images look.**

Whether you want to isolate the subject of your photo from the background with a shallow depth of field, or capture the misty effects of moving water as part of a moody seascape, you'll need to understand the basics of exposure.

At first it might seem that there are just too many options with apertures, histograms, ISOs, metering modes, f-stops and so on to juggle. However, once you understand the basic principles you'll have all the tools you need to take control and get creative.

Today's digital SLRs come with functions and features to help you get the best out of your exposures, and they are all without doubt useful, but concentrate on the fundamental relationship between aperture, shutter speed and ISO, and maybe even restrict yourself to manual mode to begin with, and you'll learn the essence of creative photography.

Creating a harmonious exposure using the aperture, shutter speed and ISO is a juggling act. As soon as you make a decision about one

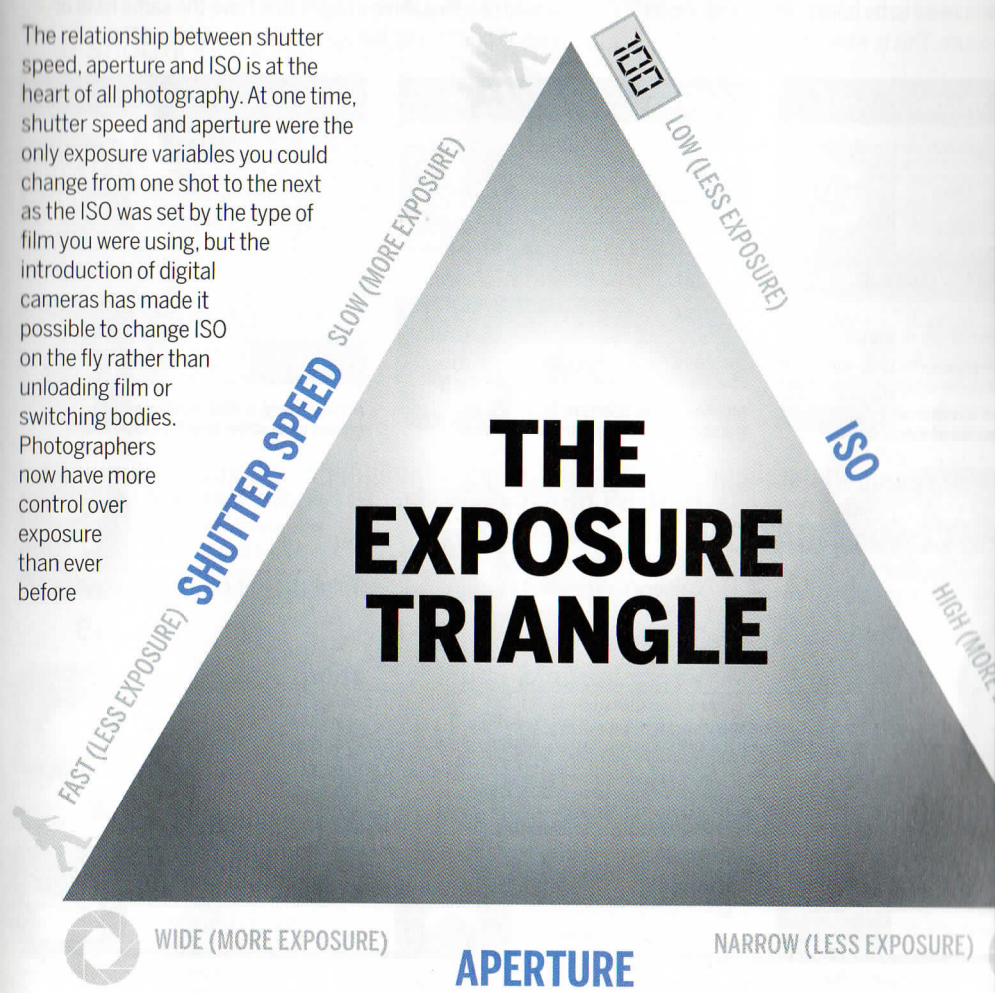


element, you'll need to compromise with another. The trick is get all three elements working together so you get the results you want and not what the camera tells you you can have. Because of that, it's really worth putting in the groundwork and getting to grips with the basics of

shutter speed (how long the camera's sensor is exposed to the light), aperture (how much light the lens lets in, which also affects depth of field) and ISO (the sensitivity level of the sensor). Once you know how to do this, there's nothing you can't do. Of course, getting a correct

Understand how exposure works by following this simple three-pointed guide

The relationship between shutter speed, aperture and ISO is at the heart of all photography. At one time, shutter speed and aperture were the only exposure variables you could change from one shot to the next as the ISO was set by the type of film you were using, but the introduction of digital cameras has made it possible to change ISO on the fly rather than unloading film or switching bodies. Photographers now have more control over exposure than ever before



exposure relies on the camera having achieved the optimum exposure reading to begin with, but this doesn't always happen. This is where exposure compensation plays a part.

Exposure compensation can be applied in aperture priority, shutter priority or program mode. It's also

measured in stops: the exposure indicator scale you see in the viewfinder or on your camera's rear display has stops clearly marked on it. You can usually increase or decrease the exposure by up to five stops.

You'll see that there are smaller marks on the scale, too. These

represent half-stops or third-stops depending on how your camera is set up. Although exposure can be shifted in full stops, you get much finer control by adjusting the exposure in these smaller increments. You'll learn how to judge the adjustments needed once you understand histogram