

## Photographic Definitions

**adjustable camera** - a camera with adjustable lenses, apertures, and/or shutter speeds

**automatic camera** - a camera with either a simple lens that is able to take all types of pictures with no adjustments OR a camera that sets its own aperture when you set the shutter speed or one that sets the shutter speed when you choose the aperture. Some cameras will even do both.

**“bulb” setting (B)** - setting at which the shutter remains open for as long as the button is held down. Used for time exposures.

**candid pictures** - those in which the subject is unaware the photo is being taken; unposed photos

**composition** - the arrangement of the items within a photograph. Remember that in a great many photographs you can determine that arrangement.

**cropping** - the elimination of certain sections, or the printing of only a certain section of a negative. Cropping can be done with either the camera or the easel and enlarger.

**density** - the “thickness” of a negative. A negative which has been overexposed will be darker than a normal or correctly exposed negative. These dark negatives are said to be “dense”. Actually the word is referring to the closeness of the grains of exposed silver halide.

**depth-of-field** - the range, front to back, of things in focus. At f/2 you will have very few things in focus whereas at f/16 or f/32 you will have a great deal of depth of field (or things in focus).

**diaphragm** - the part of the lens that opens and shuts to let in varying amounts of light.

The aperture is the hole in the center of the diaphragm. The diaphragm is the metal “leaves” that form the edge of the hole.

**double exposure** - either the recording of two images on one piece of film OR the exposing of two different images on one piece of photographic paper by printing two negatives on the same piece of paper.

**emulsion** - the portion of the film containing the silver halide crystals. The emulsion becomes very soft during the developing process - BE CAREFUL

**enlargement** - the process of making a picture larger by using an enlarger or the enlarged print made in the process

**environmental portrait** - portraits made outside of the studio setting, made within the environment in which that person exists

**exposure** - the amount of light hitting the film or paper  
\*\* exposure can be increased by opening the aperture to a larger hole (smaller f/#) or by leaving the shutter open longer

**exposure meter** - used to take “readings” of the light entering the camera so that the correct settings can be chosen for that particular shot

**exposure setting** - the setting of the shutter speed and the f/stop for a photo

**film speed** - (ISO/ASA number) the number assigned to films to designate their ability to record certain light conditions. 400 is a “medium speed” film and will take low light pictures whereas 50 is a slow film requiring a great deal more exposure to take the same picture. However, slower films enlarge much better and have much smaller grain. 1600 ISO film would be “fast” and require less light, but have larger grain.

**filter** - a disk attached to the front of a lens to filter out certain colors of light or certain types of light. Ex. a UV filter will remove the ultraviolet rays - thus helping to eliminate haze in a distance shot.

**“fisheye” lens** - an extremely wide angle lens. Able to see more than 180°. Ex. 15mm

**fixed focus lens** - has only one focal length. ex. 135 mm or 50 mm

**f/number or f/stop** - a number which designates the size of the aperture. The smaller the number the larger the opening (aperture)

**focal length** - the distance from the front of the lens to the shutter plane Ex. 50mm, 135 mm

**focus** - making the image sharp; The point at which converging light rays come together

**foreground** - the area in front of the subject of a photograph

**grain** - the particles (silver halide) which, having been exposed to light, turn dark. Normally, the smallest grain obtainable is to be desired.

**highlights** - the areas in a photographs that reflect light, the bright spots

**infrared film** - a film which records invisible electromagnetic wavelengths rather than those of a visible light

**lens** - the optical glass in a camera which causes the light rays to converge at the film

**lens speed** - refers to the “speed” with which light passes through a lens. The lower the number the faster light passes through, thus allowing more exposure than a “slower” lens would in the same amount of time. “Slower” lenses produce sharper images, however.

**matte** - a method of drying non-RC paper in which the paper is dried emulsion side upward on the print dryer. Rarely used these days.

**negative** - a silver halide-bearing, emulsion-covered plastic which records light rays as dark areas and dark areas as light ones

**normal lens** - “sees” the subject as the human eye does; neither enlarging nor reducing it. Normally, between 45mm and 55mm for 35mm cameras.

**overexposure** - occurs when a print or film gets too much exposure

**panning** - following a moving subject with the camera while releasing the shutter. This blurs the background while leaving the moving subject in focus if done correctly.

**posed pictures** - those in which the subject or composition is rearranged by the photographer

**positive** - print or film which records blacks and whites as they are rather than reversed. i.e., blacks are blacks and whites are whites

**“pushing”** - planned underexposure that is compensated for by overdevelopment to obtain workable results

**RC paper** - photo paper that dries flat and glossy without a print dryer. RC stands for “resin coated”. Clearing agent is not necessary with RC paper.

**reflector** - a screen used to reflect light

**Rule of Thirds** - says to place the subject on a line created by dividing the frame with a tic-tac toe grid place your subjects on the lines or the intersections of the lines.

**shutter** - device which retracts to allow light to reach the film after passing through the aperture in the diaphragm

**sidelighting** - obviously the light coming from the side of the subject

**silhouette** - a dark outline against a light background

**slide** - a positive color transparency

**SLR** - single lens reflex (camera)

**Spot news** - a photo of an unscheduled event for which no advance planning was possible

**spotting a print** - using products similar to paints to touch-up blemishes on prints such as dust particles or lint

**synchronization speed** - the shutter speed with which the flash attachment is to be used. Use of a different speed will cause half of the print to be correctly exposed while the other half is either black or unexposed. Most cameras have a flash sync speed of 1/60.

**T-Max 100** - This is the film we use for bright light situations. It has tabular grains and replaces Plus-X

**T-Max 400** - The film we will use most often, especially in low light situations: football at night, swimming meets, games in the gym, stage productions, etc.

**telephoto lens** - longer than normal lenses. Used to bring distance objects closer. Normally they have much smaller maximum apertures.

**TLR** - twin lens reflex. A different lens is used for focusing than is used for taking the picture.

**tripod** - used to hold a camera still over time periods longer than 1/30th of a second.

**underexposure** - simply when a print or film gets less light than needed for correct exposure

**wide-angle lens** - shorter than 45 mm; gives a somewhat distorted view, but shows more area from the sides than a normal lens. Example: 17mm, 28mm.

**zoom lens** - a lens with many different focal lengths and the ability to take a picture at any focal length within its range. Example: 80 - 210 mm