

Some Photographic Terms Used in Reference to Exposure

Aperture- The opening in a lens system through which light passes. The size of the aperture may be fixed or adjustable. Lens openings are usually calibrated in f-numbers.

Depth of Field-the distance range between the nearest and farthest objects that appear in acceptable sharp focus in a photograph. For all practical purpose, it depends on the lens opening, the focal length of the lens, and the distance from the lens to the subject.

Depth of Focus-the distance range over which the film could be shifted at the film plane inside the camera and still have the subject appear in sharp focus: often misused to mean depth of field.

Exposure -the quantity of light allowed to act on a photographic material; a product of the intensity (controlled by the lens opening) and the duration (controlled by the shutter speed or enlarging timer) of light striking the film or paper.

Exposure Latitude-the range of camera exposures, from underexposure to overexposure, which will produce acceptable pictures from a specific film.

Exposure Meter-an instrument with a light-sensitive cell that measures the light reflected from or falling on a subject: used as an aid to selecting the exposure setting. The same as a light meter.

Exposure Setting-the lens opening and shutter speed selected to expose the film.

F-Number-a number used to indicate the size and light-passing ability of the lens opening on most adjustable cameras. Common f-numbers are f/2.8, f/4, f/5.6, f/8, f/11, f/16, and f/22. The larger the f-number, the smaller the lens opening. In this series, f/2.8 is the largest lens opening, and f/22 is the smallest. These numbers indicate the ration of the focal length of the lens to the effective diameter of the lens opening.

Lens Speed-the largest lens opening (smallest f-number) at which a lens can be set. A “fast” lens transmits more light and has a larger opening than a “slow” lens.

Overexposure-a condition in which too much light reaches the film, producing a dense negative or a washed-out print or slide.

Thin Negative-a negative that is underexposed or underdeveloped (or both); a thin negative appears less dense than a normal negative.

Underexposure-a condition in which too little light reaches the film, producing a

thin negative, a dark slide, or a muddy-looking print.